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Did you know?

Did you know...

The majority of homeless people are children. The Haven Family House has served 65 children under the age 18.

Did you know...

There are over 18,000,000 vacant homes in the U.S. This is enough for every homeless person to have six. There are many vacant homes in Transylvania County.

Did you know...

One in six Transylvania County families make less than \$15,000 a year. Living wage in TC is \$45,000 for a family of four.

Did you know...

The wage needed to afford a one-bedroom rental in Transylvania County is \$10.50 per hour, but the average renter in our county makes \$8.89 per hour. This is far below the NC average renter's wage of \$13.21 per hour.

Homelessness in our county is primarily due to lack of housing that matches available wages.

In from the Wild

One of the great privileges we are given at The Haven is to be witness to stories of redemption. Sometimes we find out we literally saved a life. Although some details have been omitted for anonymity, the following is a snapshot of one person's experience:

Imagine yourself setting up a tent in the woods on a beautiful summer day. Your camping gear is new and you have enough propane, food, and medicine for a couple weeks before you absolutely have to go back down the mountain. "This isn't so bad" you say to yourself. You have always loved the outdoors. You feel closer to yourself and to God in the beautiful Appalachians. Still, it was a lot easier to "rough it" when you were young. Now, in your sixties, you must have your heart medication. You find yourself out of breath gathering firewood. You are careful not to let your truck battery die... you might not be able to make the hike to the Ranger Station for help.

Flash forward to the winter. Your tent has holes. Your campsite is muddy from rain and snow melt. Making fire is hard without dry kindling. The cold and wet penetrate your bones. You never seem to have enough to cover car repairs, gas, medicine, food. You are exhausted. "What happened?"



you think. You had a long, productive career until you became disabled. You never thought it could come this. Your medication is empty. You find yourself praying that the end may at least come on one of those peaceful, beautiful days you still enjoy so much...

Luckily we heard about this person. We were able to reach out before it was too late. Despite fear of what it might be like to live in the shelter, she gave us a chance. Now, she is living in a beautiful apartment designed for seniors with disabilities. She still visits the woods occasionally, but now it is again a place of relaxations rather than desperation. She told us "I am so happy you guys convinced me to come in. You didn't let me quit when it got hard. I had given up. I was waiting for the end." Instead, she got a new beginning.

Director's Desk

I want to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Jean Fallis. Jean has been our volunteer grant writer for as long as anyone can remember. The Haven has been so fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer. Jean helped us to find and to sustain important sources of funding that have given The Haven more solid financial footing. Jean, your "retirement" is much deserved, and your service is deeply appreciated!

I am also I am happy to announce that we have a new grant writer! Kathy Voltz has come out of the woodwork and offered to help us with the often overwhelming task of seeking funds and writing grant requests. A little about Kathy:

Kathy is from New York State and spent most of her working life near Niagara Falls. She spent her career in manufacturing

supervision and then college administration. She has been happily married for 46 years and has two adult daughters



who also wised up and migrated to our wonderful state. She has lived in Brevard for 10 years after falling in love with our community, our temperate Southern climate, and the beautiful Appalachian landscape. She says "at first, we just wanted to be able to golf and fish year-round." Funny enough, Kathy says she and her husband rarely

find themselves golfing and fishing, but have found new passions for photography and music in Brevard's robust arts community.

Kathy says "after becoming established and seeing the value of this community, I decided it was my turn to give back." Kathy found out we needed a volunteer to help write grants and she "decided to jump in." Her administrative and management experience have been invaluable to The Haven.

Kathy has already been a joy to work with, and her assistance gives us more time to focus on the people here, who are our mission, rather than spending all our time wading through paperwork. I admire Jean and Kathy both for their selflessness and incredible work ethics. Thank you both!
Mark Fields, Director

Fundraising Updates

Please keep your eyes and ears open for information on The Haven's fundraisers this year. We hope to have something special for the "grownups" and an event with a family friendly theme... details to come. We also hope you will visit our booth at The White Squirrel Festival!

Plans are being made now, and we have some spots available on the committees responsible for planning these events. If you are interested in contributing, please contact the office at 828.877.2040 or email: admin@HavenofTC.org

Also, in an effort to reach donors outside our community, we have started a GoFundMe campaign to pay down the mortgage on the Haven Family House. We thank the generous benefactors making our monthly payments, but it would be wonderful to have the house paid off and free up resources for other efforts. GoFundMe does take an administration fee, so donate in person or by mail to increase your impact. If you want your "offline" donation to go to the campaign for Haven Family House, please note that in the memo section of your check.

Please share the link with your loved ones!
www.gofundme.com/TheHavenFamilyHouse

Feed the body, Feed the soul

Thanks to many local churches and individuals, The Haven has been able to provide food to our residents for the weekend. What a positive impact this has on the shelter!

I have been working with the Haven for 3 years, and one of my tasks here is to arrange for churches and individuals to donate this food each weekend. I get to see firsthand the impact homemade meals have on our clients, especially the first few weekends they are with us. I think the feeling of having a warm, wholesome meal that has been cooked with care and love imparts a certain kind of comfort that is measured beyond the nutrition it provides. It is no easy task to cook nutritious (not to mention warm) meals when you are homeless and just trying to stay warm and dry. When you are dealing with these struggles and may have so little resources you can barely afford a meal a day, the prospect of a hot, nutritious meal that most of us would take for granted becomes a real privilege.

When people arrive at The Haven, much of the immediate burden is lifted as to where they will sleep, shower, etc. They are able to focus now on their needs beyond simple survival. It is amazing to witness the change in folks when we can offer homemade meals to them that first weekend. They not only now have a safe place to stay but they know that there are many good people in the community that care enough to

**Poverty
is not
being
without
money,
but being
without
hope.**



make this effort to help them feel more at home. The gratitude and humility many of our residents express in response to this kind act are truly touching. The food you provide not only feeds the body but the spirit. It gives hope. It is love manifested.

Kai Schwandes, Operations and Outreach Coordinator

If you are interested in contributing food one weekend or volunteering in the shelter, please contact Kai@HavenofTC.org



Donor Appreciation

We thank all who support us, and we would like to give special thanks to the following organizations that went above and beyond to be our top 5 benefactors in 2016: Audrey Love Foundation, Cannon Foundation, Community Foundation of WNC, Lake Toxaway Charities, and Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation

President's Corner

Moving along into 2017 we anticipate many changes for both The Haven and for America. Inevitably whenever we welcome a new president, or whenever there are major changes in government, we must all adjust to new policies on a local level. For better or worse those policies always create new challenges and opportunities for the population we serve. Certain sources of funding for The Haven's operating costs and for deposit assistance and rehousing programs are being considered for

elimination in the federal budget. There is also talk of eliminating or restructuring several of the programs that benefit homeless and low-income people in general. So, in the short term we are preparing ourselves for the effects these cuts may have on our local homeless population and on our ability to serve them.

The Haven Board of Directors have agreed to invest up to \$15,000 to fill already existing gaps between available federal funds and what our county needs

to prevent homelessness and assist homeless persons re-entering housing. This is not something we have budgeted for in the past, and we are hopeful to find a funding source for this. We are thankful to all of you who keep us in mind as you consider where to contribute your valuable time and money. You ensure the stability of The Haven as we work to help the less fortunate members of our community establish a stability of their own.

Sandy Tooman, President

Spring Into Action

As we progress into 2017, we want to note that we are very pleased with the generous donations we received in response to our Fall Appeal. Thank you all so much for keeping us funded through the winter! This year we have some new expenses. A few examples of urgent and ongoing needs are: to finish the paving of the driveway and parking area behind the Haven Family House, basic repairs, new appliances (particularly replacements for the washer/dryer units that run on average more than twice every single day!), and emergency funds to help folks move into new housing and prevent others from becoming homeless in the first place.

We are hopeful to have some of these needs partially funded in the near future through grants. Unfortunately, we can never find enough grants to pay for everything, so donations are still our main source of funding. For those of you reading, know that your donations will benefit The Haven and hopefully help us expand our services and touch more lives.

Thanks again to all who donate, volunteer, and to all who offer your thoughts, prayers, and kind words.

Remember: We are a registered nonprofit, so all your donations are tax deductible. We are also now able to accept donations through the PayPal link on our website:

HavenofTC.org



BRICK BY BRICK

The Haven of Transylvania County, PO Box 25, Brevard, NC 28712

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