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Help - In Time of Need

Jill Beach - Board Member

Suppose that you suddenly lose everything due to circumstances beyond your control... your car breaks down and you are unable to get to work, lose your job, and are unable to pay your rent... your spouse dies, and you are emotionally unwell and cannot work to pay the bills... your marriage fails or you are in a domestic violence situation and have to leave your only home to be safe... you have health issues or mental health issues that prohibit daily routines just to take care of yourself. These are real situations that can cause someone to become homeless. The Haven has experienced these very situations in people presenting for a place to stay because they have nowhere else to go. According to Forbes Magazine, 63% of Americans do not have enough savings to cover a \$500 housing expense.

This is a problem faced by many residents of Transylvania County. Even though the average property value is \$192,000, the poverty rate is 16.6% with females 55-64 in the highest percentage. This is a largely invisible problem to most because the homeless often are staying with relatives, living in cars, or camping in the forest. Cont. Pg.3

Forever Home

Emily Lowery - Director

If you have been around The Haven for a while, you remember Thomas Medlock.

Thomas was once a resident of The Haven in 2011 and then transitioned into an apartment which he made his home. Soon after, he started volunteering and was offered a position to serve on the Board of Directors as a previously homeless liaison.

Thomas was always on-call to fill in when a volunteer could not make their shift. He had a bag packed by his door at all times. His answer was always, "I'll be there in five minutes". He filled 378 shifts and countless other hours in meetings and doing many needed tasks.

Thomas was an Eagle Scout and lead many survival trips to Camp Daniel Boone. One of the troop's service projects, he took on the responsibility of constructing the Haven Family House playground. The playground had been purchased from proceeds from the silent auction at the now retired fundraiser, Hoedown for The Haven. To date, 86 children have laughed and played on the barn-red playset.

Thomas served on the Board from



2011 - 2017 and then moved on to filling another very important role of handyman. He was seen almost every week replacing light bulbs, doorknobs, constructing and installing towel racks that are capable of not only holding a towel, but can handle the heavy usage associated with a four-family house.

If you ever had the opportunity to sit down and talk with him, you knew that he could rebuild a Dodge motor with his eyes closed, and possessed the great talent of improvising materials laying around into a much needed item. His ability to do this served The Haven well.

This winter, Thomas succumbed to the flu. He is now forever home with his Savior, Jesus Christ and rejoicing with his beloved wife Kay.

Getting Ahead Takes a Village

Susan Matthews - Board Member & Getting Ahead Director

Getting Ahead brings people from all sectors and economic classes together to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty or those interested in how to get out of poverty.

Getting Ahead is much more than a class, it is a life-changing event if one is in the mindset to take over his/her destiny. For 15 weeks, there is a room full of people that have the same and/or different struggles. From the first class, the realization that the first step of one's life is scary but then the resources are laid out and then one's skill set is discussed. Together as a class, one learns how to put individual plans in motion. One never fails until one doesn't stand back up. Success is all the work you put in. The reward is seeing progress large or small.

The Haven has set the pace

with referring residents to the Getting Ahead Program. Being homeless places individuals in a vulnerable position and



sometimes it launches them into change and other times it holds them paralyzed. Getting Ahead's latest class started January 24, 2018 and ended with Graduation on May 2, 2018.

Being willing to accept resources, learn about hidden rules, and accept that the road to change is hard but very rewarding is not as easy

as one may think. It takes discipline and motivation. Our best is different every day and we need to embrace this. The greatest part of Getting Ahead is sharing what we have learned by mentoring others. Marion Petterson has been a volunteer with Getting Ahead since 2015. She brings her organizational skills and wisdom to the table. Terry Allen and Eric Edwards were both graduates of the Getting Ahead Program and have shared and continue to share their experiences as well as resources and listening ears. Holding each other accountable is an important part of Getting Ahead. Old patterns and mindsets are hard to break. We have two new graduates that have expressed interest in mentoring the next class. The torch continues to be passed with the knowledge of how to Get Ahead.

Haven Family House

When most people think of The Haven they think of our shelter that houses only adults. In 2014, we opened a very special shelter known as Haven Family House. When parents lose their home often the biggest fear is what their children may have to experience. Because of the Family House, they are able bring them to a place that feels like a home. It is a traditional house with a kitchen, dining room, and a living room equipped with toys and educational opportunities: a comforting place for parents and children alike.

While at the Family House parents are able to move from survival mode to building a new life with their family. In addition to getting housed, parents have been able to find new jobs or maintain the ones they already have, work on their GED and college courses online, and attend programs like The Self Sufficiency program through WCCA.

Through collaboration with other agencies we are able to bring in house: parenting classes, resources that can connect them to multiple child and family services, nutrition classes, and information and connection to job training and assistance.

Help - In Time of Need - Continued

Until 2011 there was no homeless shelter in the County and the nearest were in Asheville and Hendersonville. With the opening of the Haven that year and Family House in 2014, critically needed services began to be offered to the County's homeless population. The Haven and Haven Family House are shelters to temporarily house homeless men, women, and children. Both provide a respite for those who have fallen into homelessness or have been chronically homeless for a long time. These shelters are safe, secure residences where people can be helped to get back onto their feet and be treated with dignity and genuine caring by staff and volunteers.

There are many ways to help the mission of the Haven and the Family House with the most obvious being financial. 51% of The Haven's budget comes from personal donations. It is very expensive to operate two shelters including utilities, insurance, loan servicing, supplies, programs, etc. It is estimated that the average national cost per homeless person is \$2,100 a month. Donations are greatly needed to continue to provide these services and help residents become independent



and successful. Contributions (which are tax deductible) may be sent to The Haven of Transylvania County, P.O. Box 25, Brevard, NC 28712.

We invite you to become a monthly contributor for as little as \$5 or \$10 a month. Remember The Haven when planning your estate. By talking to your estate planner, you could reduce (or even eliminate) the amount of estate tax your beneficiaries will owe.

You can make stock donations too!



A Happening is Happening

Last year, The Haven launched a new fundraiser, "A Happening for The Haven". It was a night full of dance, fun, and excitement! We are in the planning stages for this year's party! Mark your calendars and plan on coming for a surf and turf dinner, live dancing music by Dashboard Blue, with silent and live auctions. You will not want to miss this fun while supporting The Haven at Connestee Falls Clubhouse 8.18.18.

No Popsicles Here

Code Purple was responsible for saving lives this year as the winter had brutal temperatures that lasted weeks on end. We were very grateful to have the participation of St. Philips Episcopal and Brevard Community Churches, to come along side Haven staff and volunteers to keep the doors open to those that had no place warm to be. Frigid temperatures could have been dangerous for persons left out in the elements, but the Bread of Life, Human Relations Council, Sharing House,

The Haven, Keystone Camp, and the community at large pulled together to make sure that nobody was left to freeze to death.

Over 25 people utilized this much needed emergency shelter. The Haven provided a paid shelter assistant that was financed through a special fundraiser and many churches contributed. The Bread of Life provided meals. Individuals and groups graciously provided additional snacks and home-cooked meals.

On many occasions, emergency services and police departments assisted individuals to access the shelter.

Thank you to all these wonderful organizations and individuals that gave their time, money, resources, spiritual guidance and prayer to care for the most vulnerable among us. You literally saved lives this year! Do you want to be a part of next year's planning, call The Haven at 828.877.2040.

Thank you!

Every year The Haven works with community partners to make the Christmas season special for our residents, especially to our children. We want to recognize Habitat for Humanity for adopting our children at the Haven Family House, the group that put together presents for our individual adults at The Haven, Sacred Heart Catholic Church for the Christmas meal, Sharing House for a shopping experience for our parents, and all the many individuals that thought of us by bringing holiday left-overs from gatherings and parties. Your kindness and generosity made our residents know they were not forgotten and thought of this time of year.

Thank You!

Remember: We are a registered nonprofit, so all your donations are tax deductible.



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

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