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## Who We Serve

As of the writing of this Newsletter.....

Total Number Served: 784.  
199 of these were children.  
Males: 412  
Females: 372

Please see, "From the Director" inside for the introduction of our new staff!

We are thrilled to announce that since the addition of our current staff, we have seen an increase of positive outcomes from 33% in 2018, grow to 42% in 2019. Our total number of people exiting the program has had an overall increase of 36% and we still have two months to go in 2019!

We attribute this success directly to our staff growth! With the ability to provide case management and on site mental health counseling, we are excited to see what the future will bring to The Haven!

## Volunteer Spotlight

I would like to introduce you to our valuable volunteer, Colin Pelton. Colin began having problems with alcohol addiction in his 30's; attempting to treat his loneliness, distance from his family and broken relationships. In a ten year period he completed several programs to gain his sobriety. From coastal SC, Colin had visited the mountains of western NC for over 30 years and finally decided he wanted to live here. He had arranged to stay with friends in the area, but when he arrived he soon learned that they were living a lifestyle consisting of his old ways. Fearing he would fall into addiction again, he knew that was not a safe place for him to stay. He came to The Haven to escape the temptation to drink. He said it is because of The Haven that he was able to get back onto his feet and to obtain permanent housing in eight months. "It was wonderful being accepted and feeling that people cared for me here", says Colin. After moving into his new apartment, he felt inspired to volunteer at The Haven in order to give back to those who had helped him to get his life back. With three years of volunteering under his belt, Colin often covers our overnight shift here at the shelter and he really enjoys spending time with the guests.



Colin also manages our emergency winter shelter called Code Purple. This is an emergency overnight shelter in a house provided by a local Church, which is manned by volunteers. Code Purple is open for a respite from the cold any time that the temperatures are expected to fall below freezing. Colin is there each evening to open the shelter, admit guests for the evening and to ensure the safety of all seeking refuge. He also helps to organize food for the night, and helps to arrange transportation the next morning, and ensure care of the church's property. He told us that the most memorable experience he has had volunteering was an extremely cold sleety night, when two people walked into the Code Purple shelter all the way from Mills River. They were suffering from hypothermia and while awaiting paramedics,

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# From the Director

I am happy to announce the addition of several valuable new staff members. We are so glad to have them on board to better serve our community.

Amanda Snipes is our Mental Health Counselor. After a few years of interning, Amanda came on board as staff in January of 2019. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Gardner-Webb University and is currently completing her Masters of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Amanda provides individual counseling and group therapy for our guests, in order to maximize their mental health.

Sasha Diaz is our Case Manager since the Spring of 2019. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of South Florida, and a Masters in Education. She works with our clients

one-on-one, to help them to obtain their goals, in order to successfully transition back into the community, reaching their



greatest potential.

Teresa Stillson is our Administrative Assistant, providing much needed client and staff support. Her professional background is in business, but her passion is in providing hope to the hopeless. She is excited as she evolves with the needs of this unique position.

Lastly, our Board of Directors has a new President, Nick Bearden. Nick is the First Vice President/Investments at Stiffel. He is very active in our community, as a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a past president of the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, and has served on previous boards. We are excited to have Nick's experience to drive our operation!

We are thrilled to finally have the staff to help obtain our vision. We are striving to build the bridge from homeless to housed; providing a beacon of hope to the hopeless.

Thank you,  
Emily Lowery, Executive Director  
[emily@havenoftc.org](mailto:emily@havenoftc.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight

(Continued from page 1)

they were able to warm themselves in the shelter, shower, and have a hot meal. Colin truly believes that The Haven and Code Purple are saving lives each day. When asked why he keeps coming back to volunteer, he said, "I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to give back to the Haven and to serve the community. Volunteering here keeps me focused, driven, and gives me purpose. I receive so much satisfaction from seeing lives changed as others succeed through the Haven's program. "

CODE PURPLE is an emergency shelter in operation any time that the temperatures are forecasted to drop below freezing or during harsh winter precipitation. It is hosted by The Haven, manned by our volunteers, and is located at the Brown House BESIDE Brevard Community Church, at 371 Morris Road, Brevard NC, 28712. For Code Purple emergencies call, 828-553-4726.

If you wish to donate or volunteer at The Haven or Code Purple, please call 828-877-2040 or email us at [admin@havenoftc.org](mailto:admin@havenoftc.org)

# Homeless; Ending the Stigma

That homeless woman you passed in town today is someone's mother. Someone calls her grandma, someone calls her sister. She is a good friend to many, and a college graduate. She worked for 23 years in the corporate world. One of her favorite hobbies is painting landscapes. Her elderly parents became ill and she gave up everything to care for them. When they passed away, she had nowhere to go. She walks the streets all day looking for a job, but who will hire her? She's dirty and disheveled because she slept in her car. Restaurants don't even want her to come inside to order a cup of coffee. In passing people avoid her, quickly glancing in the other direction.

To many of us the idea of homelessness is unimaginable, but over 60% of the population in this country is living so tightly to their means that they could not recover from even a \$500 financial emergency. What if your vehicle needs a repair? What if your doctor calls with unfavorable test results? What if your company downsized today? What if it happened to you? The truth is it could happen to any of us at any time. We need to understand that our society that lives from paycheck to paycheck is just on the verge of being homeless. Perhaps that will help us to put ourselves in someone else's shoes, showing some sympathy and a little kindness. We need the help of kind and compassionate people like



you, in order to continue to make a difference in these lives every day.

How can you help?

You can give directly to The Haven at [Havenoftc.org](http://Havenoftc.org). Donations can be mailed to The Haven at PO Box 25, Brevard, NC 28712

And of course we continue to need volunteers willing to work the evening shift (4-8pm) and night shift (8pm-8am). Call 877-2040 if you can help!



## Haven Open House and Dedication

Please join us as we host an open house Saturday, November 23rd, from 10am-2pm. There will be food, fun and local entertainment including, Pretty Little Goat, Cody and Jonlyn Siniard, Barrett Davis and more.

## Dedication of The Haven Thomas House

In our Fall 2016 Newsletter, we talked about Thomas Medlock, valued friend, dedicated volunteer, devoted board member and one of the first guests of The Haven. After his stay at The Haven, Thomas vowed to give back to those who had helped him at his most difficult time. He became a fervent volunteer, serving on countless overnight shifts and eagerly waiting our call to cover us in an emergency.

A beloved voice for the homeless, Thomas served as a member of our Board of Directors from April 2012 through Spring of 2017. In addition to his efforts here, Thomas

remained a life-long Boy Scout. Starting very young, he had earned his Eagle Scout Rank in 1960. For 27 years he gave back to the cause by leading our youth as a Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster.

Sadly, in January of 2018 we learned of Thomas's passing. We still feel the void left by Thomas every day.

Thomas greatly earned our respect by showing his gratitude and compassion in giving back to The Haven in so many ways. He is and will always be greatly missed, and we wish to continue to honor his name

by dedicating our shelter in his name. Our co-ed shelter that houses men and women will be called The Haven Thomas House, in honor of Thomas Medlock.

Please join us at our Open House, Saturday, November 23rd, from 10am-2pm.

Dedication at 12pm.

# THANK YOU!

We want to thank all who have responded to our appeals this year, donated on your own, attended a fundraiser like the upcoming Halloweenfest, and who have contributed much needed food and supplies. As most of you know, The Haven relies on private donors for the majority of our funding. Your donations, small and large, keep us open to help folks in need. During this season of gratefulness let us remember the wise words of Melody Beattie;

*"Gratitude turns what we have into enough".*

Special thanks to our grants from St. Philips Episcopal Church, Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, Community Foundations WNC, Lake Toxaway Charities, The Church of The Good Shepherds-Cashiers, and Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd.

Thank You!



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