

Our mission is to provide homeless men and women shelter and services and to assist them in obtaining stable housing.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1
Spring 2009

Much more than a piece of land: A solid promise for a permanent home

By Todd Sherman, Director, & Terri Tupper, Assistant Director

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Indicators of Success:

Overnight Clients Served 406

Bednights 6088

Known Client Exit Destinations

Stay with Family 19

Own place/apartment 16

Hotel 12

Job that includes Room 5

Inpatient recovery 5

Roommate/ hotel 8

Transitional living 3

Total Stable Living Situations 68

For more demographics, see p. 2

In April, the Flagstaff City Council reaffirmed their support for alleviating homelessness in Flagstaff by accepting Flagstaff Shelter Services' proposal to develop a vacant parcel of land into a homeless services complex. **FSS' permanent building will be constructed at 2675 E. Industrial Dr.** (next to the Guidance Center). We anticipate housing around 80 men and women on that site, in emergency and transitional capacities.

The council also awarded \$100,000 of CDBG funding to help cover the architectural fees for blueprint design of the 9000 sq. ft. building. Once we have a firm understanding of the development costs, we will begin our capital fundraising campaign in earnest, with the

goal of moving to our permanent site by 2012 or sooner!

Our last night of overnight shelter of 2008-09 was April 14. Until we reopen for overnight emergency services this winter, we continue to offer a full-service day resource center. It provides basic hygiene supplies, phone and mail services, laundry, computer access and referrals to other agencies and much more!

Presently we are open 5 mornings a week, but in June we intend to expand our hours and days of operation. But to continue our work through the warmer months and to plan for next winter, we need your support.

In these uncertain economic

times, money is tight for everyone: for you, me, the government, and our homeless neighbors. Please remember that the need in our community increases as times get tougher and all agencies and charities across the nation are feeling the pinch. Flagstaff Shelter Services is no different. Across the country, in a time where donations are down, requests for services are way up!

Gifts of your money and time make all the difference. In the last fiscal year 31% of our funding came from private individuals. Nearly 80% of every dollar we received went straight to programming and operations. Just as impressive, volunteers contributed more than 2200 hours over the past six months.

As you can see, Flagstaff Shelter Services would not exist without your help. Please consider making an annual pledge of \$1000, \$500, \$100, \$25, to help us as we help the most vulnerable among us.

Permanent Shelter

Our capital campaign WILL begin in full force soon! We are now working with architects to design the building.



FSS NEW SITE LOCATION 2675 E. Industrial Dr.
Pictured: **Megan Kuehl**, Volunteer Coordinator & Donor Service Representative

Client Demographic Highlights: (FOR MORE... VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK THE "WHO WE SERVE LINK!")

Overnight Shelter: October 18,2008- April 14,2009	
Average Daily Visitors to the Day Center	46
Referrals and Services	
Meals Served	7899
Average servings per night	44
Total referred to ITU	161
Total referred to Sunshine Rescue Mission/ Hope Cottage	189
Bed Nights	6088
Avg # of clients per night	34
<i>Avg # turned away lack of space</i>	<i>2.94</i>
Average Length of Stay	15 nights
Maximum Length of Stay	129 nights
Pieces of Mail Processed:	1766
Showers	4000+
<p>TOTAL OVERNIGHT CLIENTS: 406 Gender: 87% Male 13% Female Race: 52% White 39% Native American 6% Other or Multi-Racial 3% Black</p> <p>Disabled: 65% <i>Alcoholism 35% Mental Illness 27%</i> <i>Physical Disability 20%</i> <i>Dual Diagnosis 9% Drug Addiction 9%</i> <i>Developmental 3%</i></p> <p>Veterans: 22%</p> <p>Last Permanent Home: 50% from Flagstaff, Coconino County or Reservation 69% from AZ 31% from other states</p> <p>Chronically Homeless: 43% <i>(Note: Chronically homeless means homelessness of more than one year or more than 3x in 3 years with a disabling condition)</i></p>	

Homelessness should never be a permanent state of being:

...every homeless person you see had those same hopes and dreams [as you do or did], but life's struggles, or physical or mental disabilities, or drug or alcohol abuse, or any combination of them, caused their world to come crashing down around them.

Michael Kelly (Formerly Homeless)
<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33391>

Upcoming Events:

June 18: Volunteer Information Session

June 20: Housewares for the Homeless Yard Sale.

Let us know if you have donations that we can sell or if you want to volunteer at the yard sale!

July 31: Aspen Valley GC Charity Golf Tournament.

Proceeds benefit Flagstaff Shelter Services and Hope Cottage.

Thank you to our wonderful winter staff!

Without your hard work, caring attitude, and dedication none of this would have been possible. Clockwise from left: Todd Sherman, Monique Laraway, Terri Tupper, Megan Kuehl, Jack Conley, John Blackstun, Hannah Sadler, and Teresa Begay.

Not pictured: Emerald Bahe, Rachel Crocker, Dru Hobbs, and Lee Hunter.



An Intern's Experience
 By Laura Dougherty

My time as an intern at Flagstaff Shelter Services (FSS) was an unforgettable learning experience. An important part of my internship was developing and facilitating job and life skills workshops. In the afternoon workshops, I covered topics such as resume building, decision-making, and other basic job skills. I developed real connections with clients and realized I could be a positive influence in the lives of homeless individuals. My professional goal was to impart clients with

information that could help them improve their lives.

Staff members and clients work together in a way that shows true respect and concern about each other's well being. Staff members made an effort to care, listen, and take time to help people find the right resources needed to help them move out of homelessness. Clients gave back what they could by washing clothes, cleaning, and helping with other repairs around the shelter. I was impressed with how well everyone operated as a team and how each person contributed to the best of their ability.

Laura received her B.A. Psychology from NAU in May 2009. FSS expects to have a new intern in August.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers contributed more than 2200 hours from October-April. Thank you all! Special recognition goes to these three who went above and beyond, each contributing more than 200 hours:

Robert "Bobby" Gill

James Smith

Yuka Yoshida

We are still seeing upwards of 55 people daily. Please contact Megan Kuehl at yhelp@flagstaffshelter.org or call 225-2533 to join our VOLUNTEER TEAM!

Homelessness Cannot be Ignored if We Wish it to be Resolved

By Todd Sherman

Homelessness is not a state of mind; rather it is an often neglected state of being. This state of being exists for a prolonged duration of time for a large number of homeless individuals who are not offered or encouraged the opportunity to find appropriate resources, shelter and stability. For too many people this state of being develops into a tireless routine of scavenging day to day for basic needs. This often results in a person's loss of hope and decreased ability to plan for the future... because their focus is solely on making it through the day.

Too frequently, the general public operates under a number of interrelated and erroneous beliefs. Namely, 1) it can never happen to me, 2) people prefer to be homeless, and 3) people deserve to be homeless based on bad decisions.

Based on my experience in this field and analysis of our demographics, several things are clear. First, homelessness can and does affect everybody! Our clients come from every socio-economic

group and religious background. Sadly, more often than not, the homeless men and women we work with on a daily basis are disabled.

Second, I have observed that homeless people and chronically homeless people alike generally have adapted to their available lifestyle and do not truly enjoy living on the streets. The homeless men and women we work with overwhelmingly express a strong desire to find affordable, safe, and stable housing, but state they lack the resources to do so.

Finally, homelessness can be summarized as unjust, unsafe and unacceptable. Life on the streets is scary, threatening and too often deadly. I have never met a homeless person who has told me they sleep well at night and do not spend time worrying whether a cop, forest ranger or "bad dude" is coming to roust their campsite, or to attack them. At Flagstaff Shelter Services, we provide shelter and services to hundreds, almost thousands of vulnerable people each year. With the help of numerous caring individuals, groups, agencies, and officials

Flagstaff's homeless community members have been provided with the help to not only ease their homelessness, but to help transition into stable housing. However, we still need to approach what we have accomplished as a great beginning and not as an end point. It is vital for the success of the people we serve to have the gift of your time, your energy, and of course, your financial commitment. Together, we can continue to help ensure that homeless people can learn or rediscover the tools to **once again** have keys in their pocket.

Having a home is not an unbelievable dream for the homeless people we serve; rather it is a realizable goal!



- Arizona / Flagstaff Community Foundation
- City of Flagstaff
- Coconino County
- Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
- Flagstaff Community Christian School
- Flagstaff Hoops
- Flagstaff Family Food Center
- Board Member Jan Wantland, Ph.D
- Mike & Cheryl Schmoker
- NARBHA
- Norman Neville Reiff (in memoriam)
- Northern Design Services, Inc.
- PATH Program/Catholic Charities
- Paul Moore, Architect
- Board Member Phebe Faus, MSSA, LCSW
- Really Good Stuff Thrift Store
- Salvation Army
- SCA Tissue
- United Way
- Walmart Foundation



WHILE OUR SHELTER IS NOT HOME...

It serves a vital purpose of helping people feel safe and at ease in a troubling time.

From Local Homeless People: Six Perspectives on "Home"

Home is where your heart is. *It is stable, loving and warm...*

Home is where I feel safe & secure...

Home is a place that is comfortable, to lie my head and *ease my mind...*

Home is not some place where you have to watch your back...

Home is a place where you and family can return to, to sit and laugh. A home is a place where you can *rest your worries and leave your trouble outside...*

Home is where grass grows, the deer & antelope roam... [Where there is] freedom to have my domestic pets & livestock, a natural foods garden and a dwelling to watch the sun rise & set.

FLAGSTAFF SHELTER SERVICES

Donation & Correspondence:
P.O. Box 1808
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Physical:
216 W. Phoenix Ave.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone: (928) 225-2533

We're on the Web!

www.flagstaffshelter.org



Advocate Emerald Bahe working with a client

Why Donate to Us?

100% of the clients we serve are homeless men and women who automatically meet the definition of Arizona low income resident households. At least 80% of our budget goes to programming and services to our clients.

To view our Wish List or to learn more about us, visit:

www.flagstaffshelter.org

Four Easy Ways to Donate

Go online to www.flagstaffshelter.org and use our online payment form for credit or debit donations!

Drop by the shelter at 216 W. Phoenix Ave from 8am to 12 pm; make your donation in person and sign up for a tour!

Mail in this PLEDGE and DONATION card and return with your check or your credit card/debit information!

Call us at 928-225-2533 and make a donation by phone using your credit or debit card!

FSS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a qualified Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit charity.

ASK US ABOUT JOINING OUR MULTI-YEAR GIVING SOCIETY

Name: _____

Address for Thank You Receipt: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$1000__ \$500__ \$250__ \$100__ \$25__ Other _____

I would like to Pledge _____ Amount Per Month for _____ YRS Starting Today

Credit/Debit Card: Type _____ Number _____ Exp Date _____ Three Digit Security _____



P.O. Box 1808
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