

How can you help?

“Help” means different things to different people. There are many ways to get involved and here are a few:

- Become an active member of the CCH;
- Commit a few hours a week to childcare or to increasing the literacy skills of a homeless adult, or volunteer your time and skills at a homeless shelter or support service;
- Your business can hire a formerly-homeless adult, or;
- Provide financial support to nonprofit agencies serving the homeless;
- Donate to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and,
- Encourage a child to get involved.

“Help” also means involvement in the public policy arena. Elected officials-federal, state, and local governments need to hear from you when it comes to legislation and funding for affordable housing, keeping emergency shelters open or what are also called “quality of life” issues. Advocacy counts.

Membership

Membership is free and open to all interested persons. The CCH meets monthly. If you are interested in becoming a

member, please complete the following membership information and mail, fax or email it to Office of Housing.

City of Chesapeake
Office of Housing
306 Cedar Road
Chesapeake, VA 23322
Fax: (757) 382-6372 TDD: (757) 382-8214

Name: _____

Position: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Contact Information:

Alecia Gregg, CCH Chair

(757) 543-5543

Mrs. Jean Taylor
CCH Secretary, Office Coordinator
Office of Housing
(757) 382-6925 (w) (757) 382-6372
(fax)
(Email) jtaylor@cityofchesapeake.net

(Nov 20, 2009)

CHESAPEAKE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS *CCH*



Addressing The Needs Of the Homeless

Chesapeake
VIRGINIA

DID YOU KNOW?

Recent studies show that the situation of affordable housing continues to decline. Because of rising housing costs, shrinking real wages, and the destruction of affordable housing units, an alarming number of American families face a housing problem. Many families are struggling to get by...living from paycheck to paycheck. The loss of a job or a catastrophic illness can contribute to anyone becoming "homeless".

Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)

Formed in February 1999 because of growing concern among City officials and grassroots organizations to holistically address the issues and needs of homeless persons in Chesapeake. The CCH utilizes the Continuum of Care Model developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

WHY JOIN?

Joining the CCH provides wonderful **networking opportunities** for homeless service providers and/or persons.

MISSION STATEMENT

To reduce homelessness and enhance the quality of life of homeless persons in Chesapeake by increasing their level of independence with housing and supportive resources through a collaborative and continuing community effort.

GOALS

To accomplish the mission, CCH will focus on these goals:

- 1) Participate in the Regional Chronic Homeless Committee;
- 2) Create a centralized, coordinated community resources intake and access process;
- 3) Expand safe, low income permanent housing options;
- 4) Enhance outreach/intake efforts aimed at chronically homeless persons;
- 5) Identify the homeless in Chesapeake;
- 6) Address the inadequacy or lack of housing for homeless persons;
- 7) Enhance the availability of supportive services for homeless persons;
- 8) Enhance the availability of

education/training for homeless persons and,

- 9) Implement HMIS (Homeless Management Information System).

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

A number of diverse and complex factors have contributed to the problem of homelessness. Many of these factors are interrelated. The following causes were identified by the U.S. Conference of Mayors at its December 2004 Conference:

- Change in the labor market
- Changes and cuts in public assistance programs
- Changes in family structure
- Cutbacks in federal housing assistance
- Chronic health problems
- Chronic substance abuse and lack of needed services
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of life skills
- Loss of employment
- Low paying jobs
- Physical or mental illness
- Poverty
- Personal emergencies
- Prison release
- Reduction of income for some due to welfare reform
- Spousal/partner abuse or abandonment