Introduction

2015 marked the milestone of nine years of community implementation of the Homeless Solutions 10-Year Plan for Ending Chronic Homelessness and Reducing Overall Homelessness. In the years since the Plan’s adoption there has been radical and significant progress under the leadership of the Homeless Solutions Policy Board towards reaching the Plan’s goals. As the visionary Plan developed over a decade ago by dedicated leaders and stakeholders from all levels of the system approaches its 10th year, there remains a strong commitment to reaching the Plan’s goals and addressing the housing needs of vulnerable people in Montgomery County.

Ending Veteran Homelessness

In 2009 the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) launched a federal initiative to end Veteran homelessness. Joined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, additional resources and tools were allocated to address homelessness among veterans. Communities were charged with eliminating homelessness among veterans by December 31, 2015 (to be measured in the 2016 Point-in-Time Count).

The Homeless Solutions Policy Board adopted a Community Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. The Plan called for the formation of a Work Team comprised of staff from the Dayton VA Medical Center, Montgomery County Homeless Solutions, Greater Dayton Premier Management, and non-profit service providers with funding for veteran specific programs. The community partners engaged around ending veteran homelessness committed to providing a systematic response to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible and is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience for veterans.

Through the efforts of the Work Team a comprehensive inventory of veteran housing and service resources and a master list of homeless veterans by name were developed. These strategies have helped the community better deploy resources and reduce the number of homeless veterans. Since implementation of the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness in 2014, veteran homelessness has declined by 11%.

With a continued emphasis on eradicating chronic (recurring) homelessness among veterans, providing quick access to permanent housing and expanding housing options to provide sufficient permanent housing capacity, the community is poised to end veteran homelessness in 2016.

Veteran Homeless Point-In-Time Count 2009-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The impact of the community’s effort to end homelessness among veterans is best explained through the stories of veterans who have been assisted (names have been changed):

A Story of Hope

When Dewitt first encountered the Miami Valley Housing Opportunities (MVHO) PATH Outreach Team he described his life as having no meaning and he wanted to give up. A Marine Corps Veteran, Dewitt found himself homeless, with no job, no friends and declining health. He would often take shelter in the woods, parking garages and on bus stop benches. He used drugs and alcohol to cope with feelings of sadness, loneliness, and depression. For days at a time Dewitt would struggle without food or sleep, making it difficult to manage his diabetes and the 22 medications for his health conditions.

Following a referral from the Samaritan Homeless Clinic Dewitt began meeting with Malcom, a MVHO PATH case manager. From the first time they met, Malcom encouraged Dewitt not to give up and assured him that things would get better. Malcom provided support and encouragement and committed to working hard and fast to help locate housing for Dewitt. Leaving his first meeting with Malcom – stocked with food, new socks, gloves, hat, bedroll, and bus tokens – Dewitt was both happy and hopeful.

Soon Dewitt entered shelter at the VA Domiciliary and was placed on a waiting list for permanent housing. The day he was placed on the waiting list he cried tears of joy and relief. He described gaining a spot on the list as something to look forward to.

When reflecting on his journey out of homelessness, Dewitt credits his perseverance through despair to Malcom “who went far past the call of duty” and the staff at MVHO. He is grateful for their support and said, “Malcom gave me HOPE! It was like God sent Malcom to be my personal ANGEL!”
A key indicator of the extent of homelessness or lack of housing stability in a community is an annual count of the number of households who, as the result of having no other safe place to sleep, spend at least one night in an emergency gateway shelter. This article provides summary information about homeless households in 2014. Annual statistics for 2015 will not be available until after the publication date for this report.

In 2014, 4,403 different people stayed at least one night in one of the community’s gateway shelters – Daybreak, Gettysburg Gateway for Men, St. Vincent Gateway for Women & Children, and the YWCA. There were 549 families (1,714 people), 2,610 single adults, and 79 unaccompanied minors. The majority of homeless households, 81%, are single adults; 17% of homeless households are families; 2% are unaccompanied minors.

Looking at the gateway shelters without the YWCA there was a 2% decrease in the number of homeless households from 2013-2014. The overall decrease is the result of a 4% reduction in the number of single adults plus an 11% increase in the number of homeless families. It is important to note, however, the YWCA’s data are included in the comparison below. Domestic violence shelters are prohibited by HUD from entering data into a community’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and the YWCA’s shelter data were not included in the annual statistics for 2011-2013. Including the YWCA’s data provides a comprehensive view of all households sheltered in gateway shelter in a given year.

Of the households sheltered at the two adult gateway shelters (Gettysburg and St. Vincent), 37% stayed in shelter for 7 nights or less. This is a 16% reduction since 2011. There was also a 7% decrease since 2011 in the percentage of households (63%) who spent 30 nights or less in shelter over the course of the year. The reduction in length of stay is partially attributable to an increase in rapid rehousing resources that quickly move households out of shelter and into permanent housing.

### GATEWAY SHELTER COMPARISON 2011-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>+ 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Adults</td>
<td>2,584</td>
<td>2,725</td>
<td>2,662</td>
<td>2,610*</td>
<td>+ 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minors</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>(29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>3,122</td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>3,201</td>
<td>3,238</td>
<td>+ 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total People</td>
<td>3,975</td>
<td>4,128</td>
<td>4,136</td>
<td>4,403</td>
<td>+ 11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tables include a demographic breakdown of the households sheltered in 2014:

**Single Adult Men – 1,625***
50% of ALL homeless households
62% of homeless single adult households

Profile:
- Median age 40
- GED/High School Diploma or better (70%)
- Disabled (67%)
- Equally likely to be White or Non-White (50%)
- Stay 30 nights or less in shelter (58%)
- 11% are Veterans

**Family Households – 549**
17% of ALL homeless households

Profile of Head of Household:
- Median age 30
- Female (94%)
- GED/High School Diploma or better (65%)
- Non-disabled (61%)
- Non-White (57%)
- Stay 30 nights or less in shelter (71%)
- 5% are Veterans

**Single Adult Women – 981***
30% of ALL homeless households
38% of homeless single adult households

Profile:
- Median age 38
- GED/High School Diploma or better (67%)
- Disabled (60%)
- White (51%)
- Stay 30 nights or less in shelter (65%)
- 2% are Veterans

**Unaccompanied Minors – 79**
2% of ALL homeless households

Profile:
- Male (53%)
- Non-White (80%)
- Non-disabled (91%)
- Between 15-17 years old (72%)

*Gender not known for 4 single adults.

Source: Dayton-Montgomery County HMIS and YWCA of Dayton.
In addition to the 2015-2016 Homeless Supported Services funding, the Dayton-Kettering-Montgomery County Continuum of Care (CoC) received grant awards totaling $8,372,952 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the 2014 Continuum of Care competition. The local CoC scored in the top 10% of continuums nationally, which allowed the community to receive funding for a new permanent supportive housing project and a continuum planning grant in addition to funding for 19 renewal programs. Most of the funding awarded through the CoC provides support to supportive housing. CoC funding also supports the Continuum’s Homeless Management Information System.

In 2015, Dayton and Montgomery County provided $696,410 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME funding from HUD to support emergency shelter operations, permanent supportive housing, prevention and rapid rehousing. Montgomery County also received $379,500 in Homeless Crisis Response Program funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency to provide prevention and rapid rehousing assistance and supportive services.

Listed below are the 2015-2016 Homeless Supported Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contract Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daybreak</td>
<td>Overnight Shelter</td>
<td>$189,408.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daybreak</td>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homefull</td>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>$70,152.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homefull</td>
<td>Gateway Shelter Case Management</td>
<td>$399,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Society</td>
<td>Overnight Shelter</td>
<td>$1,246,648.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA of Dayton</td>
<td>Homeshare Case Management</td>
<td>$13,067.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA of Dayton</td>
<td>Overnight Shelter</td>
<td>$151,775.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA of Dayton</td>
<td>SRO Case Management</td>
<td>$27,700.00</td>
</tr>
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Total $2,123,000.00

Homeless Solutions Policy Board Roster