Neighbors helping Neighbors:
A Snapshot of Homeless Programs that Work

Introduction
This report offers a snapshot of how some of Pennsylvania’s communities successfully respond to helping their neighbors who become homeless.

On any given night, more than 13,000 Pennsylvanians will spend the night sleeping in an emergency or transitional housing program, and thousands more will sleep outdoors. But hundreds of agencies in every county in Pennsylvania work to end their neighbor’s homelessness. Some of these agencies are summarized here.

Families and individuals are supported through emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, employment and job training, computer skills development, GED and workplace literacy, as well as case management and counseling services. Some of these agencies work to prevent homelessness by helping families and individuals avoid emergency housing by providing short-term support.

Most of all, these agencies form partnerships with community members and organizations, individual donors, foundations, and government agencies. Highlights include:

- In Allegheny County, the Family Housing Stabilization Program was 100% effective in preventing shelter placement from 2010- using an investment of $1000 per family, a savings of $11,000 if they had not had the preventive service.
- In Bucks County, an agency developed the first Permanent Supportive Housing Program for families for formerly homeless families with a disabling condition, serving six families, including 14 children.
- In Cumberland County, one agency providing a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing demonstration program served 282 persons since 2009, including 130 children, helping prevent or end their homelessness.

May 2012
Who are we?

HAPPN is just what the name says - a network of homeless providers, volunteers, consumers and advocates working together to prevent and end homelessness in Pennsylvania. We take action to advance proven, local, cost-effective solutions to ensure that every Pennsylvanian has a home within their reach.

HAPPN is part of the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, a statewide coalition that provides leadership and a common voice for policies, practices and resources to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, especially those with low incomes, have access to safe, decent, accessible and affordable homes.

What do we do?

HAPPN advocates for cost-effective and proven solutions that work to prevent and end homelessness.

What are our values?

- No person should be homeless--especially children.
- Veterans who served this nation should be honored with real opportunity for prosperity when they return from duty.
- Older adults and individuals with disabilities should be able to live safely, accessibly and with dignity close to family and community.

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Angela Hollar  
Public Policy Associate  
People’s Emergency Center
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ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Family Housing Stabilization Program
Allegheny County Department of Human Services

- Program administered by the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and several area Bridge Housing Providers
- Goals: Prevent the homelessness of families with minor children and prevent the unnecessary placement of those children into the Child Welfare system due to the family’s homeless status.
- 668 families were served in FY 2010-2011, including 1,414 children
- Average assistance was $1,091 per family in FY 2010-2011
- Funds used for one-time rental assistance payments, one to three months of rental assistance payments, and transitions from family homeless shelters to bridge housing programs
- As of March 2012, no families who received assistance during FY 2010-2011 subsequently experienced homelessness.

Financing Sources

- County Match: 20%
- Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth and Families: 80%

Allegheny County’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons in Households</th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Only Individuals</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults and Children</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>1,366</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1,423</td>
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Source: 1/26/2011 Point-in-Time Count
*“Sheltered” includes those in emergency and transitional housing.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Rapid Re-housing Demonstration Program
Community Human Services Corporation

- Program goal: To understand the effectiveness of rapid re-housing strategies as interventions for homeless families with dependent children and one or more moderate barriers to housing.

- Program components: help families experiencing homelessness to locate housing, negotiate with landlords, and attain utility services and stable housing through the use of home-based case management.

- Since March 9, 2010, the RRHD program has served 67 families.

- Family success rate is 92%.

- Outcomes (as of March 2012)
  - 44% of families remained housed in their initial placement.
  - 26% of families moved into subsidized housing after initial placement.
  - 21% of families moved into fair market rental properties after initial placement.
  - 9% of families were evicted within six months after the RRHD program ended.

State Senate District: 43 Sen. Jay Costa
BUCKS COUNTY

Permanent Supportive Housing
Bucks County Housing Group, Inc.

- In December 2011, Bucks County Housing Group developed the first Permanent Supportive Housing Program for families in Bucks County.
- Housing option for formerly homeless families with a disabling condition and various barriers to securing and maintaining housing
- Rental assistance plus case management
- Numbers served as of April 2012: six families, including seven adults and 14 children
  - Four adults are pursuing educational plans
  - Five adults are employed part-time

BUCKS COUNTY’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Only Individuals</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Adults and Children</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>505</td>
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Source: 1/26/2011 Point-in-Time Count
*“Sheltered” includes those in emergency and transitional housing.

Financing Source

- 100% Private Funder

U.S. Congressional District: 8 Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick
24 Sen. Bob Mensch
COLUMBIA COUNTY

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program
Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

- Program began in 2009 and has served 108 families to date
- Program participants: families experiencing homelessness or families at risk of becoming homeless
- Program goal: To help families secure permanent housing
- Services provided: housing searches, housing inspections, rent or utility arrearages, rent assistance, case management
- Average family receives $1,000 per month for three months
- Maximum duration of assistance is six months

Central Pennsylvania’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons in Households</th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>with Only Individuals</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>397</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Adults and Children</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>564</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>961</td>
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Source: 1/26/2011 Point-in-Time Count
**“Sheltered” includes those in emergency and transitional housing.**

U.S. Congressional District: **11** Rep. Lou Barletta
State Senate District: **27** Sen. John Gordner
Special Needs Housing Division
Cumberland County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities

- Serves individuals experiencing homelessness and families with a mental health and/or chronic substance disability.

- Participants are involved with mental health services, drug and alcohol counseling, supported employment, and/or social rehabilitation.

- 50 scattered site units of permanent supportive housing distributed between Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program (SHP).

- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing demonstration program served 282 homeless persons since 2009, including 130 children.

- Homeless prevention served 118 people at risk of homelessness by providing rental and utility assistance payments, budget counseling and intensive case management.

- Additional 6 units of SHP and 11 units of Rapid Re-housing began in 2012.

Financing Source

100%

HUD

State Senate District: 31 Sen. Pat Vance
ERIE COUNTY

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program
Community Shelter Services

- Program has been in operation since the winter of 2009.
- Provides case management and financial assistance
  - Prevents families from losing their homes
  - Helps those who have lost their homes to quickly find safe and affordable homes
- During the first quarter of the program, 2,000 participants and 1,000 households received assistance.
- Positive collaborations between the agency and local landlords and property management associations.
- Financial curriculum developed and taught to participants.
  - Intervention helps participants create positive behavioral change regarding household finance management

### Erie County’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Only Individuals</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Adults and Children</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>405</td>
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Source: 1/28/2011 Point-in-Time Count
**Sheltered** includes those in emergency and transitional housing.
LEHIGH COUNTY

Sixth Street Shelter/Turner Street Apartments /Ferry Street Apartments

Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley

Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing

- Sixth Street Shelter
  - 20 private apartments for families
  - 60 day program that includes case management, in-house programming and outside referrals
  - Shelter and services provided to 110 families with 242 children from 2010-2011.

- Turner Street Apartments and Ferry Street Apartments
  - 18-24 months of intensive support and subsidized housing
  - Transitional housing and educational/vocational programs
  - Turner Street Apartments has 12 apartments in Center City Allentown; Ferry Street Apartments has 10 apartments in the City of Easton.
  - Vocational and supportive services in a subsidized housing environment provided to 25 families from 2010-2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allentown/Northeast PA's 2011 Point-in-Time Data</th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Only Individuals</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Adults and Children</td>
<td>493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>759</td>
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Source: 1/26/2011 Point-in-Time Count, HUD
*”Sheltered” includes those in emergency and transitional housing.

State Senate District: 16 Sen. Patrick Browne
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Transitional Housing
Laurel House

- 24 month program providing individual housing to survivors of domestic violence and their children while receiving a wide range of individualized support and services necessary to achieve empowerment, healing, safety and self-sufficiency

- 12 units throughout the county
  - One “pilot” unit allows the participant to select her own unit, where she can remain following completion of the two year program.

- Provided to both single survivors and survivors with children.

- In a six month period, 10 families lived in transitional housing.

- Upon leaving, 65% of participants continue on to safe, stable housing (based on follow-up 6 months post program completion).

- 85% of participants increase their income while in the program.

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<th>Financial Sources</th>
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<td>Pennsylvania Dept. of Public Welfare 8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victims of Crime Act 41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Fundraising 51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Lower Merion/Norristown/Abington/Montgomery County’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
|                           | Sheltered* | Unsheltered | Total   |
| Persons in Households with only Individuals | 142        | 10          | 152     |
| Persons in Households with Adults and Children  | 258        | 0           | 258     |
| Total                                    | 400        | 10          | 410     |

Source: 1/26/2011 Point-in-Time Count, HUD

**Sheltered* includes those in emergency and transitional housing.

State Senate District: 17 Sen. Daylin Leach
State House District: 150 Rep. Mike Vereb
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Jannie’s Place
People’s Emergency Center
New Affordable Housing

- Three-story affordable housing facility for women and children experiencing homelessness in Mantua
- Redevelopment of a once-blighted lots
- Environmentally friendly and energy efficient design
- 20 new and 9 renovated apartments
- Opened in September of 2011

**Financing Sources**
- Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund
- City of Philadelphia HOME
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Penn Homes
- PHFA ARRA Exchange Funds
- Reinvested Developer Fee
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh Affordable Housing Program
- City of Philadelphia HUD Supportive Housing Program

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"The Office of Housing and Community Development is proud to support Jannie’s Place. It not only provides vital housing for vulnerable families, but its sustainable design will have a lasting impact on the entire community."

--Deborah McColloch, Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development

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**Philadelphia’s 2011 Point-in-Time Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons in Households</th>
<th>Sheltered*</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>only Individuals</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>3,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults and Children</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,674</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>6,180</td>
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*Source: 1/31/2011 Point-in-Time Count, HUD

**Sheltered** includes those in emergency and transitional housing.
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

James Widener Ray Homes
Project H.O.M.E.
New Permanent Supportive Housing

- Completely renovated four story apartment building
- 53 units of permanent supportive housing
- Residents are men, women and children from the Tioga area who experienced homelessness or are low-income.
- Preference given to veterans
- LEED certified building that features energy and resource conservation in both design and construction
- Located in the Tioga and Nicetown neighborhoods of Philadelphia

Within ¼ mile of James Widener Ray Homes there is a housing stock of 1,103 single-family units. Immediately following the opening of James Widener Ray Homes, each dwelling surrounding the Project H.O.M.E. site should increase in value by an average of just over $17,000, to a new value of approximately $85,000.

Estimating the Local Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Project H.O.M.E.

Financing Sources

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 17%
Private Donations 83%

U.S. Congressional District: 2 Rep. Chaka Fattah
State Senate District: 3 Sen. Shirley Kitchen
State House District: 198 Rep. Rosita Youngblood
## HAPPN Members

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<td>National Nursing Centers Consortium/Nurse Family Partnership</td>
<td>Philadelphia County</td>
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<td>Achieving Independence Center</td>
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<td>Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Coalition for Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania County Commissioners Human Services</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Campaign to End Homelessness</td>
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<td>Community Shelter Services</td>
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<td>People’s Emergency Center</td>
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<td>Lycoming County</td>
<td>Pocono Alliance</td>
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