# BREAKING THE MAZE OF HOMELESSNESS

**2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT** 



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### Vision

To be the community leader in preventing and ending homelessness.

### Mission

Carpenter's Shelter supports the homeless achieve sustainable independence through shelter, guidance, education and advocacy.



# **A Word of Thanks**

Often homeless people feel as though they're caught in a maze – one with no way out. At Carpenter's Shelter, we realize that ending homelessness is about so much more than providing shelter. The root causes of homelessness are often varied and complex – lack of education, chronic illness, domestic violence, and joblessness to name a few. That's why we've expanded our programs and educational offerings to better get our clients on the path to independence.

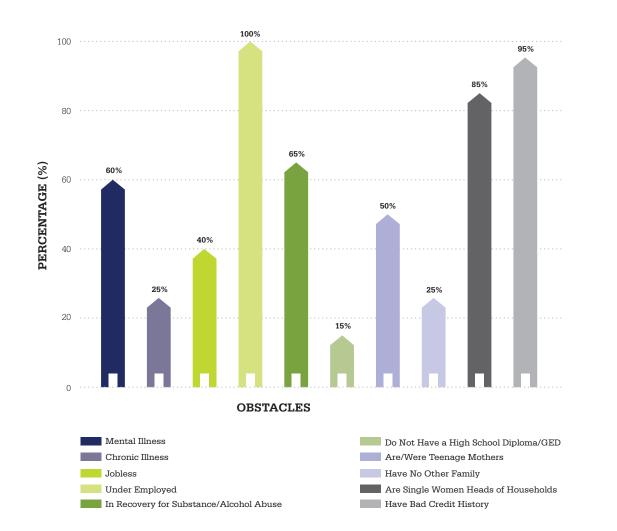
Of course there would be no Carpenter's Shelter without you. Our staff, volunteers, partners and donors have fueled our success for over 24 years. Our annual report is just one way to show the impact of your work. Take the time to read the many accomplishments we've achieved, knowing that our success motivates us to achieve even more in the future.

With every contribution you make of time, dollars or compassion we move one step closer to breaking the maze.

Thanks for all you do.



Percentage of People Facing the Obstacles of Homelessness Today



# The problems of homelessness often seem insurmountable.



### Carpenter's Shelter Programs

At Carpenter's Shelter our mission is to provide so much more than shelter. We focus on helping our clients find their way through the maze of homelessness. Our programs provide a continuum of care designed to help people get on their feet and provide for themselves and their families.

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# Shelter

Residential Shelter

A safe harbor for homeless individuals and families.

295 people served

3 meals a day, 7 days a week

1,095 donated meals/year

77,345 plates of food



Provides for the basic needs of the chronically homeless. A place to access: showers, washing machines, lockers, phones, mail, and an entry point for shelter placement.



Winter Shelter

Operates from **November to April**, to provide basic shelter during the cold winter months.

**Church Partners:** Alfred Street Baptist Church and Church of St. Clement provide overflow for the Winter Shelter.



282 people served



**Cynthia** came to the shelter this year with two children and was seven months pregnant. Cynthia had lived many years on the edge of homelessness and in an abusive relationship. With no supportive family network, Cynthia felt there was nowhere to turn. But Cynthia was a strong woman and she wanted a better life for herself and her children. Coming to the Carpenter's Shelter was the first step. Cynthia worked all the way through her pregnancy and finally gave birth while living in the shelter. After 6 months, Cynthia saved enough money to move into transitional housing with her three children. Cynthia maintains her employment and independence. She is forging a new future for herself and her three sons.

# **Case Management**

#### In-Shelter

Must be clean and sober.



Save **70%** of their income while living in the shelter.



Each individual and family gets an **Individualized Service Plan** to address the barriers that they are facing.

#### Average Length of Stay



### Child and Family Services



Teens of PromiseSupport group forTeens living inthe Shelter.

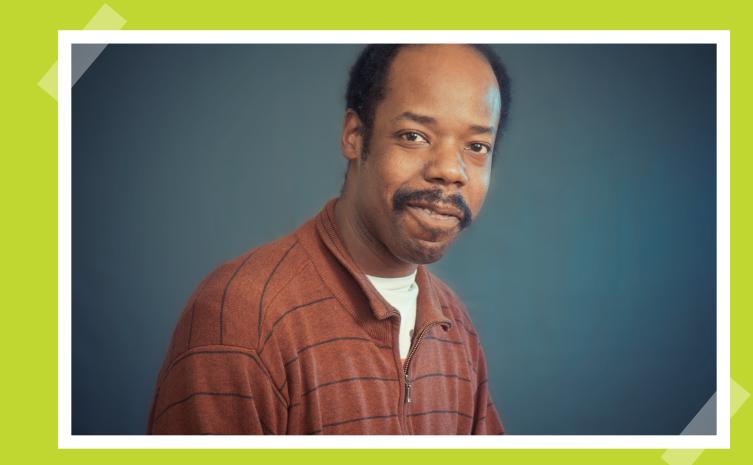
#### **Kids Street Sense**

Curriculum for current and formerly homeless children dealing with peer pressure, safety, bullying and manners.

#### **Housing Services**



people moved into permanent housing



**Darryl** has battled schizophrenia for years. After being evicted, Darryl came to Carpenter's Shelter for help. While at the shelter, he stabilized his life with medication and got a job. Through the shelter, Darryl was able to get a scholarship to help him get his associates degree at NOVA. Now Darryl lives on his own and is working hard to remain stable, proving that you should never give up on anyone.

### Clinic

Dr. Bill Rogers
leads an all volunteer
team to provide
400 hours of
medical service.



#### Provide **free medical exams** to over **1,000** uninsured clients each year.



### Community Case Management

#### National 28%

The first year after leaving a homeless shelter is the riskiest. **28% of all formerly homeless individuals return to homelessness within the first year**.

#### The Carpenter's Shelter Difference **95%**

Of the people who completed Carpenter's Shelter's program, **95% did not return to homelessness last year**.

418 people

Participated in Community Case Management.

#### **Aftercare Betterment Classes**

are continued education for individuals and families after they have left the residential shelter focusing on financial literacy and continued life and relationship skills.





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**Denise** is one of Carpenter's Shelter's very special volunteers. One evening while volunteering for the Children's Hour, a little girl asked for a glass of water. Denise obliged but was curious as to why this young girl would prefer water over the flavorful juice the other children were drinking. The girl explained that she and her family just moved into the shelter and had been living under a bridge near the Potomac River. She had been bathing and drinking water from the river. She looked up at Denise and said "the water here tastes so good".

# **Education and Employment**

scholarship dollars awarded



For those who are not employed or seeking better employment, Carpenter's offers a variety of Employment Readiness workshops designed to teach clients the skills necessary to find and maintain full time employment. Workshops are mandatory for those seeking employment.

Workshops focus on: **resume building**, job searching, interviewing skills, **on-the-job skills**, and **communicating** with co-workers.





Carpenter's Shelter conducted 146 hours

of life skills and employment training.



of Carpenter's Shelter residents are employed when they enter the residential shelter.





Suzanna was diagnosed four years ago with Lupus, became very ill and lost her job. With her support network crumbling around her, she left her abusive husband and came to Carpenter's Shelter with her five children. Suzanna worked through Carpenter's programs, and was quickly placed in permanent housing. Suzanna has been in the same apartment since she left Carpenter's Shelter, but she is still living on the edge. Suzanna worked two part time jobs, and struggled to support her family. Through some tough times Suzanna has had the ongoing support of the Carpenter's Shelter. Suzanna shops the Carpenter's Shelter pantry every other week, so that her children do not go hungry and she can pay her rent. Recently, obtaining a job as a bus driver has allowed Suzanna to take a major step toward stability and the benefits she receives allow her to take care of herself and her family.

## **New This Year** Homeless Services Assessment Center

September 2012, the Homeless Services Assessment Center will provide eligibility screenings for single homeless adults, and identify appropriate housing options for them. We aim to minimize a client's stay in the shelter by 25% in the next year.

### Our Volunteers Make the Difference





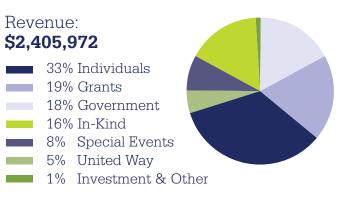
14

1',26'/ total hours volunteered



## **Financials** Investing in Ending Homelessness







# Donors

#### **Strategic Partners**

Alfred Street Baptist Church Association of Meeting Professionals Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Centennial Contractors Enterprises Christ Church Commonwealth Consultants DC Metro Church Fairlington United Methodist Chr First Baptist Church Freddie Mac Foundation Grace Episcopal Church Grant Thornton mmanuel Church on the Hill Kaiser Permanente PCI Communications

#### Warehouse Society

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Fannie Mae Volunteers

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United Way #8228 CFC #87293

