

Homeward

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Information from www.homeward-richmond.com

“Homeward was founded in 1998 at the recommendation of the Richmond Homeless Task Force.”

Mission Statement: Homeward is a nonprofit organization coordinating housing-related resources and services to prevent and end homelessness. By initiating and facilitating creative collaborations, Homeward is meeting current needs and helping to establish better policy around prevention and improved housing options.

Our goal is to create an effective, efficient, compassionate and flexible regional system to help prevent people from becoming homeless and to return those who experience the crisis of homelessness to self-reliance.

A Problem Solved

By 2006, the Greater Richmond community will have reached the goal of an effective, efficient, compassionate and flexible regional homeless services delivery system, including the following components:

- A well coordinated prevention strategy to keep people in their housing; to help families cope with a relative battling with the disease of addiction; sufficient rent and mortgage assistance.
- Policies to address short term housing emergencies like rent arrears, substandard apartments and overwhelming utility costs for individuals and families who would otherwise have become homeless.
- Everyone in the region, including business travelers and tourist, is aware that Greater Richmond has a strong human service delivery system. Due to the well-integrated network of services, there is absolutely no reason for an individual to beg for money for food, clothing or shelter in Greater Richmond. Greater Richmond is known as a first class place to live and work as evidenced by its nationally recognized successful response to the social issue of homelessness in the region.
- A strong centralized front-line intake and assessment process that maximizes placement and moves people into proper service and treatment settings as soon as possible, avoiding inappropriate placements or long shelter stays. The providers in the system have cross-functional staff. Every person in crisis gets immediate case management.
- Outreach services are available for people with special needs or backgrounds (i.e, mental illness, chronic substance abuse, veterans)
- The homeless services systems has basic quality standards at all shelter and residential programs that offer humane, effective and outcome-based services.
- Redundancies and duplication in the service delivery system have been eliminated. The homeless services system is streamlined, flexible and effectively interfaces with other systems such as the healthcare system, the criminal justice system, the mental health system, the veterans administration and the housing system.
- The system has a social contract approach with every individual and family that receives services, expecting certain reciprocal rights and responsibilities. Every client would have a case management plan that the providers and the client use as a roadmap to self-sufficiency.
- Neighborhoods and congregation recognize, willingly embrace and offer support to persons moving from the homeless service system into independence in communities throughout the region.