

# Southernmost Homeless Assistance League

## REPORT FOR THE CITY OF KEY WEST January 2014

### *Use of KOTS*

The total of 266 individuals used the Shelter in January 2014 and 268 used the Shelter in December 2013. Thus, the totals have remained approximately the same over the several months. Given the migration of the Homeless Management Information System from one provider to another, additional data for December and January including the number of new users is not available yet.

More importantly, **KOTS reached capacity (140 people), before 9 pm, 24 out of 31 days during the month of January**, 15 nights in December, and 21 in November.

### *Donations*

On September 12, 2013, the class from the City's Ambassador Program visited KOTS. Some of the group were impressed with what SHAL does for the homeless in Key West, and asked what could be done to assist the users of KOTS. The Operations Director explained the need for white socks and towels. That class then started a project called "SOCKS FOR KOTS" in which they collected money to purchase socks for KOTS users.

At a lunch meeting on January 28, 2014, the Ambassador class presented the Operations Director with about 120 pairs of white socks as well as several dozen towels. This donation means KOTS will not have to purchase towels for a few months. SHAL deeply appreciates these donations.

### *KOTS & Health Issues*

KOTS staff requested Emergency Medical Service (EMS) 12 times in January on behalf of users. It is interesting to note that two users sustained injuries prior to entering KOTS and waited until they arrived at KOTS to request EMS.

### *MOU with Rural Health*

At long last, SHAL worked out a program with Rural Health that allows SHAL case managers to complete forms to register individuals at the Rural Health Clinic. This allows individuals to see

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**Alan Teitelbaum, Chair**  
**Nancy Romain, Secretary**

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a health care professional at no or little cost. This program should reduce the amount of individuals using the emergency room for basic medical care.

### *Public Health Nurses*

Public Health nurses came to KOTS on two nights in January and provided the following services:

- 5 HIV tests,
- 2 HIV results,
- 6 injections to prevent hepatitis; and
- 7 Flu shots.

### *Mobile Outreach Program (MOP)*

In January, we continued to provide MOP services at three locations. We served 148 people at the College Road location, 11 at Higgs Beach, and 290 at the Soup Kitchen.

### *Relocation of Homeless People*

The case managers relocated seven individuals in January.

- **V**, a resident of California, never experienced homelessness. Then, he relocated to Florida temporarily where his girlfriend let him take the fall for a theft at Kmart, before robbing him of his car, money, and identification. Once released, case managers facilitated his relocation back to his home state.
- **S**, from Gainesville, lived in an apartment there with a friend. She came to Key West for a week with another friend who abandoned her with no means to leave the area. Case managers relocated her back to Gainesville where she moved back in to her previous apartment.
- **M** is from Memphis, TN. He visited Key West on a vacation and became financially stranded here. Though he stayed at Patterson House for a short period of time, they asked him to leave because he could not pay. After a several nights at KOTS, he visited the MOP, where case managers were able to immediately relocate him back to Tennessee.
- **J**, a resident of California, came to Tampa to settle a years-old legal issue that turned out not to exist. He became stranded in Key West and stayed for a short period of time at KOTS, but had persistent health issues which could only be handled financially through his home state. Case managers provided him with a bus ticket for relocation back to California.
- **F** and his companion **M** came to Key West looking for employment and housing, finding success with neither. F was offered a job by his previous boss in Titusville, Florida, and

case managers were able to secure relocation for both, where they had an offer to live on the future employer's farm.

- **D** was relocated to Ft. Meyers.

### *Special Needs Housing*

**F** approached the Mobile Outreach Program in early January. Key West-born, he is from a local, several generations-old conch family. Struggling with several comorbid mental health illnesses (including rapid-cycling bipolar disorder, severe insomnia, and depression), F had spent the past couple decades being relocated from one family member's house to another. He also struggled with a persistent pain disorder caused by an old spinal injury. Most recently, F was displaced from a family member's house in northern Florida and returned to Key West, his hometown, where he sustained an injury and was hospitalized. Upon his release, he slept for several nights in the mangroves; while sleeping, he was robbed of all of his prescription medications, which he required to maintain a stable mental health. When F presented himself at the MOP, he had no medication, no money, and nowhere to stay. Case managers urged him to return to LKMC and obtain prescriptions that could be filled. Client returned with prescriptions, and case managers assisted him in procuring partial financial assistance from TrueFund. Case managers referred client to Peacock/Heron Housing, where he did an intake and filled out an application for residence. He was assigned a primary physician and psychiatrist. His medications have been refilled through his Medicaid Part D (which refills these medications once a month as needed), and he is now in the system with Peacock/Heron Housing Program.

### *Other Services*

Case managers helped:

- 9 people obtain and pay for birth certificates, which are necessary to obtain Monroe County Identification Cards and employment;
- 3 people who were recently released from the Monroe County Detention Center with various services; and
- 6 people who were injured or physically disabled to receive bus passes;
- 3 people assisted with applying for Food Stamps on-line;
- 4 people received notary services;
- 43 people received hygiene supplies (Budget no longer allows for purchase of hygiene supplies); and
- 17 unsheltered clients were assisted by case managers.