

Southernmost Homeless Assistance League, Inc.

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SHAL Monthly Report

September 2016 SHAL News

Bus Tickets Suspended

Because the Monroe County HSAB claimed that the unique SHAL relocation program was somehow “duplicating services,” SHAL has been forced to suspend the program, with about 6 relocation requests *already* in October, until replacement funding can be found. SHAL also was denied funding for the Housing First program, which had already found permanent housing for a couple dozen homeless people since January.

Full time Soup Kitchen Serving Began October 1, Volunteer “Schleppers” Still Needed

Thanks to St. Mary’s for being such a wonderful partner in “testing” food service at the Shelter during September (and to Sheriff Rick Ramsay’s cooperation), SHAL began bringing the evening meal still being freshly prepared at the current Soup Kitchen’s kitchen on Flagler Avenue to the Shelter on Stock Island. SHAL is still seeking volunteer “Schleppers” to bring the food, in bulk pans, out to the Shelter at 6:15 or so each

Homeless Myth #4 (of 7)

#4 “It’s too expensive. We just can’t give everyone a home.”

The Housing First model for addressing homelessness has been proven to cost taxpayers a *fraction of the amount* for the law enforcement-medical-shelter-transitional housing “services first” approach. Transitional housing programs, which keep persons homeless during the entire process and have a lower success rate, cost much more. Housing First, which is followed immediately by appropriate needed service and regular case management, is the most efficient and effective way to address homelessness.

Some studies show that as much as **\$10,000 per person per year is saved** through a Housing First approach to homelessness.

evening. The full load easily fits in the back seat of your car, so if you’re interested, please email or call John Miller at:

ExDir.SHAL@gmail.com or
502.876.5092.

SHAL to present to City Commission

Following a contentious Key West City Commission meeting in which SHAL was forced to defend its successes and expanded programs that it accomplishes **for a lower fee**, SHAL agreed to make a comprehensive presentation to the Commission and describe how SHAL has instituted many new programs to help reduce the homeless population. SHAL’s “hand up, not a hand out” methodology that helps improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Keys is based on the understanding that 1) No one wants to be homeless *and* 2) We all need a helping hand once in a while.

SHAL will be describing its many programs that prepare our homeless clients for self-sufficiency, including **housing first, healthcare, nutrition, employment, substance abuse, relocation** and the Shelter’s enhanced ability to support a good night’s rest, among others.

Housing First programs have been successfully implemented around the country to address homelessness in many communities.

SHAL SHELTER OPERATIONS

Shelter Usage

The Client Track database shows that there were about **93** clients sleeping in the Shelter on an average night in September, and there were **240** different (non-duplicated) individuals staying at the Shelter during the month. Along with SHAL Outreach, SHAL served a total of **295** unduplicated homeless persons in during the month.

Since nutrition is so important to escaping homelessness, SHAL Shelter Director **Mike Tolbert** worked hard to add St. Mary's Soup Kitchen serving to SHAL's regular breakfast during September, with the morning offering funded in part to a grant from the **Community Foundation of the Florida Keys**.

SHAL works to make improvements like food, as well as enhancements in safety, cleanliness and other operational changes so that more homeless persons will utilize the shelter, helping to integrate them into SHAL programs and Case Management, and move them more quickly toward self-sufficiency. ***We believe that a person cannot overcome homelessness if they are tired, hungry or sick.***

There were **no** EMT calls made for Shelter clients in September. Clients with non-urgent medical needs are transported via automobile, saving the City the cost of an ambulance run.

SHAL OUTREACH

Service Summary Report • September 2016

SHAL Outreach provided **740** services to **126** different clients in September. This included services to **71** Sheltered and **55** unsheltered homeless persons in Key West & Marathon. **Another seven** individuals were relocated back to the mainland and other states, where they have housing and/or employment awaiting them, in September. Because the Monroe County HSAB board claimed that the SHAL bus ticket program was somehow "duplicating services," we have been forced to suspend the SHAL reunification program as of the end of September until we can replace that funding. SHAL continues to get client requests and even calls from other agencies for relocation money, which makes the "duplication" argument even more ridiculous. In general, no other agency relocates sheltered and unsheltered homeless back to the mainland. **SHAL has provided and paid for 337 bus tickets for homeless persons since 2014.**

Total Services: 740 Health Care Services Referred: 11 Mental Health: 1
Coordinated Assessments: 42

Other Services:

Case Management: 105
Information Services: 103
Cell Phones: 21
Food/Clothing: 28

ID/Residency Services: 84
SS Issues: 8
Birth Certificates: 16
Trans. Services: 1

Food Stamps: 14
Mailing Address: 111
Long Dist. Relocation: 7

September SHAL Success Stories

- SHAL Outreach assisted a wheelchair bound unsheltered homeless male to obtain a battery for his wheelchair, which greatly assists him in his daily endeavors.

And SHAL Shelter coordinated with Outreach and other agencies to give support to several clients who achieved self-sufficiency:

- A male client reported that he finally got his place at an Atlanta resort that includes workforce housing. A job in food service using his culinary arts degree—apartment included!
- Another male client, who came to the Shelter in September with his family, had a job fall through and his wife and kids were referred to Samuel's House. A quick promotion into management at a grocery store up the keys and the family will be joining him soon!
- A male client got his CDL license restored and is now in another state doing over-the-road driving.
- Along with several clients on the verge of self-sufficiency was a male who left for his own digs after saving up his earnings from a job in a coffee bar.

Other Highlights

- Continued shower services to unsheltered clients.
- Continued to provide temporary mailing address for SS, Food Stamps and Birth Certificates.
- Continue expanded services to the middle Keys.
- Assisted clients with scabies obtain their medical appointments and prescription treatments.
- Continued meeting with the Substance Abuse Council, which is also providing some valuable insight and networking to other agencies and potential services.
- Continued communication with the Sheriff's Department regarding a diversion program and also a better-integrated care plan for released inmates to receive follow-up case management assistance.