

Southernmost Homeless Assistance League, Inc.

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Patrice Pelletier-Sanders, Chair
Christine Trovato, Vice Chair
Tiffany Curry, Secretary
Richard Casey, Jr. Treasurer
Alan Teitelbaum, Past Chair

SHAL Monthly Report

December 2016 SHAL News

Patrice Pelletier-Sanders Leaves SHAL board

SHAL board and staff bid a very fond farewell to our outgoing Chairperson, who is stepping off the Board of Directors after more than a decade. Patrice has lent her considerable leadership, experience and compassion as SHAL weathered numerous challenges. She will be sorely missed.



A generous donor brought several dozen pizzas on Christmas Eve for the homeless residents, giving the wonderful volunteers at the Soup Kitchen a day off.

Kip Edwards (below) baked numerous blueberry and other fruit pies for dessert the same day.



Brianna from the Coast Guard came out to help serve a terrific ham dinner from the Soup Kitchen on Christmas Day.

SHAL Still Seeking Donations For Bus Tickets

Community support is needed for SHAL's popular reunification program for 2017.

The Keys can be a tough place to make ends meet due to the high costs of housing & living and low wages for unskilled workers. Sometimes a person's best option is to relocate "back home" where family, friends, housing and employment can more easily add up to self-sufficiency. Until September, SHAL had a voluntary "bus ticket" program that had successfully purchased over 350 tickets for homeless persons to get them to a location on

the mainland where they can again afford housing and life's essentials. (Clients voluntarily agree not to return to Monroe County.)

SHAL works directly with each person experiencing homelessness individually to address each person's particular issues. Most homeless persons have been affected by

Please send donations to reinstitute this program, by visiting www.shalkw.org to make an online donation or send a check to SHAL at **PO Box 2990, Key West FL 33045**. Include on your check memo line or the online form "bus ticket" and we will use your gift exclusively for reuniting homeless persons. Contact Executive Director **John Miller** at ExDir.SHAL@gmail.com if you need more information.

external issues including health & mental health, employment, domestic violence, family break up and substance abuse and need a hand up to resume a permanently housed, self-sufficient life.

Homeless Myth #7 (of 7)

"It's just wrong. It goes against my values of hard work and earning your way."

The vast majority of homeless persons are victims of events beyond their control. It is an important duty and measure of society to care for our neediest members. Food, housing, medical care are no longer privileges, but the minimum aspects of a life that we can be assured of receiving at times when we cannot provide for ourselves.

And who among us has not needed a "hand up" from time to time?

SHAL SHELTER OPERATIONS

Shelter Usage

The database shows that there were about **108** clients sleeping in the Shelter on an average night in December, and there were **269** different (non-duplicated) individuals staying at the Shelter during the month. Along with SHAL Outreach, SHAL served a unduplicated total of **330** homeless persons during the month of December.

Shelter Director **Mike Tolbert** had a busy December, handling some repainting, pressure washing, installing a donated new washer, and repairing some of the Shelter's outside plumbing. Mike also dealt with numerous donations of clothing as well as the outside food donations on Christmas Eve.

SHAL understands that nutrition is vitally important to escaping homelessness, and we spent lots of time, money and energy working with our two food programs. SHAL provides breakfast mornings with a varied menu that includes biscuits & gravy, sausages, bacon, eggs and English muffins. SHAL has long provided coffee to residents. And SHAL brings meals every day prepared by the wonderful volunteers at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen to be served to Shelter residents. (Volunteers are always needed as food "schleppers" to bring the food from St. Mary's to the Shelter. The trip is easy, takes no time at all and helps immensely. Contact Executive Director **John Miller** at exdir.shal@gmail.com or 502.876.5092 for information.)

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 or hungry or sick or have no income.***

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

SHAL OUTREACH

Service Summary Report • December 2016

SHAL Outreach Director Elicia Pintabona's staff provided **638** services to **134** different clients in December. Elicia and Case Managers **Amy Yancich** and **Channing Lamar** worked hard to provide services to **61** Sheltered and **73** unsheltered homeless persons in Key West & Marathon.

SHAL is working hard to restart our popular relocation program. The Monroe County HSAB Board claimed that the SHAL bus ticket program was somehow “duplicating services,” so we have been forced to suspend 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 or unsheltered homeless adults back to the mainland. **SHAL has arranged, provided and paid for over 350 bus tickets for homeless persons since 2014.**

**Total Services: 638 Health Care Services Referred: 16 Mental Health: 2
Coordinated Assessments: 22.**

Other Services

Case Management: 155
Information Services: 124
Cell Phones: 17
Food/Clothing: 10
Birth Certificates: 7

Food Stamps: 24
Mailing Address: 90
Long Dist. Relocation: 0
ID/Residency Services: 71
SS Issues: 9

SHAL December Success Stories

Among the SHAL successes this month...

- SHAL case managers worked with Project Lighthouse (Florida Keys Children's Shelter) and helped to relocate a homeless young mother and her 6-year-old daughter back to the mainland.
- A homeless male client who was nearly blind was approved for Medicaid coverage thanks to the diligence of his SHAL case manager. SHAL also was able to assist with food stamps, social security, birth certificates and a Florida ID card.
- A 54-year old homeless male with multiple health issues was referred to an agency on the mainland where he is now living in his own apartment and has proper health care, including mental health services.
- SHAL Shelter staff helped a 49-year-old woman get a job at a local grocery store and move into a transitional housing program.
- Another Shelter resident saved her money from working at a local restaurant and has moved into market rate housing
- After less than a month at the SHAL Shelter, a 45-year-old man began working for a local contractor and will be moving into market rate housing very soon!