



Coalition Notes & News:

PIT Results // Program & Workgroup Updates // Meetings, Events, etc.

2009 Point-in-Time Survey Finds 20% Increase in Local Homelessness

The number of people without housing in Alachua County has jumped for the second year in a row, according to the initial results of the 2009 ACCHH census and survey. Advocates, agency staff, and volunteers – homeless and housed alike – counted 1,624 men, women and children without housing in a 24-hour period spanning January 27 and 28, 2009. Of these, 546 are children under the age of 18.

The total count for 2009 represents an increase of 20% from the 2008 count of 1,365, and a 71% increase from the 952 individuals and family members found during the same period in 2007.

Since its 2003 inception, the annual survey has helped bring over 200 shelter beds and \$8 million in state and federal funds to the local homeless assistance network.

The Coalition will release a detailed report on survey findings in May. The 2008 survey report is online at <http://www.endhomelessnessinalachuacounty.org/pit/>.

		2009	2008	2007	2006
	Local Homeless Housing Programs	342	352	278	302
Street (Unsheltered)	Streets, Encampments, Vehicles	621	465	325	446
	Incarcerated, Alachua County Jail	80	115	51	50
	Hospitals, Detox, CSU (Incomplete)	35	36	19	44
	Street Count SUBTOTAL:	743	616	395	540
	Homeless Schoolchildren, as reported by the School Board of Alachua County	546	413	279	321
	TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION:	1,624	1,365	952	1,163

NE First Street News

The Alachua County Housing Authority, located at 703 NE First Street, is also home to the Coalition (ACCHH) and the Gainesville / Alachua Co. Office on Homelessness, among other agencies.

Both ACCHH and the Office on Homelessness rely on part-time directors; interns and volunteers are used wherever possible, and each agency receives extensive in-kind support from ACHA.

We're resurrecting the old ACCHH newsletter with the hope of it becoming an effective resource for members and supporters to stay up to date and informed on Coalition news, events and activities. We'd appreciate any feedback you may have on its contents.

You are always welcome to suggest new topics or submit news items by e-mailing us at homeless@acha-fl.com.

OFFICE HOURS: 703 NE 1 st Street	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alachua Co. Housing Authority	8a-5p	8a-5p	8a-5p	8a-5p	8a-5p
ACCHH	9a-3p	9a-5p	8a-2p	--	--
Office on Homelessness	8-1:30p	--	8-4:30p	--	8-1:30p

Program & Workgroup Announcements

Challenge Grant We have received the third and final drawdown from DCF for the FY2009 Challenge Grant, and are beginning to process the last wave of requests from agencies participating in the program.

★★★PLEASE NOTE: The last day to submit advance or reimbursement requests is **Friday, May 15, 2009**. **FY2009 CG funds that have not been requested by this date will be rolled into the Rental Deposit Assistance Program and made available to clients of active agencies** currently participating in the Rental Deposit Program. We will send out a reminder in advance of this deadline. ★★★

- **Challenge Grant Rental Deposit Assistance Fund is CLOSED:** Effective immediately, we are no longer accepting new referrals for the FY2009 rental deposit assistance program. We will continue to process requests from agencies with existing funds set aside for them (those receiving “limited/one-time access” to the funds, per the established FY2009 program guidelines).
- **Challenge Grant Outstanding Balances, by Agency, as of 2/25/09**

Agency	Total Awarded	Spent to Date	Current Balance
ACCHH/Home Van	\$4,305.00	\$1,489.66	\$2,815.34
Another Way	\$9,600.00	\$0.00	\$9,600.00
Arbor House	\$5,170.00	\$2,553.56	\$2,616.44
CDS- Central	\$2,496.00	\$0.00	\$2,496.00
CDS- East	\$9,600.00	\$0.00	\$9,600.00
Chrysalis	\$5,170.00	\$0.00	\$5,170.00
Interfaith	\$5,170.00	\$3,824.00	\$1,346.00
Lazarus	\$9,600.00	\$4,305.63	\$5,294.37
Meridian	\$2,880.00	\$0.00	\$2,880.00
Lee Conlee	\$9,600.00	\$3,914.02	\$5,685.98
Pleasant	\$4,435.00	\$0.00	\$4,435.00
Preserve	\$5,170.00	\$963.96	\$4,206.04
Vetspace	\$5,170.00	\$0.00	\$5,170.00

Homeless Management Information System At this point, the majority of Coalition housing programs are entering client data into the HMIS. Recent changes within the program have made it easier to enter and track client-level data. The HMIS Workgroup will convene in the near future with a renewed focus on data quality and other unresolved issues.

- **HMIS Support:** Mike Mullis is ACHA’s full-time systems administrator and serves as the Continuum’s HMIS Technical Administrator, providing technical support and training to agencies using HMIS. Mike can be reached at ACHA at 352.372.2549 or via e-mail at mike@acha-fl.com; he welcomes any suggestions for and is available to help by phone, e-mail or on-site support and training.

Mailing & Discussion Lists: acchChat now available to Coalition members

ACCHH sends meeting notices, local news and general information out through the shared listserv known as **acchMail**. Anyone can join and receive messages; to post to this group please send your message to a staff member (homeless@acha-fl.com) with the request that it be sent to the list. To limit e-mail traffic, the list is used only to post information on meetings, events, funding streams and advocacy alerts, and does not allow general discussion.

We have created a separate listserv - **acchChat** - to provide a forum for Q&A, general discussion and interagency support and assistance. This list is open only to members of ACCHH and will generate a slightly heavier volume of daily messages. Users can adjust their settings to limit the number of messages they receive in a day.

Please do not send listserv subscription requests to staff members. We cannot process mailing list requests via e-mail - this is an automated service provided by the company that hosts the lists for us. To join or leave either list, please send a blank message to the appropriate address, as shown below.

ACCHHmail (news & announcements):

Subscribe: Send blank message to acchhmail-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: Send blank message to acchhmail-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

ACCHHchat (general discussion, Q&A, technical assistance):

Subscribe: Send blank message to acchhchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: Send blank message to acchhchat-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To post: Send your message to acchhchat@yahoogroups.com (after joining)

The HOME Van will take a much-needed break in the first week of March, and will not provide its usual services on the Plaza on Tuesday, March 3 or Thursday, March 5. Regular outreach will resume Tuesday, March 10.

Food Not Bombs has added another day to its meal-sharing schedule. The group now provides meals to homeless and hungry people on the Downtown Plaza Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30p, and Saturday afternoons at 2:30.

The School Board of Alachua County has hired Courtney Allen to serve as its new Homeless Education Coordinator. Courtney can be reached at (352) 275-8178 (cell) or (352) 955-7070 (office).

ACCHH still has a limited number of Street Cards available. The pocket-sized cards provide information on local housing, health care and food resources on one side, and a concise guide to the laws and ordinances that impact homeless people on the reverse. If you need more

street cards, please call or e-mail ACCHH and tell us how many you need; generally, they will be available within a day or two for pickup from the office at 703 NE First St.

Funding & Related Information

2009 Continuum Awards announced: The US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development announced last week that the North Central Florida Continuum of Care has been awarded \$605,000 to fund six different projects: The Peaceful Paths Transition House (\$85,000); Meridian's HOPE (\$101,000) and PATH (\$95,000 programs; veteran housing through VETSPACE (transitional housing, \$105,000) and permanent supportive housing through VETPORT (\$138,000), and transitional housing for pregnant/parenting teen mothers through Pleasant Place (\$80,000).

Prevention: Economic Stimulus Package likely to include new prevention funds. Congress is considering an economic recovery package that includes \$1.5 billion for homelessness prevention and re-housing. It is likely that this program will be passed into law, and HUD plans to implement it very quickly. Funding for these programs would be provided through the same formula as HUD's Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program, but could only be used for prevention and rehousing.

Communities will be expected to develop a plan for funding and begin spending in the next few months. Homeless assistance providers, local officials who administer ESG and homelessness funding and services, advocates, community-based agencies serving at-risk populations, and entities that administer the Continuum of Care should begin right away to plan how they will utilize funding.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has launched a new webpage dedicated to providing government officials, providers, and advocates with practical resources on how to use these funds. The first of these resources, "Homelessness Prevention and Re- Housing: Overview of Funds," provides a brief overview of this new funding, how communities should begin preparing for it, and what opportunities it presents. NAEH will update the site as information on additional resources becomes available. For more, visit <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/prevention>

Staff Changes at ACCHH & Office on Homelessness

Jayne Moraski is the new **Executive Director** of the **Gainesville/Alachua County Office on Homelessness**. She was recently the Economic Development Director for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and has worked with economic development and tourism groups throughout the state. She has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, specializing in housing and community development. She still has trouble saying "y'all," because she is a Yankee from the Midwest, but she's practicing very hard to try and get the pronunciation right. Jayne has lived in Gainesville since 2001 and is looking forward to working with the community in this new position.

Jon DeCarmine is the new **Executive Director** of the **Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry**. Jon has more than a decade of local advocacy and community organizing experience. He is a co-author of Project GRACE, the local 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and since 2005 has overseen its implementation while serving as Director of the Office on Homelessness. Jon served as the Coalition's first Coordinator from 2002 through 2004, and brings a wealth of knowledge related to program development and evaluation; grant writing, administration and project monitoring; point-in-time survey design and implementation; and Continuum of Care assessment and coordination. DeCarmine is a former member of the CDC/DELTA Violence Prevention Community Response Team; currently, he sits on the Board of Directors for the Florida Coalition for the Homeless, and remains an occasional volunteer with groups including the HOME Van and Food Not Bombs. He holds a BS from the University of Florida's College of Journalism & Mass Communication, and is a graduate of Leadership Gainesville XXXIV.

Max Tipping, a third-year UF student majoring in political science and economics, is the Homeless Central Intern Extraordinaire. Max started working with us this winter and will be around through the Spring semester. Many of you have already heard from him regarding grant administration and point-in-time follow-ups requests. His role here continues to grow as he takes on more responsibility with the Coalition and the Office on Homelessness, and seems to have found a niche in tying up each and every loose end we throw his way. At the end of the semester, Max heads to Washington DC for an internship with the Legal Aid Society.

Amanda Gunn has signed on as the new Coordinator of Faces of Grace, the homeless speakers bureau we've established in partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless and the AmeriCorps/VISTA program.

Media & Public Relations

Speakers Bureau is Recruiting! If you work with homeless or formerly homeless people who want to share the stories of their struggles and successes, please put them in touch with Speakers Bureau Coordinator Amanda Gunn. She can be reached at 352.372.2549, and will be conducting outreach in a number of settings in the coming weeks. The Bureau sends expert panels - homeless people themselves - to speak at schools, churches and other area organizations interested in learning more about homelessness. Faces of Grace is a partner of the National Coalition for the Homeless in a statewide push to raise awareness and reverse the recent spike in the number of violent, often fatal, attacks on the homeless committed by young people in Florida.

Requests for Profile Subjects: We receive a steady stream of media requests for interviews with homeless/formerly homeless people, and often are asked to connect journalists with agencies and people who will speak to them about their situations or the work they do in the community. If you are interested - or opposed to - speaking with the media when situations like these pop up, please let us know. Likewise, if your agency is working with someone who should (and wants to!) be recognized as a success story, please let us know so we can try to

connect her or him with the press.

In addition, the Coalition is working with the UF College of Journalism & Communications to link undergraduate reporting and feature writing students with people willing to be interviewed and profiled. UF Journalism Professor Kim Walsh-Childers teaches the class, and has asked for our help connecting her students to homeless people in one of the following situations:

- A female recovering addict or abuse victim
- A young female runaway or former prostitute (two students)
- A young woman/teenager who is pregnant or has a baby. Another student is interested in interviewing any woman, with or without children, and a third is interested in teen or young adult women
- A UF student or former/current professor
- A single parent, either gender, or a veteran
- A former foster child
- A single father

If you know of folks who fit any of these categories, please contact Kim at kwchilders@jou.ufl.edu once you have cleared it with the potential interviewee. Thanks.

Upcoming Meetings, Trainings, Events

Tuesday, March 3: ACCHH Resource Development Work Group, 10a-11a, 703 NE 1st St. (ACHA Conference Room)

Saturday, March 7, 7p: CDS Spotlight on Youth Fundraiser at the Phillips Center. Tickets available for \$15 (adults) and \$10 (youth). For more information on the event, or to learn how to become a sponsor, please contact Radha Selvester at (352) 244-0628, ext. 3865 or via e-mail at radha_selvester@cdfsfl.org.

March 9, 2:30p: ACCHH Hunger Work Group, DCF Administrative Complex, NE 9th St., & NE 16th Ave

March 11, 2p: Making Sense of Your Dollars: Free Financial Education Workshops: Three Rivers Legal Services is currently offering a Financial Clinic focused on enhancing financial literacy. All workshops take place at Three Rivers Legal Services, 901 NW 8th Avenue Suite D-5. The series continues over the next four months, with workshops scheduled for 2p on **March 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10.**

March 16, 1p: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Committee, 12 SE First St. (Grace Knight Conference Room)

March 25: 2009 Florida Coalition for the Homeless Legislative Day, Tallahassee. Please RSVP to admin@fchonline.org for more information or if you would like to attend.

April 16, 6p: Leadership Gainesville 5k Challenge to benefit St. Francis House. Online registration at <http://www.active.com/donate/LG34>.

Trading Post

If you have excess furniture, housewares, toiletries, or any other supplies or donations you'd like to make available to others in the Coalition, please let me know and I'll include those items in this section. Likewise, if you or your clients have specific needs that you want others to know about, send them along and we'll include them here.