Chesapeake Virginia

Family Project
Homeless Connect Day

Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee
Community Center
2019 Windy Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23324

FINAL REPORT

Prepared by the
Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless
and the
City of Chesapeake Office of Housing
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May 13, 2008

I’d like to take time to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for working along side so many dedicated people willing to serve such a noble cause as homelessness. Homelessness is something that should not exist in a country as rich as the United States. Project Homeless Connect is a worthwhile initiative and I’ve been honored to serve as chairwoman this past year.

The City of Chesapeake should be commended for their level of support and partnership with Project Homeless Connect Day. Two exceptional women, Edwina Ricks and Jean Taylor worked very hard and diligently on this project with me to help make it a success. There were many clients who came out to receive services and all of the hard work put into this event made it worthwhile.

I am very proud of the event’s success due to many service providers joining together to provide a wealth of valuable resources to those in great need unaware of such support. Our ability to organize and consolidate resources of this magnitude was phenomenal.

As I listened to feedback from our clients, officials and volunteers, they all conveyed positive comments regarding the benefit of the event. It was very inspirational knowing we had such a positive impact and reinforced the notion we have a lot of work ahead of us as Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) Members to help end Homelessness within our ten year plan. Those services offered on April 24, 2008 included individuals with mental health and physical abuse issues which ultimately resulted in homelessness.

Family Project Homeless Connect Day was a success!!! However, if only one participant had come out and acquired resources to help enhance their quality of life it still would have been a success. Service is what our jobs are all about. Offering assistance to those in need of help is what makes it worthwhile. I am looking forward to next year’s event and again would like to thank all who helped to make it successful.

Respectfully,

Belinda Clark
Chairwoman Project Homeless Connect Day
South Hampton Roads is a wonderful place to call home. We who live here take great pride in our cities. Our neighborhoods are attractive, lively, and welcoming places to live...for most of us.

There is another side to our region that most of us see only in passing. This is the shadow of want, hunger and desperation. Far too many South Hampton Roads residents cannot afford even the lowest rents, and barely make it from one month to the next. For others, personal problems, such as poor health, mental illness, or substance abuse interfere with their ability to succeed on their own. Still others experience domestic violence, English language barriers, children aging out of foster care, or release from prison or jail with no job skills or support system.

Many individuals and families live in uncertain circumstances. A portion lose their homes, most for days, others for much longer. They rely on emergency shelters and food programs, or makeshift camps in the woods.

The people of South Hampton Roads are not short on compassion. Faith-based and other local groups provide meals, clothing, and temporary beds. Non-profit agencies offer services, support, and shelter for people who are homeless and at risk of becoming so. Municipal, state and federal agencies contribute significant dollars, staff, and expertise to these programs and initiatives.

Point-In-Time Count

The annual point in time count, which offers a snapshot of people who meet the Federal definition of "homeless," indicates that there were nearly 1,400 homeless people in South Hampton Roads in January, 2007. While this is a significant decrease over the number reported in 2005 (1,767), homelessness remains a difficult issue across the region. During the 2007 count, more than 200 individuals were identified as chronically homeless and 245 individuals spent the previous night outside or in abandoned buildings.

CHESAPEAKE HOMELESS STREET COUNTS

Winter

In 2007, homeless persons counted totaled 129 during the 24-hour count period from January 24 to January 25, 2007. That number included 52 persons in families with children and 77 single adults. Of the 129 persons who were homeless that day, 43 (33%) were unsheltered.

Survey results were also compiled from hotel/motel owners which indicate that 174 persons (90 adults and 84 children) were considered homeless. Of those 174 persons, 38 families were counted and 71 children attend the City’s public school system.
Although this information is useful, it could not be included in the 2007 Point In Time Count, according to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Standards & Methods for Point-in-Time Counts.

**Summer**

A summer street count was conducted on August 27, 2007. The number of homeless persons counted included 40 persons in families with children, and 32 single adults. Of the 72 persons who were homeless that day, 37 (51%) were unsheltered. Although this information is useful, it could not be included in the 2007 Point In Time Count, according to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Standards & Methods for Point-in-Time Counts.

**Emergency Shelter-Our House**

Statistics compiled from the City's only Emergency Shelter - Our House Families during FY 2007 indicated, 529 families were turned away which consisted of 1,459 total persons, 625 were adults and 834 were children. Of the 529 families turned away, 188 were Chesapeake residents.
SERVICES OFFERED - PROJECT OVERVIEW

Thursday, April 24, 2008
(1:00 pm - 6:00 pm)
Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee
Community Center
2019 Windy Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23324

Chesapeake National Family Project Homeless Connect Day will bring local, State, and Federal programs serving the homeless together in one location. This one day, one stop shop event is designed to help homeless families connect with resources needed to help them move toward self-sufficiency.

Services Offered:

Intake/Exit:
✓ Intake forms completed with assistance of volunteers
✓ Clients/Guests were assigned a volunteer who accompanied them throughout the day to escort clients/guests to service areas
✓ Clients/Guests completed an exit survey and received multiple items as they left the event, including goodie bags of personal hygiene products, groceries, clothing, etc.

Employment:
✓ Job registration through Virginia Employment Commission
✓ Job placement and job coaching
✓ Information on free training opportunities
✓ Screening/referrals for supported employment

Housing:
✓ Information on local housing opportunities
✓ Consulting on how to start the process to obtain housing

Medical:
✓ Vision and Hearing screening
✓ Glaucoma testing
✓ Blood Pressure - (Health Department)
✓ WIC, FAMIS, nutrition, early pregnancy
✓ Access-HIV/AIDS testing, counseling
✓ Optima informative information

Legal:
✓ Screening and interviews for legal matters

Benefits:
✓ Temporary Assistance to needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps and Medicaid
✓ Services Program - Daycare, Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, Adult Services and Families Stabilization Services
✓ Resources Assistance - Project FIND (Fatherhood Program), Prevention services

Support Services:
✓ Substance Abuse resources and referrals for counseling
✓ Mental Health Resources; crisis intervention; and referrals for services
✓ Application for Shelter Plus Care

Day Care Services:
✓ Child care services were provided during the event
✓ Games and other stimulating programs were offered
**Transportation:**

- Transportation to and from event was provided by the Sheriff’s Office. Pick-up sites included: United Labor Agency - 1101 Poindexter Street, Chesapeake, VA 23324; South Norfolk Baptist Church – 1101 Chesapeake Avenue, Chesapeake, VA 23324, Our House - 405 D Street, Chesapeake, VA 23324; Greenbrier Church - 1101 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23320, The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 1935 S. Military Highway, Chesapeake, VA 23320; Savannah Suites - 1409 Tintern Street, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320.

**Volunteers:**

- Training and t-shirts were provided

**Veterans:**

- Information and consultation provided

**Food & Guests Services:**

- Snacks, beverages and a meal were provided
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Summary:

The purpose of this event is to embrace our less fortunate Chesapeake homeless families and provide them with opportunities to access a variety of services in a centralized location. Some of the services/assistance provided were housing, medical, hearing and vision screening, dental services, employment, Social Security registration, legal aid, food stamp eligibility, healthy meals and clothing. The project is designed to positively benefit homeless individuals who would not ordinarily seek support. We thank and appreciate all the service providers that joined this community effort.

The City of Chesapeake, along with other sponsors and donors assisted in funding this initiative. The event was held at the Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee Community Center from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm on April 24th, 2008. Give-a-ways of basic provisions included coats, blankets and personal hygiene products. Throughout the day, meals, snacks, day care and free transportation to and from the site were provided.

Speakers and special guests included: Pastor Bobby Bowser (Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church), Dr. Wanda Barnard-Bailey (City of Chesapeake Deputy City Manager) and The Honorable C. E. “Cliff” Hayes, Jr. representing the Mayor (City Council Member, City of Chesapeake).
Project Homeless Connect has evolved from the Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, which calls for efforts by the entire community, including government, faith-based, private, non-profit organizations, and businesses, to partner and find solutions to end homelessness.

The event was a great success and CCH members will apply experiences gained at this event to ensure the next Family Project Homeless Connect Day is even better!
City of Chesapeake
United Way of South Hampton Roads
LTD Management
Alphonso Company, Inc.
Roosevelt Memorial Park
Joyce Niles
Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office Charities
Gateway Bank
Wal-Mart-Suffolk
Web Teks, Inc
Portsmouth Area Resource Coalition (PARC)
Great Bridge Women’s Club
Great Bridge United Methodist Church
Farm Fresh
Hyman Family
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy & Vernita Herod
Patricia Arnold
Lorrie King

FOR IN-KIND:

Cox Communications
ESI
Pepsi – Mr. Lawrence R. Majette
Snyder – Mr. David Hyman
STOP Organization
Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church
Ms. Lois Thorogood
Ms. Shernita Bertha
Ms. Marie Carver (Pinky the Clown)
PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

Special Thanks to the Following Departments/Service Providers:

ACCESS ● Catholic Charities ● Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless Members ● Chesapeake Parks & Recreation Department ● Chesapeake Fire Department ● Chesapeake General Lifestyles Center ● Chesapeake Health Department ● Chesapeake Information & Technology Department ● Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office ● Chesapeake Office of Housing ● Chesapeake Office of Youth Services ● Chesapeake Police Department ● Chesapeake Probation & Parole ● Chesapeake City Public Schools ● Chesapeake City Libraries ● Chesapeake Redevelopment & Housing Authority ● Chesapeake Division of Social Services ● Chesapeake City Clerk’s Office ● Continuing Education ● Chesapeake Community Services Board (CCSB) ● Department of Veteran Affairs ● Disabled American Veteran’s ● Hampton Roads Planning District Commission ● Kiem Center ● KOOL Smiles ● KRA ● Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia ● Lion’s Club ● Neighborhood Services Coordination ● Opportunity, Inc. ● Our House Families ● Optima Family ● Norfolk Community Services Board ● PARC ● Social Security Administration ● Step-Up ● STOP Organization ● TFC Recycling ● The Planning Council ● The Salvation Army ● Tidewater Builders ● VA Medical Center ● United Way of South Hampton Roads ● Virginia Employment Commission ● City of Norfolk-Office to End Homelessness ● City of Virginia Beach-Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation
# Planning Team Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Action Items</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Team Captain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Job registration, etc.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Norine Stuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Dept. of Health, Lions Club, etc.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Julie Dixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Our House Families, The Planning Council, PARC, The Stop Organization, Catholic Charities, Chesapeake Redevelopment &amp; Housing Authority (Information only). City of Chesapeake - Office of Housing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Shemita Bethea, Annie White-Guertin, Julie Dixon, Shirley Harris, Brenda Adams, Avis Hinton, and James Liles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>Food Stamp, Medicaid</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Debra Lewis</td>
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<td>Social Security</td>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Anita Bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free Credit Report</td>
<td>CCEVA will assist them with pulling Credit Reports</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Shemita Bethea – Bring Laptop</td>
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<td>Adult &amp; Continuing Education</td>
<td>Chesapeake City Public Schools (Information)</td>
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<td>TWBA</td>
<td>Job Training (18 p)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Tony Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRA</td>
<td>Job Training (18-up)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>London Dubois</td>
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<td>Probation and Parole</td>
<td>Job Placement and Referrals</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Maxine Porcher</td>
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<td>Security</td>
<td>Sheriff’s Office - City of Chesapeake will provide six deputies. Police department</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Major O’Sullivan, Chief Kelvin Wright, Sharon Devine, and Amy Stephan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faith-Based/Churches</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator for food /goodie bags</td>
<td>Secure transportation, table, chairs, communications (phone/computer hookups), provide PHC map of service providers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Mary Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator/Logistics Transportation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cox Communications-Business Services</td>
<td>Telephones and fiber optics hookups</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ellen Cavitt, Chris Twelves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsors Committee</td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Cyleta Johnson, Avis Hinton, Amy Stephan, Maxine Porcher</td>
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<td>Dental</td>
<td>Kool Smile</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Pastor Coda, Ivy Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Carl Stevens</td>
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</table>

Chesapeake, VA  Family Project Homeless Connect Day-FINAL REPORT  
September 2008  
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT Department</td>
<td>City of Chesapeake-IT support, secure high speed copier</td>
<td>Rick Delorey, ESI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step up</td>
<td>Ex-offender Program</td>
<td>Sandra W. Brandt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capps Youth Program</td>
<td>Capps Program</td>
<td>Geraldine Minter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Providers</td>
<td>Caps Program, Chesapeake Community Services Board – (Working with the Kids)</td>
<td>Geraldine Minter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentara Health Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sherry Copper</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Stop Organization, <a href="mailto:B.Kellam@Stopink.org">B.Kellam@Stopink.org</a></td>
<td>City of Chesapeake, Head Start Program</td>
<td>Brenda Kellam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Support/Coordination</td>
<td>City of Chesapeake-Office of Housing- (conduct mass mailings, create and design flyers, summaries, reports, letters, signs, certificates, maintain databases of volunteers, etc.</td>
<td>Edwina Ricks, Jean Taylor, James Liles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee Community Center-Building - Reservations/custodian, housekeeping, etc.</td>
<td>Visit site to determine placement of tables and chairs, determine electrical and communication needs. Meal preparation, trash disposal, etc.</td>
<td>Teddy Santos, Arnett Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Public Outreach</td>
<td>City of Chesapeake –Public Communications, Chesapeake Community Services Board and Chesapeake Office of Housing</td>
<td>Lizz Gunnufsen, Dr. Jeff Shelton, Edwina Ricks, Belinda Clark, and Alecia Gregg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs</td>
<td>The Stop Organization, City of Chesapeake-Office of Housing, NEST. Design sign, meet with vendor, order and pick-up signs. Erect signs at libraries, recreation centers, etc. Pick-up signs after the event.</td>
<td>Belinda Clark, Deborah Marks-Rippard, Jean Taylor, and Edwina Ricks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairs &amp; Tables</td>
<td>Secure additional chairs for the event. Parks &amp; Recreation, the Salvation Army, and Redevelopment and Housing Authority will provide additional tables/chairs.</td>
<td>Teddy Santos, Mary Mann, and Avis Hinton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless members realized to conduct a successful event, it must be publicized. CCH members were asked to spread the word concerning Family Project Homeless Connect Day to businesses, non profits, civic leagues, faith-based and many other organizations. The Regional Task Force on Ending Homelessness was also asked to promote the event.

Letters and flyers were prepared to target the following audiences:

- Families and children experiencing homelessness or about to be homeless
- Soliciting donations and in-kind contributions from sponsors
- Recruiting Service Providers and City Agencies and Departments to provide services during the event
- Volunteers to work the event
- Recruiting City employees through the City’s GroupWise email system

Notices were also placed on the City’s Cox Cable Local Access channel (Channel 48) and on the City’s web page. Other actions to broaden participation included the following:

- A news release was prepared with the assistance of the City’s Public Communications department and sent to the following:
  - AM Radio 1400
  - WAVY-TV
  - WVEC-TV (Channel 13 ran spots during the 5:00 am and noon broadcasts)
  - WTKR-TV
  - Channel 48
- Although the Virginia Beach Beacon, Portsmouth Currents, Suffolk, Isle of Wright, Franklin Sun, were notified the event only appeared in the Sunday, April 20, 2008 edition of the Chesapeake Clipper
- The April 20, 2008 Sunday edition of the Virginian Pilot’s Gracious Living Weekly Planner mentioned the event
STATISTICS

Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>No of Clients</th>
<th>Follow-ups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Stop Organization</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Planning Council</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>HER Shelter</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our House</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRHA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Employment

60 clients were provided job services by the Virginia Employment Commission
Received 28 job service registrations, made non-stop referrals
TFC Recycling hired 2 clients with a possibility of hiring another 2

Social Security

12 appointments were scheduled for clients to file disability claims
1 review was completed for SSI payment – (could become active)
15 requests for replacement of Social Security cards were processed
3 miscellaneous inquiries were handled

Medical

15 people were served by Optima Family Care
50 clients were screened for vision problems by the Lion’s Club
1 person required a referral to an audiologist
14 applications were processed for financial assistance for glasses – (nearsightedness)
40 Blood Pressure checks were conducted

Social Services

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Denied</th>
<th>Pending</th>
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<tr>
<td>Food Stamps</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F&amp;C Medicaid</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABD Medicaid</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already active</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total referrals 18

Legal Aid
17 clients were counseled
6 follow-up appointments were scheduled

Children’s Services
27 clients received child care services. Ages of the children ranged as follows:
4 children were between the ages of 11-14
8 children were between the ages of 7-10
15 children were between the ages of 6 or younger

The average time for the children’s stay was 2 hours, but a few stayed as long as 3 hours.

Activities provided: Various games and toys were provided to include: an assortment of child friendly toys, puzzles, activity books, coloring sheets and games. The children were provided a snack upon arrival and were assisted as needed throughout their stay.

Entertainment was provided by a clown. Each child was allowed to pick out a prize after completion of their coloring sheets. Upon their departure, the children were given an activity/coloring book, a balloon, treats and a snack bag.

Cox Communications
27 clients placed unlimited local and long distance services

Kool Smiles
61 clients scheduled follow-up appointments

Head Start
4 applications were processed

Heim Crisis Pregnancy
16 clients received counseling
Sheriff’s Office

Provided transportation to and from event

✓ Deputy Henninger transported 6 clients to the event.
✓ Deputy Mahl picked up 2 clients from Our House and 4 from Savannah Suites.
EVALUATION OF PROGRAM

COMMENTS FROM CLIENTS & VOLUNTEERS

Of the 135 collected exit surveys, 27 clients included comments. 108 forms did not list any comments.

Clients/guests provided comments to questions 3 & 4 and their responses are listed below:

QUESTION 3. WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE EVENT:

- Accessible parking
- Volunteers were helpful and professional
- Service providers showed a caring attitude
- Everything
- Food
- Everyone was so helpful, friendly and made me feel comfortable
- Free glasses
- Wonderful-Thanks to all
- I left with hope for housing
- Received food stamps and glasses
- Mrs. Cathy Christian was wonderful-the client expressed feeling comfortable talking to Cathy, spoke about her present situation and the bad choices she has made. The client spoke of her dream of one day coming back to this event and to be a mentor to others and explain how she was able to get out of a bad situation and make a life for herself and her daughter
- New job/employment
- All cities should offer this
- Goodie bag filled with personal items given in the “café” appeared to be beneficial
- Ex offender (who spent 6 years in prison) was able to enroll in a program that would pay for first month’s rent and her deposit for a new apartment. Additionally, she also had a health screening, enrolled her two children in Head Start, and scheduled dental appointments for her children.
QUESTION 4. IF YOU COULD CHANGE SOMETHING ABOUT TODAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- My attitude
- Offer less information
- Bring businesses in who are looking to hire workers
- Provide immediate Chesapeake housing and housing opportunities
- Find more homeless clients and bring them here
- Offer another time and hold twice a year
- Offer seasonal clothing
- All cites should offer this and offer more services
- It did not come sooner in the year
- Offer more food choices
- Recruit more volunteers
Child Care volunteer comments are listed below:

- Names and numbers of children should be taken along with their parents at the door as many of the children were unable to comprehensibly state their names. Often the escorts or volunteers who brought in the children did not know the children’s names or ages.

- During check-in, there should be a screener who finds out whether or not the children have any type of allergies. The child should then be provided with a name tag that would list this information. Additionally, volunteers should also be informed if the child has to take medication during the scheduled program hours before sending them to the playroom. No problems this time - but it would prevent any potential problems in the future.

- Pampers, wipes, etc., should be provided.

- Someone from Infant Intervention would make a good playroom volunteer for screening and observation purposes. This may be a good way of spotting potential problems or danger signs that parents themselves may have observed.

- Provide information bags for parents with pertinent community resources such as Infant Intervention Services, library info, groups, and other services. (It is noted that this information is provided at providers’ tables, if the providers are represented; however, this method would prevent oversight and provide more comprehensive information for parents with children).

- Request parents to sign a waiver releasing the program of liability in the event a child should have an accident or sustain injury.

- Establish a policy relative to taking children to the bathrooms.
My experience working with Project Homeless Connect was amazing. I firmly believe this opportunity had a profound impact on the homeless community of Chesapeake. The community support and abundance of available resources ensured that every need was addressed. The Lion’s Club hearing and vision screening provided exceptional services to the family I had the privilege of escorting. They were able to not only screen the child for vision problems affecting her education, but they were also able to provide her with proper glasses on the spot, they also discovered a vision problem with the mother that she was unaware of, issuing her glasses as well. Optima Health Care provided blood pressure screening which could possibly have saved the mother’s life. The family was given resources to teach their daughter about sexual health and STD’s, given dental hygiene information and oral care products. Most importantly, the family had the opportunity to sit down with the Chesapeake Redevelopment & Housing Authority and discuss available resources that could help get them out of the shelter they were currently living in.

Perhaps the crowning moment of the day came when they were leaving and they “won” a prize for being there. It was the first smile I had seen on the child’s face all day! I was honored and touched by this family, the City of Chesapeake, United Way, Salvation Army, and all those who cared enough to be there and reach out a hand to those in need of it most.

All of the volunteers remarked that their experience was positive and they were glad to be of assistance. They also commented on how much they enjoyed working with the children and felt that the program itself was worthwhile.

Volunteers also felt that their individual assignments were worthwhile, and that everyone worked very well together. The added bonus was having children who were well-behaved and did not cause any problems.

With suggestions, comments, and input from: Catina Williams, Tameka Farrington, Sharon Silverberg
Next Steps

The cycle of homelessness can only be broken through a comprehensive, community-wide approach that offers housing and human services to those in need. Coordinated planning and collaborative service delivery are essential to helping individuals to prevent homelessness.

The following goals have been identified as part of the City of Chesapeake’s ten year plan to end homelessness which was adopted by Chesapeake City Council on February 26, 2008.

1. The adoption of a Housing Trust fund by City Council on June 10, 2008 established a fund which provides resources to address low cost housing needs.
2. Evaluate the accomplishments and challenges of the ten year plan during calendar year 2008.
3. Establish a Central Intake system (initially for families only) which provides a single point of contact for information and services available to homeless families and individuals.
4. The City will review existing policies to ensure no barriers to accessing affordable housing exists.
5. The City begins the planning process for the development of a permanent supportive housing project, possibly a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) for single homeless adults.
6. The City will continue to gather accurate and timely information about homelessness during the Winter 2009 Point-In-Time Count.
7. Collaborate with the Regional Task Force on Ending Homelessness to develop and participate in events that support ending homelessness, (e.g. regional conferences and Project Homeless Connect).
Exhibits

♦ Flyers
  o To Homeless Families
  o Volunteers

♦ Letters
  o Sample Sponsorship Letter

♦ News Release

♦ Project Homeless Connect Program for the Event

♦ Map of Facility

♦ Providers Layout Map

♦ Forms:
  o Volunteer FAQ’s
  o Volunteer Release & Assumption of Risk For Volunteers Participation in PHC & Acknowledgement of Confidentiality & Non-Disclosure of Personal Client Information
  o Authorization to Share Protected Personal Information
  o Project Homeless Connect Triage & Service Routing Form
  o Project Homeless Connect Housing Intake
  o PHC Exit Interview/Evaluation Form