

April 9,2018

## **Annual Report**

**November 1, 2017-March 21, 2018**

When the 2017/2018 season of PORT closed the morning of Thursday March 22, 2018\*. Guests had been registered for shelter and completed the intake process since the season began on November 1, 2017. Thirteen persons entered but left without doing intakes). \*An additional whole day and night was added to accommodate the bad weather that hit the area Wednesday 21, folks were discharged at 6.30 a.m. on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018.

The guests were provided with safe, secure shelter during the 20 week season of PORT, which was overseen in partnership with Newport News Sheriff Deputies who always do such a phenomenal job and PORT would not function without them! PORT guests received dinner, bagged lunches and breakfast meals. Bedding and transportation to and from designated PORT and offsite locations in Newport News was conducted with the use of two “newer” LINK vans. Local interfaith congregations and businesses donated money to LINK to cover the purchase of the replacement vehicles and signage of said vehicles. Intake staff members completed comprehensive assessments and diversionary screenings on all registered persons; volunteers provided evening and over-night supervision and access to clothing distribution.

As in prior seasons, program services were enhanced by the weekly presence of David Hudson with the Hampton-Newport News Community Service Board, Kathy with Southeastern Virginia Health Services (PICH), and Verneka Hudson of Hampton Veteran Affairs Medical Center. PORT was also supported by Newport News Department of Human Services on call workers. Special thanks to Theresa Carter who coordinated the additional screenings and calls pertaining to the increase of elderly in crisis (i.e. dementia, cancer, and blindness), and families we had additional problems with. Also to Angel Hill and Jessica Turburgh of Hampton Social Services who coordinated the VHSP grant for PORT and provided Rapid Rehousing support, excellent work done with some very challenging situations.

**PORT Season-** Total guest served: During the 2017-2018 season, 516 guest entered the shelter and were served (completed intake process). Duplicated bed nights 9,598 - increase of 6.8% overall for the season. This number included 476 adults and 40 Children. 448 guest entered without children and 20 with children - (Families decreased by 32.04% from last season with the help of Newport News DHS on call workers and the Housing Broker Team). Of the adults registered 328 were male and 148 were female. Of the families 22 of the children were male and 18 were female. (13\* guests who entered and left before intake could be completed. These guests usually just show up for meals).

**Age:** There were 20 guests under the age of five. 14 guest were aged six to twelve. 6 were thirteen - seventeen years of age. Adults: 46 were ages 18-24, 88 were ages 25-34, 90 were

ages 35-44, 121 were ages 45-54. 84 guests were between the ages of 55-61 and 47 were 62 or older.

**Ethnicity:** 496 guest identified as non-Hispanic/Latino, 20 Hispanic/Latino.

**Race:** Of the guests 384 identified as Black or African American. 113 identified as white. Two identified as Asian. Six identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. Two guests identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. And lastly seven guests identified with multiple races and two refused to declare or didn't know.

**Physical and Mental Health Conditions:** 160 guest self-reported having a mental health illness. We encountered a 58% increase in the number of guests with mental illness from last season. PORT did experience some volatility from a few guests who appeared to be un-medicated. Thirty six guests self-reported alcohol abuse, 22 drug abuse, 28 admitted to abusing both alcohol and substances. Only one guest with a chronic health condition. 11 reported HIV or AIDS, 16 with development disabilities and 96 reported a physical disability.

It was noted through discussion with the guests just how many persons were experiencing heroin addiction, which was a much higher of people than any other year.

**Residence Prior to Program Entry:** One guest reported a place of residence they owned with no ongoing subsidy. Eight reported a rental by client with no ongoing subsidy, eight reported a rental by client with ongoing subsidy, 15 reported permanent housing for formally homeless, 11 were staying or living with family for permanent tenure, 2 with friends; 16 reported a rental with Rapid Rehousing or equivalent subsidy; 4 were staying or living with friends or family for temporary tenure; 16 reported staying in an emergency shelter or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher. 1 reported staying in hotel without shelter voucher; 3 reported coming from hospital, jail or long-term care facility.

**Income Ranges:**

No Income: 255

\$1-100: 4

\$101-200: 3

\$201-300: 6

\$301-400: 9

\$401-500: 13

\$501-600: 13

\$601-700: 24

\$701-800: 64

\$801-900: 14  
\$901-1000: 15  
\$1001-1100: 11  
\$1101-1200: 8  
\$1201-1300: 6  
\$1301-1400: 2  
\$1401-1500: 3  
\$1501-1600: 1  
\$1601-1700: 1  
\$1701-1800: 1  
\$1801-1900: 0  
\$1901-2000: 10  
\$2001-2100: 1  
\$2101-2200: 2  
\$2201-2300: 0  
\$2301-2400: 2  
\$2401-2500: 1

**Housing Referrals:** \* 22 families were referred for housing or other shelter through Newport News Dept. of Human Services. 69 individuals were seen by Jessica for rapid rehousing services.

**Housing /Destinations:** Guests requesting housing were referred to LINK office for referral to Hampton or Newport News Department of Social Services (singles to Hampton and families to Newport News) Most guest do not provide destination information prior to their leaving PORT. Those that did, had destinations ranging from staying with parents, family, or friends, other shelters, some even relocating for work and housing opportunities.

**Total number of persons Housed:** (as of April 9, 2018) **not including families**-14 were permanently housed ( 6 through rapid rehousing and 8 self-resolved after housing referral) 18 entered CSB housing (PATH or Road to Home) one housed in safe haven, 1 in Assisted living and 2 into other transitional housing programs

**Total Housed Families** of 22 families, 2 families were APS cases, and 20 families were permanently housed or in transitional housing.

**Veteran Status:** 60 guests were Veterans

**ID's and Birth Certificates:** All guest were provided the opportunity to get assistance with obtaining vital records such as Birth Certificates and State ID's. During the last weeks of PORT, staff spoke with each guest to advise of the importance of obtaining and maintaining those records. Some guests had such documents and those who didn't were met at DMV to obtain immediately.

**Other:** 3 guest were accompanied to the Newport News Department of Social Services and assisted through the process to apply for benefits and auxiliary grants. 4 guests are now deceased , 121 guests were chronically homeless.

**Safety and Security:** The Sheriff Deputies assure the safety and security of guests, staff, and volunteers in the shelter. Their presence is critical to maintaining order. Although there was an increase in the number of guests with mental health illnesses and the ongoing opioid epidemic guests were generally respectful of all deputies, staff and, volunteers, and only on cases were guests asked to leave or arrested by deputies (one guest attempted to enter with controlled substances and another guest with mental illness threatened to harm other guests and refused to leave when asked). Guests represented themselves with organization and understanding providing a safe environment for guests and staff alike. During the evening deputies routinely executed security checks, particularly in the bathrooms, accompany guests on smoke breaks, intervene in conflicts, and completing intakes once staff have left the building. Deputies are also responsible for summoning help in event of an emergency, and assuring guests leave shelter and board the PORT vans in a timely manner. The breathalyzer was not conducted at most churches in an effort to align ourselves with NAEH values of removing barriers. PORT also cut the Rules and Regulations from four pages to 1 one page, outlining 10 operating principles to further align ourselves with NAEH values of lowering barriers for the homeless population.

**Congregations:** Prior to the opening of PORT, there were hundreds of hours expended by the PORT Steering Committee, host and partner churches, volunteers, and LINK staff to complete tasks necessary to launch and maintain 20 weeks of shelter. This year with the help of more than 8,000 volunteers, PORT completed its 27<sup>th</sup> season. During 2017/2018 season 18 site churches participated along with 74 partner congregations.

Portable showers were loaned by a local company as in prior years, who have since donated the shower trailer to LINK for future use at any shelter sites.

Special thanks to the City of Newport News and Emergency Operations for their assistance during the snow storms encountered.