

Our House Families

Our House Families • PO Box 7475 Chesapeake, VA 23324 • (757) 543-5543 • ourhousefamilies.org

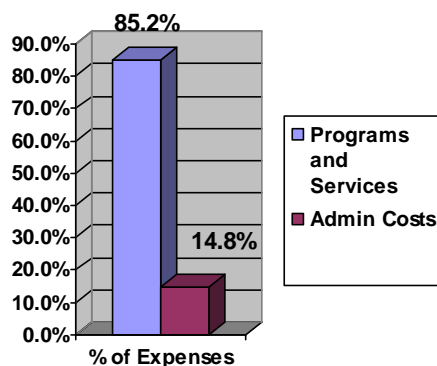


MISSION STATEMENT:

Our House Families provides a continuum of services for families in crisis, preventing homelessness and restoring the homeless.

Main Service Components

- Our House Emergency Family Shelter
- Reaching Up (RUP) Transitional Housing Program
- Financial Assistance Program
- Financial Literacy Program
- Information and Referral Services



Our House Families is a Responsible Steward of Your Money

By keeping our administrative costs low, we ensure that your investment is going directly to programs and services for those in need. We understand your investment is in the families in our community.

Our responsible fiscal management is an important reason why you should continue to support OHF.

Your Gift of:

- \$100 helps provide food for 4 homeless families for one month at Our House Family Shelter.
- \$250 prevents 2 families from having their utilities shut-off through our Clearinghouse Program.
- \$500 helps provide 1 family with medical services in the Reaching Up Transitional Housing Program.
- \$1,000 provides one month of childcare for 2 pre-school children in the Our House Family shelter program.

The Need is Great

Last financial year (7/1/08-6/30/09), Our House Families had to turn away 1,842 people seeking shelter, including 1,070 children simply because we had no vacancy. There are many, many more people who could benefit from our programs-- unfortunately; the need for referral services, financial literacy training, financial crisis assistance, and our network of food closets is not subsiding.

With your support and partnership, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need, and empower families to self-sufficiency and independence.

How to Support Our House Families

1. Give monetary donations.
2. Provide in-kind donations of canned and non-perishable foods, along with donations suitable for household and office use at the Housing programs.
3. Volunteer to bring hope to the homeless.

"Assisting families in their journey to independence and self-sufficiency."

Our House Families By The Numbers (FY 07/01/2008 – 06/30/2009)

The **Our House Family Shelter** provides emergency shelter to homeless families in crisis, housing up to three families at a time for a maximum of 30 days.

During the 2008-2009 financial year, **41** families (**116** children and **46** adults), found shelter, structured support, and guidance in a nurturing environment through the efforts of a caring and knowledgeable staff and community volunteers.

The **Our House Families' Reaching Up Transitional Housing Program (RUP)** provides housing and support services for homeless families that need more time than is offered in the Our House Families' emergency shelter. Our House Families operates 6 apartment units in the RUP program. Clients pay rent on a sliding scale according to their financial situation, and a OHF case manager works jointly with our clients to develop and execute personalized strategic plans to move our clients to permanent housing, self-sufficiency and independence.

During the 2008-2009 financial year, the OHF Reaching Up Program provided **9** families (**11** adults and **15** children) housing, case management, transportation, child-care assistance and supportive services.

The **Our House Families' Financial Literacy Program** is aimed at persons who have been identified as at-risk, in financial crisis or simply need to strengthen their financial management skills and knowledge. It empowers clients with the skills and ability to improve their financial literacy as well as improve their financial status. This program serves the OHF Shelter and Reaching Up Program residents as well as preventing homelessness with other city residents, teaching sound financial management skills.

During the 2008-2009 financial year, The OHF Financial Literacy Program educated **67** households with financial literacy classes.

The **Our House Families' Financial Assistance Program** prevents homelessness and provides basic needs through one-time payments to landlords and utility companies to avoid eviction from housing and the shut-off of essential utilities.

During the 2008-2009 financial year, OHF provided financial assistance to **123** households, totaling **\$22,920**.

The **Our House Families' Clearinghouse Information and Referral Service** connected **1,045** households to the appropriate helping organizations and agencies.

A History of Making a Difference

In 2008, Our House Families celebrated its 25th year of service to our community, and the Our House Family Shelter celebrated its 20th year of operation.

For over a quarter of a century, the people of Our House Families – those associated with it, supporting it, working for it—people of conscience— have decided that they were going to do something about homelessness in our community. They have made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of women and children. And today, we continue to make a difference, one family at a time.

At Our House Families, we never underestimate the power of a helping hand in one person's life; never underestimate the ability to make a difference in one person's life, never underestimate the importance of making a difference in one person's life.

That's what Our House Families does— makes a difference, everyday, by offering a helping hand, not a hand out. And we stand here today, committed, to continue to make a difference.

We have done so much together. Together, we can do so much more. Together, we continue to make a difference!

Thank you to all our partners and supporters!

The "Our House" Emergency Family Shelter



The Reaching Up (RUP) Transitional Shelter