

# GREATER VIRGINIA PENINSULA HOMELESSNESS CONSORTIUM

*Providing services to homeless citizens in Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson,  
Williamsburg, York County and James City County*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

# Mission

*The mission of the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium is to develop, sustain and coordinate a comprehensive continuum of care for citizens at risk of or experiencing homelessness.*

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC) is a coalition of public and private organizations that maintain a current and viable process to address quality of life issues and provide services and resources to the most vulnerable households and individuals across the six (6) jurisdictions of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York.

## Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

The Virginia Peninsula Mayors and Chairs Commission on Homelessness (COH), comprised of members appointed from each of the six jurisdictions within the Continuum of Care (CoC), collaboratively address the issue of homelessness within the region. Tasked with the implementation and monitoring of the Virginia Peninsula Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the Commission, with support from the GVPHC and local community stakeholders, successfully developed and adopted a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in 2009.

In April 2013 the GVPHC hosted a community-wide Strategic Planning and Ten-Year Plan Review. Utilizing the objectives identified under the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, members of the community worked to assess service gaps and align the plans and priorities of the GVPHC with the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Alan Archer	City of Newport News (CHAIR)
Peter Walentisch	City of Williamsburg (VICE CHAIR)
Wanda Rogers	City of Hampton
Ken Drees	York County
Barbara Watson	James City County
Judy Wiggins	City of Poquoson

**FACT:** *The Virginia Peninsula Collaborative (VPC) is a united effort between five agencies, including the Hampton Department of Human Services (grantee and fiscal agent), to provide Rapid Re-Housing, Prevention and Shelter Operations across the region. The VPC remains committed to ensuring the ease and accessibility of services for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness across the six jurisdictions.*



**Housing the 50 most vulnerable individuals by 2013**

### 50 HOMES PENINSULA CAMPAIGN

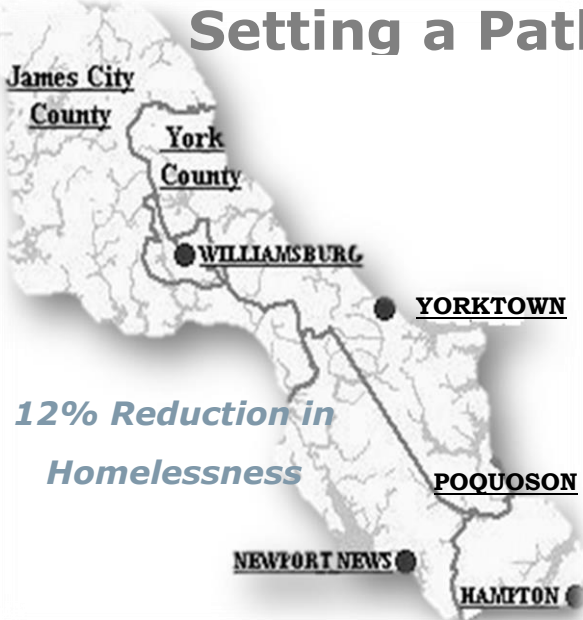
The 50 Homes Peninsula Campaign is a regional effort coordinated by the GVPHC as part of the statewide 1,000 Homes for 1,000 Virginians initiative led by the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness. 1,000 Homes is part of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a national movement of communities working together to find permanent homes for the country's most medically vulnerable homeless individuals and families by July of 2014.

The GVPHC undertook a Vulnerability Registry Week in March 2012. The effort brought together area volunteers, college students, interested citizens, elected and appointed officials, and program staffs for a week-long street outreach effort. During Registry Week, eight teams made contact with **233** homeless individuals, **182** of whom were surveyed. Using the Vulnerability Index, **60** of those surveyed had one or more of the At-Risk Indicators.

A commitment by Ferguson Enterprises was made for **\$250,000** over 5 years towards the regional homelessness efforts. The goal is to have 50 of these individuals connected to housing and services by July, 2014. **As of July 1, 2013, 26 individuals have been housed and connect to services under this Campaign.**



# Setting a Path to End Homelessness



The **Services Coordination and Assessment Network (SCAAN)** is comprised of various agencies that provide a triage of assessment, referrals and responsible party actions for families and individuals in shelters in order to quickly provide services and transition them out of shelters and into permanent housing. SCAAN was recognized by HUD's federal consultant as a best practice. **Greater Williamsburg SCAAN** was developed for Williamsburg, James City County and upper York County in 2011.

In 2012, the GVPHC launched the first **Regional SOAR Team in Virginia**. The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Team works to establish a local process for assisting human service professionals and consumers with applying for Social Security disability benefits.

The **Greater Williamsburg Housing Collaborative** started in April 2013, to provide housing and housing-related services to persons facing homelessness or at-risk-for becoming homeless in the Greater Williamsburg Community. Members are active housing services providers and include non-profit organizations, local government representatives from James City County, City of Williamsburg, County of York, and faith groups.

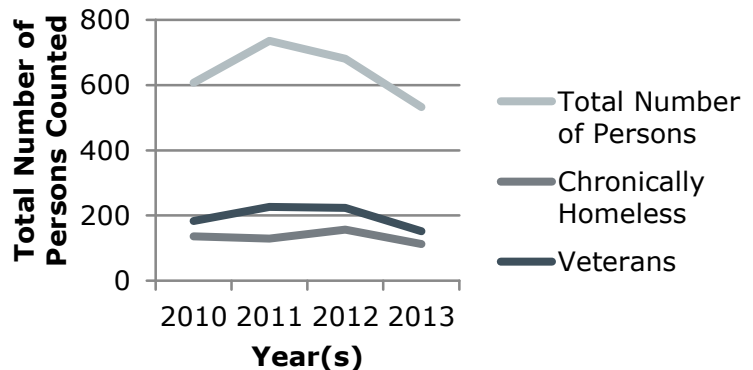
*FACT: Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provides financial assistance and support services to veteran households. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded 319 programs a total of \$299,056,370 in funding under the FY13 awards, including \$261,295 awarded to the Office of Housing Affairs, Inc. who proposed to serve 135 participating households in Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and York Counties.*

## Chronically Homeless and Veteran Homeless Populations

Veterans on the Virginia Peninsula received additional permanent housing support through an increase in the rental subsidy known as **Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)** vouchers. The HUD-VASH program successfully combines the use of Housing Choice Vouchers administered by the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority to provide rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**The announcement of the 2013 HUD-VASH awards brought the total number of vouchers available for Homeless Veterans to 325.**

## Point-in-Time Count Results



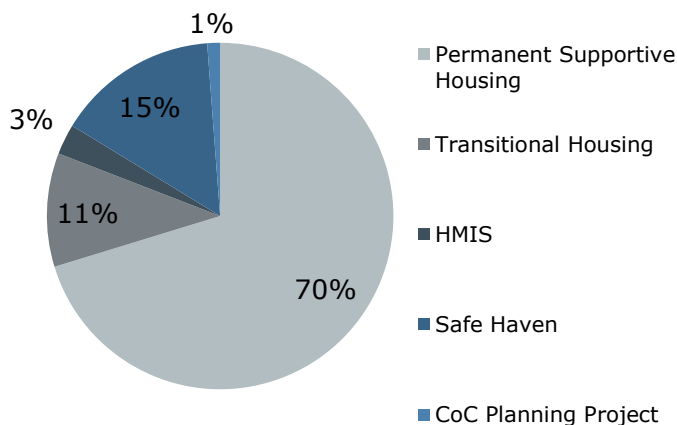
*FACT: The GVPHC increased permanent supportive housing by 79% - 468 permanent supportive housing beds for homeless individuals and families were reported on the 2013 Housing Inventory Worksheet, including 42 beds for chronically homeless individuals (up from 262 permanent supportive housing beds reported in 2009).*

*FACT: The City of Newport News established a **Housing Broker Team (HBT)** to expand the availability of existing affordable housing for homeless households. Housed within the Newport News Department of Human Services, the team works to promote housing stability by offering intensive case management services for participants with moderate to high housing barriers. In FY13 the HBT served 85 households using local and state resources, and logged 627 unduplicated calls for housing assistance during a five month period.*

## Prevent and End Homelessness for families, youth and children

### 2012 Continuum of Care

Award Amount: \$1,943,137



The GVPHC recognized a 20% increase in Continuum of Care Funding since 2008.

In 2008, HUD provided the region \$1,621,309 of Continuum of Care grants, of which \$1,364,913 was for permanent supportive housing. The 2012 award was **\$1,943,137** with \$1,365,356 for permanent housing for homeless individuals and families.

In 2013, the GVPHC received \$150,000 over a three year period from the Peninsula Community Foundation to create the **GVPHC Housing Crisis Hotline**, which will serve as the region’s coordinated assessment and referral system in compliance with the HEARTH Act. The Hotline is set to launch in 2014 and will function as part of the rapid exit response to individuals and families facing homelessness.

*FACT: **Hands Together Historic Triangle** took place on March 4, 2013 at the Quarterpath Recreation Center in Williamsburg. The event served 217 people and recruited 500 volunteers and human services providers for the day. Some of the services included: free child care and health screenings, haircuts and hair styling, bicycle repair, photographs and a “store” of donated items to include soap, shampoo, bathroom tissue, toothpaste, backpacks, coffee makers, white collared long sleeved shirts and assorted nonperishable food.*

[www.vapeninsulahomeless.org](http://www.vapeninsulahomeless.org)

**For more information, please contact:**

Yilla J. Smith  
 Continuum of Care Program Manager  
 The Planning Council  
 5365 Robin Hood Road, Suite 700  
 Norfolk, VA 23513  
 (757)622-9268 x 3004  
[ysmith@theplanningcouncil.org](mailto:ysmith@theplanningcouncil.org)