

Building a Local System of Care for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



Presented by:

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Department of Social Services &
Ed Hinde, Executive Director, SHIP of Frederick County*

Things to Think About When Designing a System to Address Youth Homelessness

- Youth are in a complex and critical stage of personal growth
- Youth experiencing homelessness lack safety, stability and other basic life needs
- Many youth experiencing homelessness are unable to access systems, services and resources designed to support healthy development
- Youth experiencing homelessness require a combination of developmentally-appropriate housing and service options
- At the systematic level, this approach depends on close collaboration between youth with lived experience, government agencies, philanthropists, faith organizations and community-based providers

Giving Your Plan Federal Context

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Core Outcomes for Youth

- Stable housing includes a safe and reliable place to call home. 
- Permanent connections include ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other positive social networks. 
- Education/employment includes high performance in and completion of educational and training activities, especially for younger youth, and starting and maintaining adequate and stable employment, particularly for older youth. 
- Social-emotional well-being includes the development of key competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that equip a young person to succeed across multiple domains of daily life, including school, work, relationships, and community.

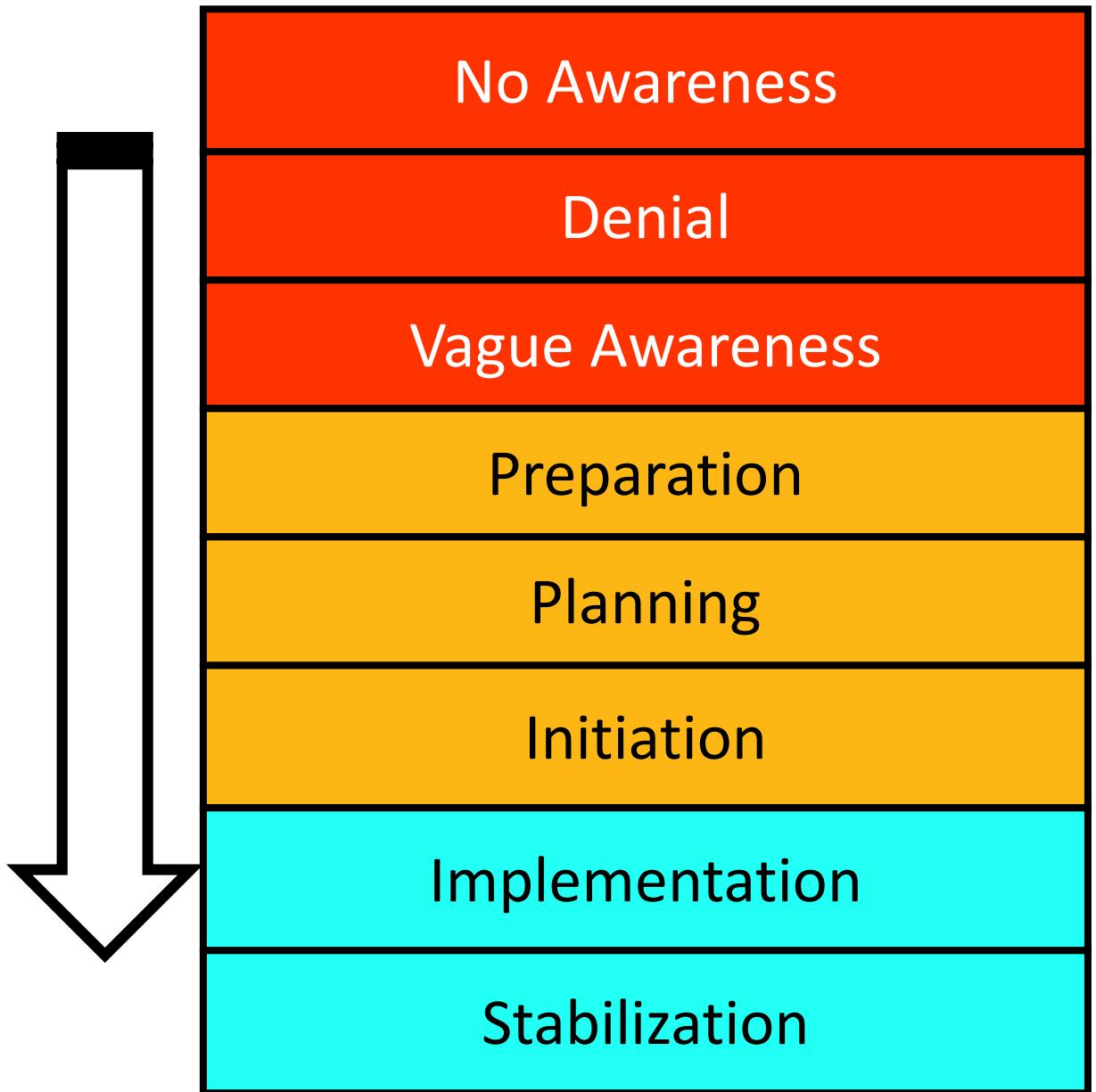
Giving Your Plan State Context

Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness - Youth

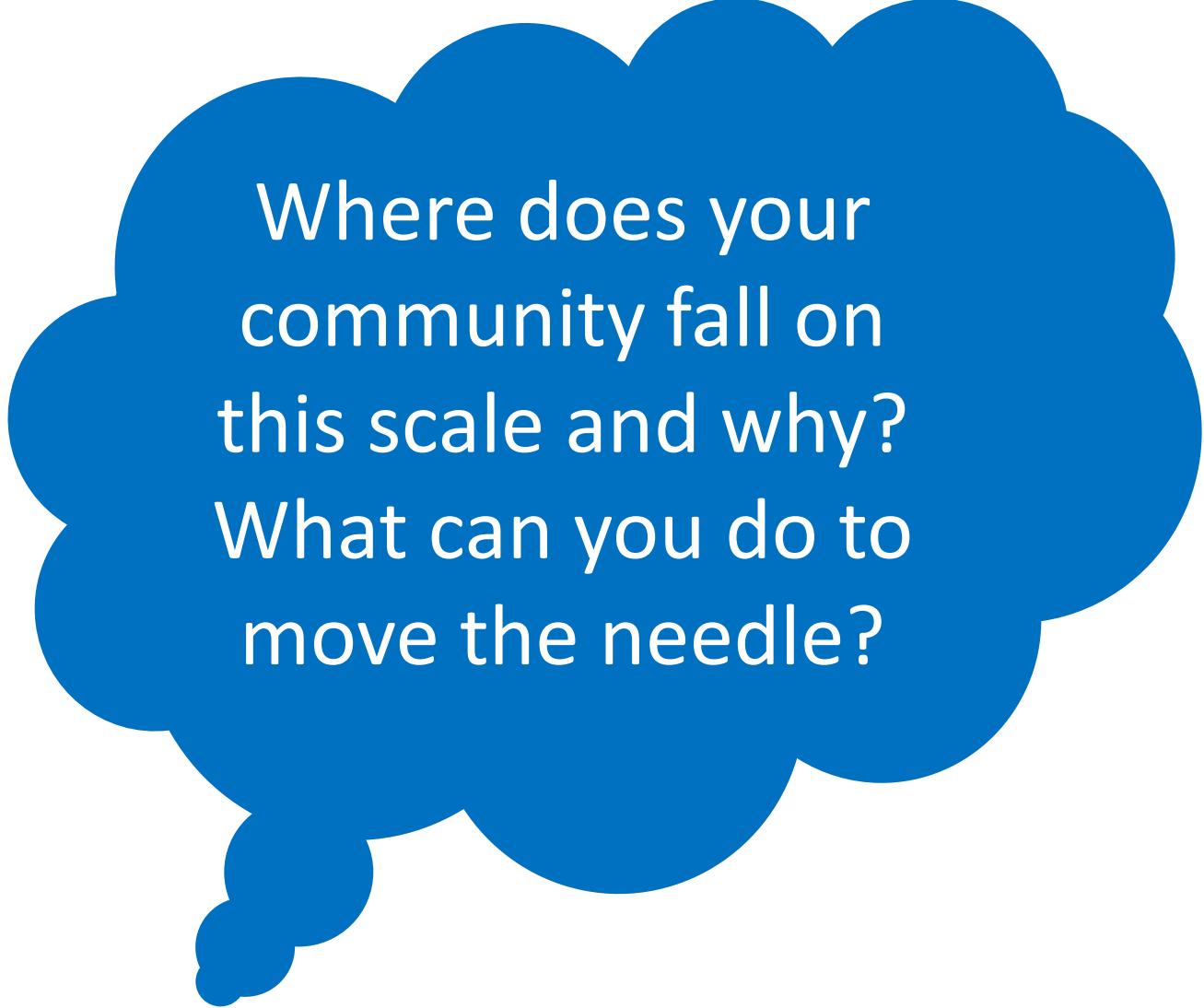
GOAL 5 – Ensure access to housing, education, employment, and supportive services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or transitioning out of state systems. 

- Address service needs of youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Increase housing options for youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Increase participation by youth in policy process and elevate the issue to statewide stakeholders.
- Eliminate education barriers for youth experiencing homelessness

Assessing Community Readiness for Change



Food for Thought



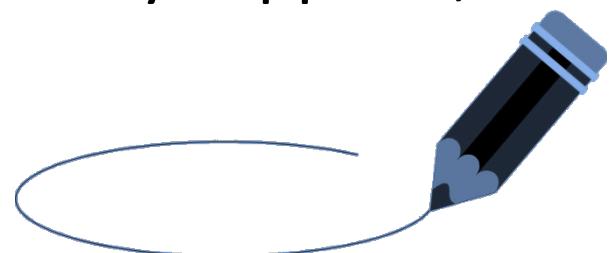
Where does your community fall on this scale and why?
What can you do to move the needle?

Prince George's County

*Building A Youth-Specific System
from The Outside In*

Defining the Work

- **Partners**– Brought together the strongest and most well funded to the table
- **Process** – What would be our plan of action? What do we know and what do we need to know? Who else needs to be at the table? How often should we meet? What should we be doing?
- **Target Population** – What group of young people do we want to focus on?
- **Quadrants of Need** – Where are the gaps we know? (housing, behavioral health, family supports, access to mainstream benefits, etc.)



Food for Thought



How do homeless youth
in your community
access services?

What can YOU do to
improve that?

Taking the First Step (2011-2012)

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services:

Commissioned a study of Housing Stability of Youth and Young Adults, which was conducted by the Center for Adolescent Health at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and represented the County's first effort to understand the scope of youth and young adult homelessness within Prince George's County

- 185 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 were surveyed
- 8 focus groups were conducted
- Survey and focus groups examined youth housing circumstances and service needs
- The County continues to conduct annual counts (3 years as a County and then in 2015, as part of Youth REACH MD)

Established a Homeless Youth Work Group (HYWG) to develop a strategic plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness.



Understanding the Scope



22% of youth ages 16 to 24 living in the inner beltway communities of Prince George's County are disconnected - not in school and not working. **DOUBLE** the rate for the DC metro area as a whole, and more than three times as high as more affluent and ethnically diverse regions of the County.

Over **80%** were African American & **13%** were Latino

20% were gender minorities

28% were under the age of 18

72% were over 18 and of those only **28%** had any post secondary education at all (**23%** did not even have a HS diploma or GED)

35% had children of their own

30% had been arrested

38% had experienced foster care

25% had run away

40% were working while an additional **20%** relied on the informal economy (legal and illegal activities) for survival

10% acknowledged engaging in transactional sex (sex for money, other barter); the number jumping to **20%** for gender minorities.

Food for Thought



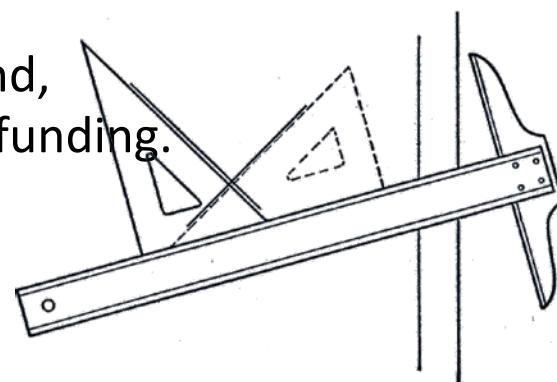
What data do you have
that can help
demonstrate the need
for services and systems
to support youth in your
community?

Drafting the Strategic Plan

Mission: To providing the Strategic Vision, Organizational Commitment and Service Capacity to foster development of a comprehensive, practice informed, coordinated and sustainable service delivery system for homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults of Prince George's County

Vision: The development of a single, integrated system of care, based upon meeting the immediate needs and supporting the personal development of vulnerable youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and/or unstable housing in Prince George's County is essential to reducing the number of young people in this circumstance. Important characteristics of this system include:

- ✓ Being cohesive and youth-needs driven,
- ✓ Having capacity for responsive and immediate engagement,
- ✓ Premised on recognition of 16–24 as a distinct developmental stage in life,
- ✓ Conducting successful marketing and outreach,
- ✓ Developing comprehensive and effective services, and,
- ✓ Establishing sufficient and diversified system-driven funding.



Setting Community Priority Areas

1. Engaging Youth
2. Building and Sustaining a Network
3. Enabling Access
4. Generating Support
5. Benchmarking the Field
6. Service System Development



Developing the Infrastructure

- **Outside Expertise** – Identified expertise in organizations outside the community to ensure quick wins.
- **Inside Expertise** – Identify agencies with commitment & capacity to reinvent themselves to support future work
- **Training Academy** – Universal training to develop local expertise (i.e.; trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, adolescent brain development, LGBTQ inclusion, trafficking, gang and unaccompanied minor interventions)
- **Housing**
 - Emergency Shelter (Promise Place: Dorm style / 20 beds; MMYC: Host Homes / 4 beds)
 - Transitional Shelter beds (YDP: Apartment style / 12 beds; St. Ann's: Dormitory and Apartment style / 16 beds)
 - FUP-Youth
 - Rapid Rehousing



2013 - 2018: What a difference 5 years makes!

- Appointed to the Governor's Task Force to Study Housing and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, recommendations from which have spurred significant advancements for homeless youth in MD;
- Conducted 2 additional local youth counts followed by 3 more as a member of Youth REACH MD;
- Secured 40 FUP vouchers for child welfare system connected youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness and opted into HUD's FUP demonstration;
- Secured over \$1M in funding for homeless youth shelter, housing and other services;
- Selected for the National 100 Day Challenge to end youth homelessness (Cohort 3 / HUD, Way Home America, and the Rapid Results Institute);
- Established a Youth Action Board comprised of youth with lived experience who participate in local and state workgroups impacting policy and practice;
- Established CoC/PCWA care coordination of crossover cases;
- Designed the framework for a comprehensive outreach and engagement campaign

Food for Thought

- What partners should be at the table in your community?
- What role should they play?
- Are there any systems missing?

Funding the Work

State

- LMB
- SOAR
- Child Welfare / Family Preservation
- Homeless Services
- Bond funds

Federal

- HHS-RHYA
- HUD-CoC
- Education-McKinney Vento
- Chaffee
- ACA

Housing

- FUP
- RRH
- CDBG
- ESG

Local

- General funds
- Contract preferences
- Capital Improvement
- Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI)
- Special funds

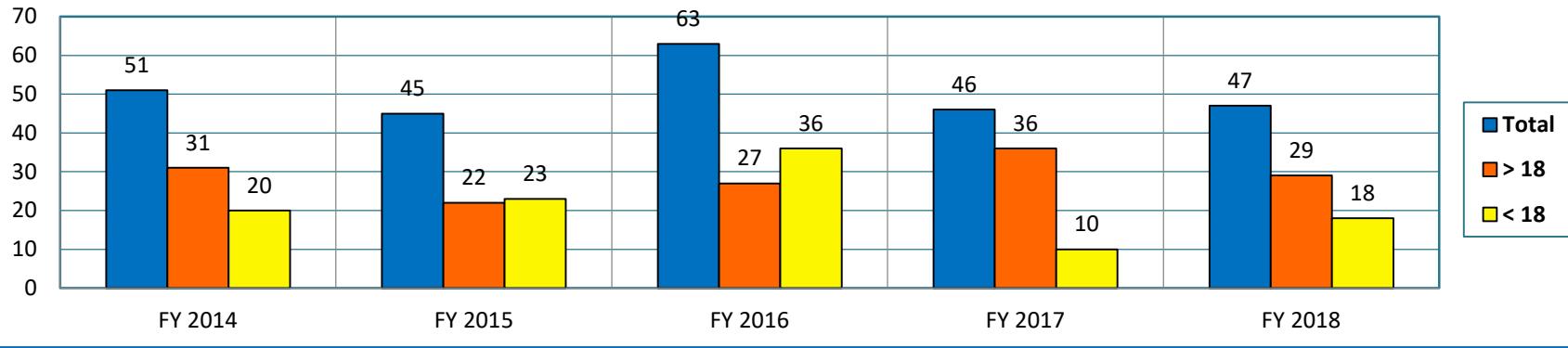
Private

- Foundations
- Generous Juror
- Faith Organizations

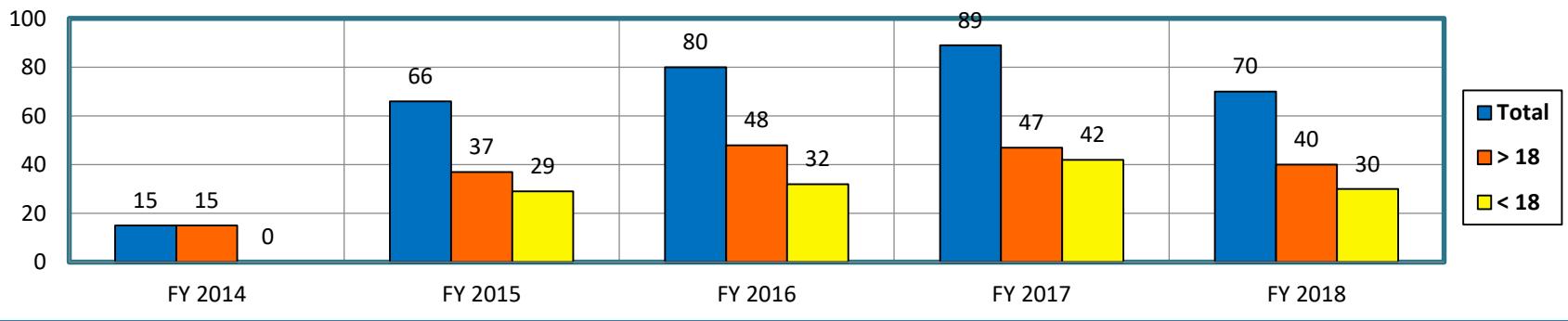


Where are we now?

Emergency Shelter - UHY



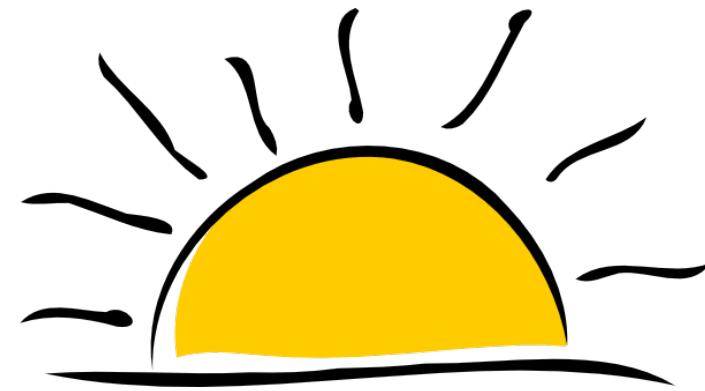
Transitional Shelter - UHY



AVERAGE EXITS TO PERMANENCY = 73%
AVERAGE REUNIFICATION (return home) = 40%

Setting the Stage for the Future

- Shared ownership with intentional intersections and continuous inclusion of new partners
- Strategic system design – Youth centered versus funding centered
- Alignment of plans – intentionally identify unaccompanied homeless youth as a priority sub-population in relevant community plans
- Budget Process – Find champions and develop political will to intentionally fund youth interventions
- Data, data, data!
- Think macro while building micro
- Don't wait to start



Food for Thought

- *What policies - or lack thereof - prevent or impede your ability to do what makes sense?*
- *What assets do you manage or fund that could be retooled to support homeless youth strategies?*
- *What other expertise do you need at the table to inform your decisions and how do you leverage and harness that expertise to do what you cannot?*
- *What opportunities are there to encourage local partners to explore alternative ways to provide services?*

If youth homelessness is ONLY
seen as a homeless system
responsibility,

Then the homeless system
will ALWAYS be responsible
for solving it.





**Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership**

of Frederick County

SHIP



Building A Youth-Specific System from The Inside Out



Frederick County





43,000 students

67 schools (ten high schools)

26% (over 11,000 students) receive FARMs

1.8% are currently homeless



Defined by Federal Law

“Children who are lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and who are sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing or economic hardship;

have a primary nighttime residence not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

or who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.”



Benefits for students

“The impact of poverty on academic achievement is well documented, and school systems across the nation grapple with this issue. One of the most dire circumstances related to poverty is the possibility of homelessness, which can create an even more devastating impact for students. The challenge of poverty and homelessness is not something a school system can resolve alone. In Frederick County, it is so reassuring to have an organization like SHIP that stands ready to offer support and solutions for our students and their families.”

Theresa R. Alban, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools





Our Mission

SHIP provides urgent services and essential resources to the hundreds of **Frederick County youth** experiencing homelessness each year.

We provide:

- Food
- New clothing
- Funding for enrichment activities
- Coordination with other human services and housing agencies
- When no other options exist, we provide emergency shelter
- Other needs as they arise: computers, hygiene items, musical instruments, bicycles, driver's training, etc.

Advocacy – SHIP continually raises community awareness of homeless youth issues and concerns, and educates the public on the traumatic impact of homelessness upon children.



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County

There are hundreds of homeless children
in Frederick County Public Schools.

And not every one of them is known.

Classroom teachers, family support staff, case workers and others providing support must be alert to indicators of need, but also cautious about making assumptions or pre-judging the situation. Children of families who are highly mobile and homeless have multiple indicators and their needs are often more intense than "housed" children.

The list of indicators below can assist in identifying possible needs.

MOBILITY

- Frequent absences
- Inability or difficulty when contacting parents or relatives
- Avoidance of field trips
- Concern over safety of belongings

ECONOMIC

- Wearing the same clothes on consecutive days
- No extra clothing or personal items
- Poor hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing for weather conditions
- Malnutrition or chronic hunger

EDUCATIONAL

- Extremely short attention span
- Unexplained developmental delays
- Lack of language proficiency

PHYSICAL

- Poor Health (such as persistent sores or skin rashes)
- Unattended medical needs
- Respiratory problems such as asthma
- Extreme fatigue (falls asleep frequently)

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Difficulty or avoidance in making friends
- Poor self-esteem
- Extreme shyness
- "Old" beyond years
- Fear of abandonment
- Difficulty trusting people
- Immediate gratification of needs
- Concern for safety
- Unexplained aggression
- Protective of parents
- Clinging behavior
- Anxiety when leaving the program each day

For more information,
contact your designated homeless liaison.

www.ShipFrederick.com



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County

There are hundreds of homeless children
in Frederick County Public Schools.

And not every one of them is known.

To best help them, know the ***Indicators of Need***
and make contact with your designated homeless liaison.

Your homeless liaison is

www.ShipFrederick.com

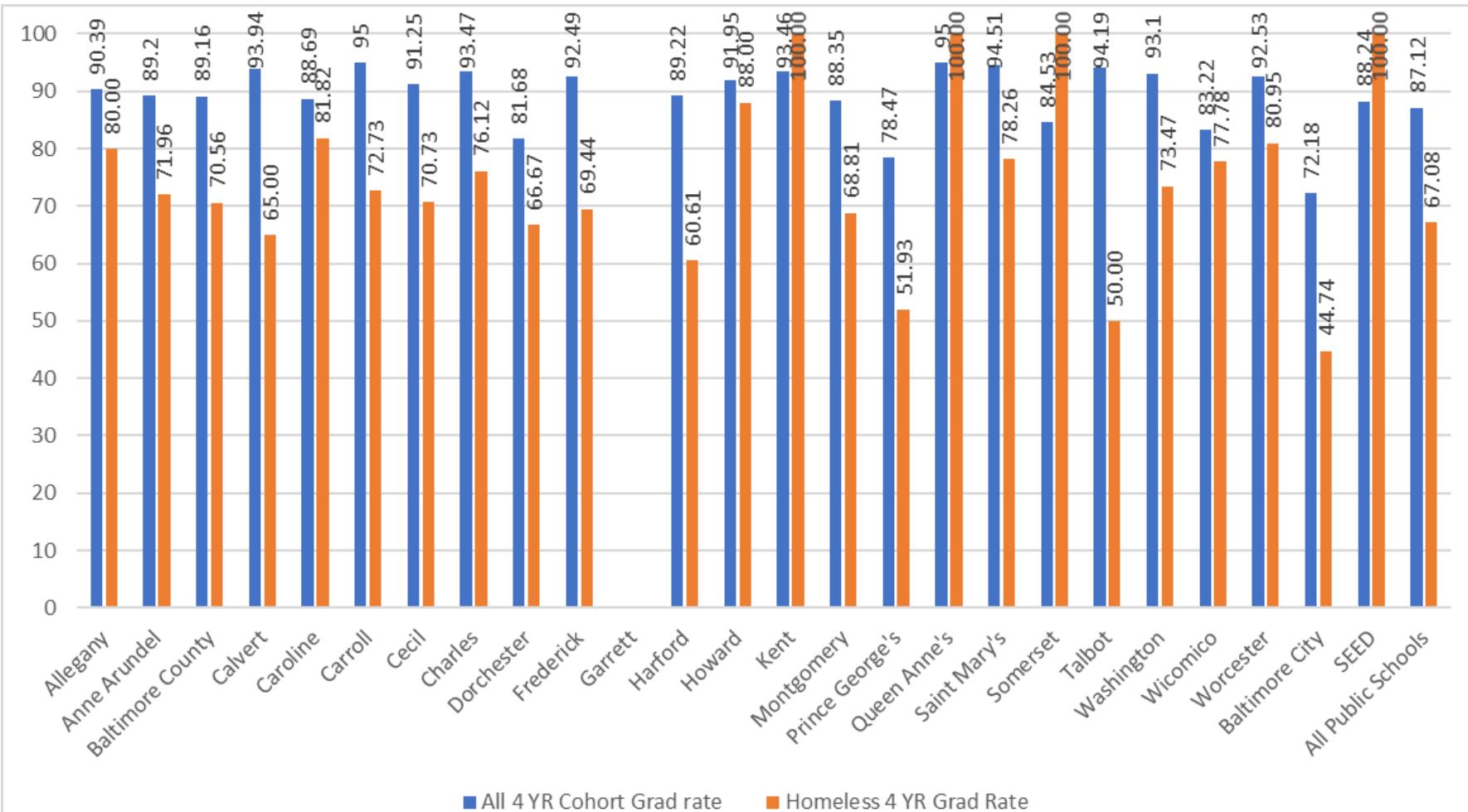


High school graduation is the **single most significant predictor** for improving socio-economic status and success.

Homeless youth face numerous barriers to successful completion of high school.

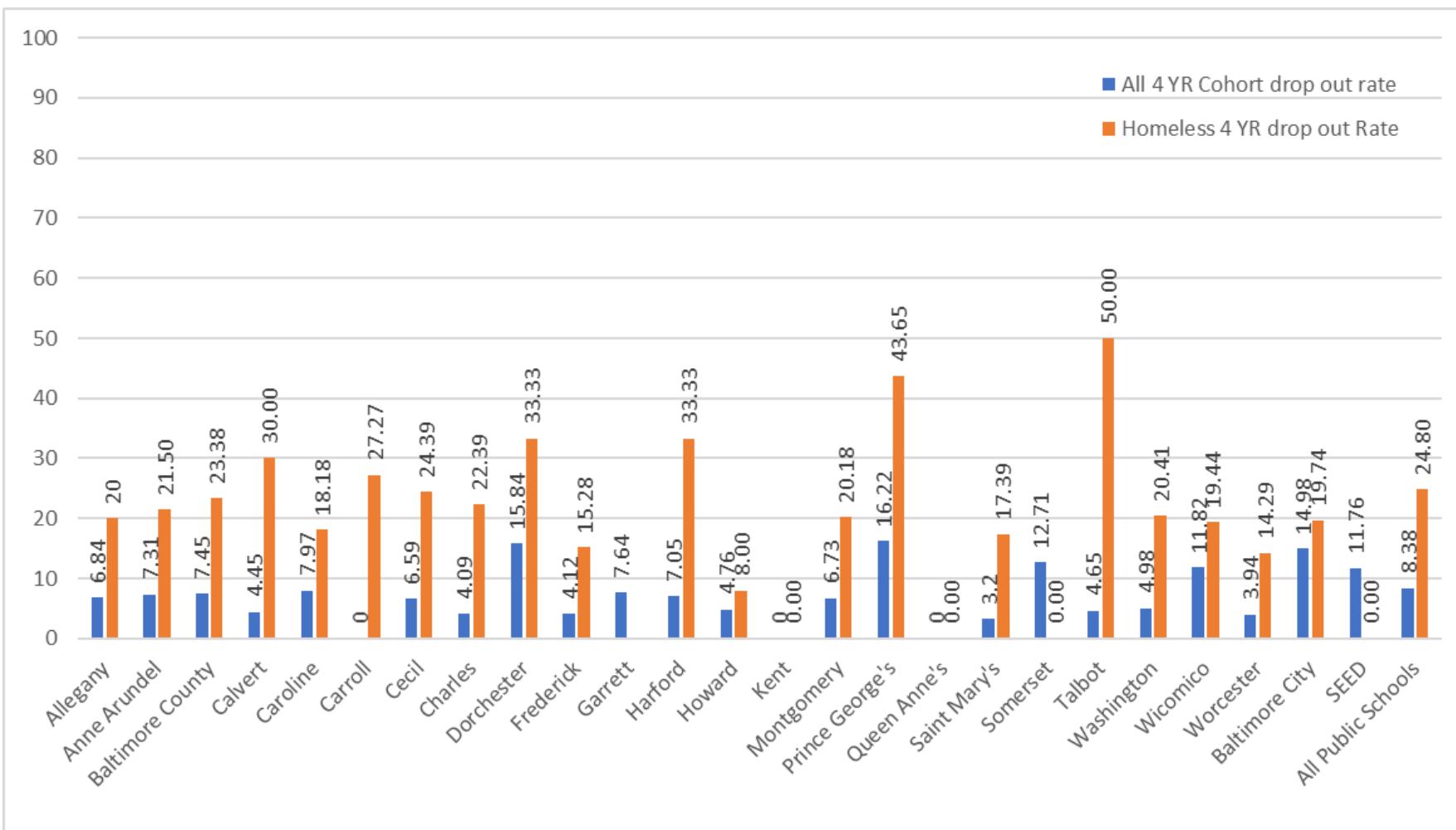
In Frederick County, very few resources are made available to these children to escape the trauma of homelessness. Knowledge of community services, let alone access due to costs and transportation, present real barriers.

Four Year Adjusted Cohort Grad Rate by LSS 2017-2018



■ All 4 YR Cohort Grad rate ■ Homeless 4 YR Grad Rate

4 Year Adjusted Cohort Drop Out by LSS 2017-2018



LACK OF EDUCATION IS STRONGLY CORRELATED WITH YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org

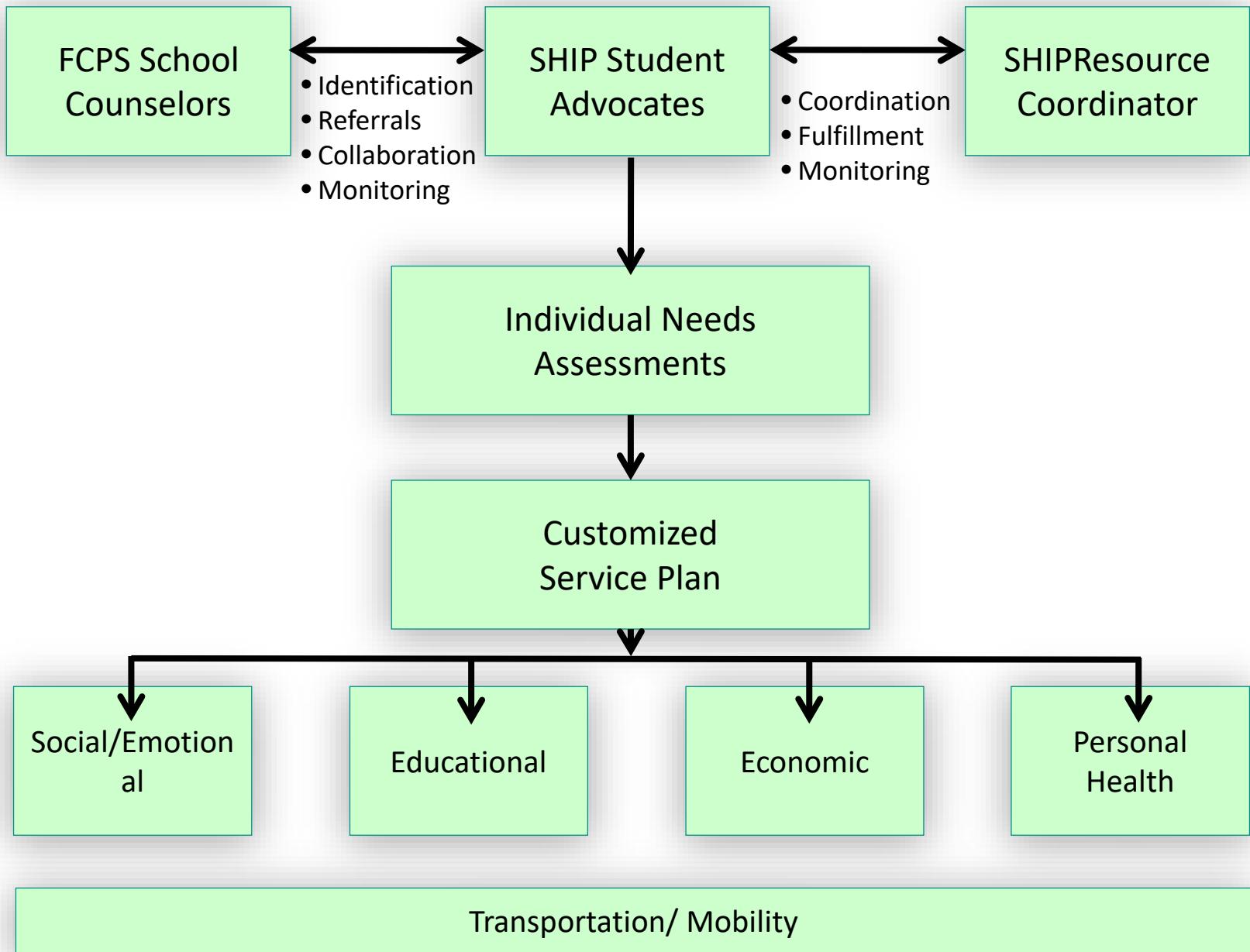
Critical Supports Needed to Stay in and Succeed in School

Youth/Liaisons: How important is this in helping homeless students stay in and succeed in school?

| | Importance | Youth saying each is very important | Liaisons rating each as very important* |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| TIER 1 | Enough food to eat | 78% | 85% |
| | Transportation to and from school | 76% | 87% |
| | Safe, stable housing | 73% | 83% |
| | Emotional/motivational support or mentorship | 72% | 80% |
| TIER 2 | Clothing and school supplies | 68% | 80% |
| | Mental health or counseling | 68% | 74% |
| | Help with college prep, applications/financial aid | 68% | 62% |
| | Academic tutoring and support | 66% | 78% |
| TIER 3 | After- or before-school programs and activities | 62% | 58% |
| | Medical and/or dental care | 57% | 62% |
| | Legal services | 49% | 27% |

* 8-10 ratings on a zero-to-10 scale, 10 = very important, 0 = much less important

New Horizons year-round program





New Horizons

Frederick

Participant Management and Reporting

- Number of students enrolled into program
- Number of Need Assessments conducted and individual Service Plans generated
- Supplemented with personal school performance, attendance and behavioral data
- Service Plan “transactions” across four core areas
- Graduation rates and adherence to on-time schedule
- Youth provide feedback on the quality of their experiences and their readiness for post-graduation integration in to the community
- Basis to integrate in the Voice of Youth into current and future programs.

Promoting *Student* SUCCESS

- ✓ Get paid to do well in school
- ✓ Earn additional money by working

This free innovative program includes:

- Morning course work
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Meals while at school
- Part-time jobs for participants
- Access to recreational programs and facilities

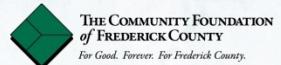
Space is limited, so sign up soon.

To learn more, speak to your School
and **New Horizons** counselors today.

July 1 - August 1, 2019



- 4th Annual
- 60 students from 5 schools
- 4 core subjects
- Daily life skills instruction
- Youth are paid to attend and complete the program
- Courses are offered to either get ahead or for credit recovery
- Preferred placement in to Summer Youth Jobs program
- Access to and support from social workers





A Mission Becomes A Cause

Initially founded by a few caring individuals in early 2014, SHIP has grown to provide youth-centric urgent services and critical resources for the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year.



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County



Virginia Strnad

Admin · April 19 at 5:29 PM

UPDATE: All items have been claimed for our young student in need. Thank you, everyone!

NEW REQUEST for CLOTHING ### 4/19/2019. Good evening SHIP friends! SHIP has been asked by a local shelter to provide a few clothing items for a young boy who arrived with nothing. We will need these ASAP. He needs sturdy items suitable for school wear. If anyone would like to provide any of these items, please "promise" or "claim" in the comments, and I will acknowledge your it... See More

You, Gwen Romack, Amanda Holk and 5 others

19 Comments

Love

Comment

Share

[View 13 more comments](#)



Virginia Strnad Admin That's all, folks! Everything is claimed for our young student in no time at all. Thank you SHIPmates for your great hearts. ❤️❤️. SHIP friends are the best!

Like · Reply · 5d · Edited

1



Ed Hinde Admin SHIPmates are the very best!

Like · Reply · 5d

1

Facebook – Clothing Alerts



Virginia Strnad

Admin · April 11 at 9:51 PM

UPDATE: ALL ITEMS NOW CLAIMED FOR THESE TWO SISTERS. Thank you all!

NEW REQUEST for clothing 4/11/2019. Good evening SHIP friends! SHIP has been contacted by an elementary school counselor about a girl whose family has spent most of this year in a motel. She is in great need of some sturdy clothing suitable for school wear and the coming warmer weather. Her younger sister is also in need of a few things, too. If anyone would like to provide any of these item(s), plea... See More

Jeanne Mascott Befano, Jesi Roman and 4 others

12 Comments

Like

Comment

Share

[View 7 more comments](#)



Virginia Strnad Admin That's all, folks! Everything is claimed for these two girls. It never ceases to amaze me each and every time SHIPmates and friends step up to provide for our students experiencing homelessness. Thank you, everyone! SHIP friends are the best!

Like · Reply · 1w

1



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County



Ed Hinde

September 13 · Frederick, MD

SHIPmates - we have a FCPS elementary school student encountering homelessness who wishes to continue his passion for the violin. His desire is central to why SHIP exists - providing resources that our children in need have access to resources that help them remain a child. If you have access to a student-style violin (and case), or have ideas on how we might acquire on behalf of the child, please message me direct.





Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick County



A New Horizon for Homeless Teens

Modeled after a successful multiple-school program in Baltimore County, New Horizons Frederick is an innovative program designed to help homeless high school students graduate on time. SHIP partnered with FCPS, United Way of Frederick County, Frederick County Workforce Services, and the YMCA of Frederick County to provide academic training and part-time employment.



Some of the many partners that helped to create and support New Horizons. From left: Jodi Vallaster from FCPS; Malcolm Fugrol with The United Way of Frederick County; Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner; Cathleen Cullen of FCPS; Jet Reid of FCPS; Ed Hinde, Executive Director of SHIP; Ken Oldham, CEO of United Way of Frederick County; Kelli Goetz with Frederick County Workforce Services. Not pictured: Chris Colville, CEO of The YMCA of Frederick County.



New Horizon program participant at his summer job, where he is gaining experience in the retail industry. Many of our students were invited to continue to work beyond the summer by their employers.

SHIP creates outreach through the arts

With tremendous acclaim in the arts community of Frederick, and with five sold-out theatrical performances, "There's No Place Like Home...Life Without the Ruby Slippers" told the stories of people in Frederick County whose lives had been impacted by the very real experience of living homeless.



The performance was produced and casted by The Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET). The story was conceived by SHIP co-Founder MaryLynn Hinde, with Julie Herber, Associate Artistic Director at The Met, directing the show. According to MaryLynn, the play demonstrated that homeless people are no different from anyone else.

To make a secure tax deductible donation via PayPal, go to ShipFrederick.com/support



Student Homelessness
Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County

5th Year Operating
Budget of \$ 625,000

2015 Winner of William
Donald Schaefer Helping
People Award for
Frederick County

2016 Frederick County
Human Rights Commission
Lord Nickens Award

Fundraising Events Generate Dollars for Emergency Shelter

When no other options exist, SHIP works with other Frederick-area human service agencies to fund emergency housing for families with FCPS students, typically at area motels on a temporary basis. This need has grown given the increasing numbers of students who are experiencing homelessness, and with the increased need comes the demand for raising funds to support our efforts. SHIP has been fortunate to work with a number of Frederick County organizations

and businesses in the creation of special events that are fun and engaging for participants, while also generating much-needed dollars to help fund emergency housing for these students in need.

In 2016, SHIP hosted Canvas For A Cause at Vini Culture Wine Bar & Cafe, SHIP's Community Auction at the Great Frederick Fairgrounds, and our Second Annual Mid-Summer Soiree and Lip Sync at The Blueside Tavern. In addition, SHIP was the

beneficiary for numerous events including the Fifth Annual Maryland Gran Fondo Bike Ride and The Kiwanis Club of Suburban Frederick's Comedy Night.

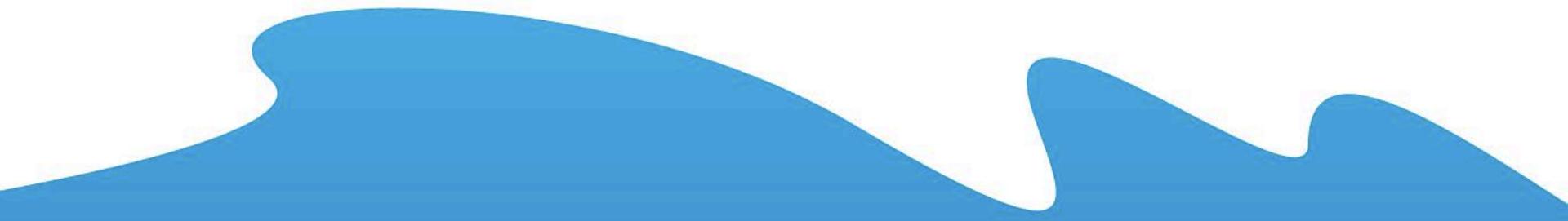
The efforts helped to generate over \$70,000 in emergency shelter placement. This equated to over 3400 bed-nights for homeless families in our community. SHIP is working to help create a permanent emergency family shelter in the community in 2017.



Find us on Facebook! Search for SHIP of Frederick County.

MATTRESS *Warehouse*SM

SLEEPAPPLIANCES.COM



FREDERICK COUNTY YOUTH ALONE WITHOUT A HOME



Homelessness can have significant negative impacts on youth academically, socially, and emotionally.

In June 2018, there were 162 "unaccompanied" homeless youth enrolled in Frederick County (MD) Public Schools. These children, many of them age 15-18 and highly vulnerable, are no longer under direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian, and lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Homeless youth are disproportionately youth of color and victims of violence, sexual, physical or emotional abuse. They are young people who are on their own at too young of an age.

HOMELESSNESS HAS SIGNIFICANT, LASTING IMPACTS

Homeless youth struggle with numerous issues because of their age and lack of safe housing. Research and data, including surveys of homeless and formerly homeless youths, indicate that experiencing homelessness can have significant negative impacts on children academically, socially, and emotionally.

Homeless students:

- experience greater school mobility than their non-homeless peers. School mobility can cause interruptions to a child's education and is associated with lower school achievement and increased risk of dropping out of school.
- are at a greater risk of being chronically absent than their non-homeless peers. Chronic absenteeism is associated with lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates.
- face significant gaps in high school graduation rates compared to their peers.

Two-thirds of formerly homeless youths surveyed said that homelessness had a significant impact on their education, making it hard to stay and do well in school.

Over 40 percent of formerly homeless youths surveyed said that they dropped out of school or stopped attending school while they were homeless in middle or high school.

Nearly 60 percent of formerly homeless youths surveyed said that their schools did a fair or poor job of supporting them while they were homeless and that a lot more should be done.

The choices many homeless youth must make in order to survive often are not good for them. Youth on the streets are more likely to be assaulted or coerced by predators, to engage in prostitution, to become pregnant, to not receive needed medical or psychological attention, and to fail to find enough food and shelter to survive.

Homeless youth need youth-specific intervention in a setting safe from the hazards of street life. Age-appropriate shelter and supportive services are critical to protecting the vulnerability of homeless youth.

For these youth, a stable residence with adult supervision is the beginning of addressing larger life-shaping issues.

- Volunteer host families within the student's home school district.
- Youth seeking respite, stability, safety and security while they work to complete the school year.
- Youth follows host family rules of the house.
- Managed and monitored by SHIP case managers.
- Volunteer host family is provided with a monthly stipend to cover incremental utilities and food.



**PROUD to be a
SHIPmate**

Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick, Maryland