

Goal #5: Increase Public Participation in Ending Homelessness

Project Homeless Connect 2009: Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one-day event that provides a wide range of services to people experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. The 3rd annual PHC was held on October 8th at the Hargraves Community Center and St. Joseph's CME Church in Chapel Hill, and each year the event gets bigger and better. This year 235 individuals were served, and over 50 service providers and 300 volunteers participated. New services included kidney function screening, vision screening, free reading glasses, photographic portraits, and a drumming circle.



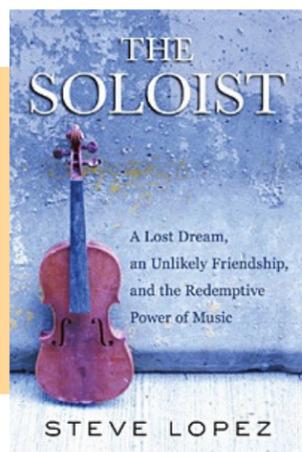
Photo by Catherine Lazorko



Photo by J.B. Cissell



Photo by Catherine Lazorko



Community Read of *The Soloist*

The Soloist is a true story of the friendship between a gifted, homeless musician and a Los Angeles Times reporter. Dozens of copies of the book were purchased and loaned out by local libraries during the summer and over 70 community members and homelessness experts participated in facilitated discussion groups about the issues of homelessness and mental illness.

UNC Homeless Outreach Poverty Eradication (HOPE)

is a student group working to help people who are impoverished or homeless through initiatives including:

HOPE Gardens, an urban farm that employs homeless people, was constructed in 2009 in partnership with the Chapel Hill Department of Parks and Recreation and Active Living by Design.

The Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) began providing micro-loans, savings opportunities, job readiness assistance, and financial services in May 2009.

HOPE Community Dinners are held monthly and bring together as many as 100 people living on the street or in shelters with students and other community members.

Talking Sidewalks, a literary magazine composed entirely of prose and art by homeless individuals, released two issues and hosted two readings by the writers.

The HOPE Documentary Team produced a 24-minute film exploring the issues of substance abuse and homelessness that is being distributed and shown around the community.



Photo by Jonathan Young

For more information about the **Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness** contact the Homeless Program Coordinator, Jamie Rohe, 919-245-2496; jrohe@co.orange.nc.us; www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/endinghomelessness.asp

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness 2009 Annual Report

April 2010

A Message from the Partnership's Chair



The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness is pleased to present its 2009 Annual Report highlighting the work of our community toward preventing and ending homelessness. These accomplishments come through the efforts of many community and faith-based organizations, nonprofit and governmental agencies, UNC students and other community members, often working in partnership to address the needs of our homeless. All of us should be proud of these community efforts while being mindful that there is still much to do. These difficult economic times with sustained unemployment have challenged our resources but not our resolve.

The Annual Report is an opportunity for the Partnership to present a snapshot of progress toward achieving the goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. We encourage you to visit our website to gain a broader picture of efforts to prevent and end homelessness in our community, to read stories about members of our community who have ended their homelessness, and to learn about available resources: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/housing/endinghomelessness.asp>. Sign up for our listserv to receive notices about our initiatives and activities and about how you can become involved in our coordinated efforts to help people experiencing homelessness in Orange County.

We want to thank all who have given so generously of their time and resources to address the needs of the homeless. There are many individuals and organizations who are working daily on their behalf that have not been mentioned in this report, yet their work is vital to this cause. Addressing and eradicating homelessness within our community requires ongoing support from each and everyone if we are to be successful. We invite you to join with us in this worthwhile endeavor.

- Sharon Coulter James, Chair

Progress toward achieving the goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Goal #1: Reduce Chronic Homelessness

Chronically homeless individuals are defined as having a disabling condition (substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability) and having been homeless either continuously for one entire year or four or more times in the past three years.

Orange County Point-in-Time Count

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Homeless Adults	173	171	129	149
Number of Homeless Children	35	24	27	32
Total Number of Homeless People	208	195	156	181
Number of Chronically Homeless People	46	58	42	38

Homeless people are counted each year on one night in January, including those spending the night in homeless shelters, transitional housing programs,

on the streets, in camps, etc. The count does **not** include people doubled up with friends or relatives nor those staying in institutions who were homeless upon entering, such as hospitals, jails, or detox facilities. The actual number of people who experience homelessness vastly exceeds these numbers, as indicated by other statistics in this report.

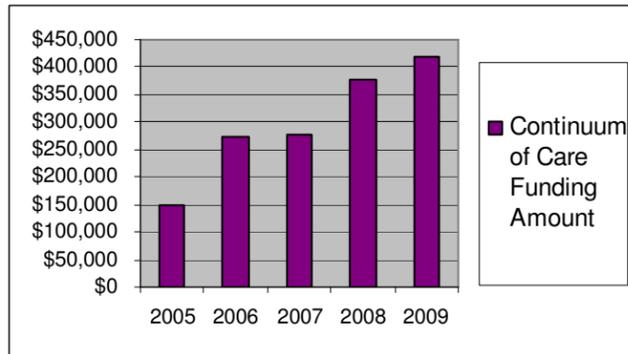
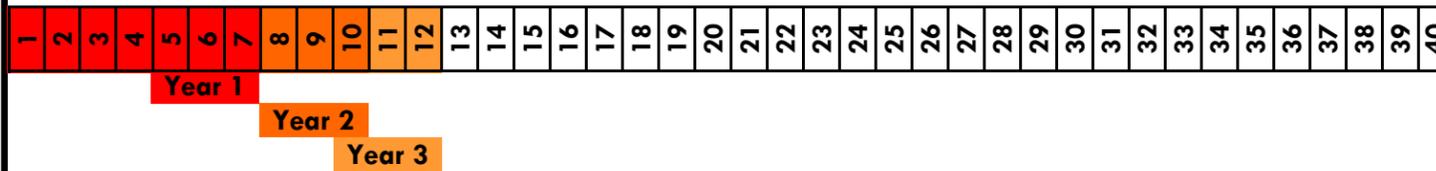


Photo by Eric Breit, Housing for New Hope

Street Outreach	2007 (6 mo.)	2008	2009
Homeless people outreached (contacted & offered assistance)	174	400	277
Homeless people enrolled in services	25	63	61
Homeless people housed	5	27	13

Housing for New Hope provides outreach services—called PATH—to homeless individuals and helps them enroll in services and obtain housing. The number of homeless people contacted and offered assistance in 2008 was unusually high because it was the first full year that Housing for New Hope operated in Orange County and making contact with individuals was a priority. The number outreached in 2009 was in line with the annual goal of 250, as staff focused on providing ongoing services and referrals.

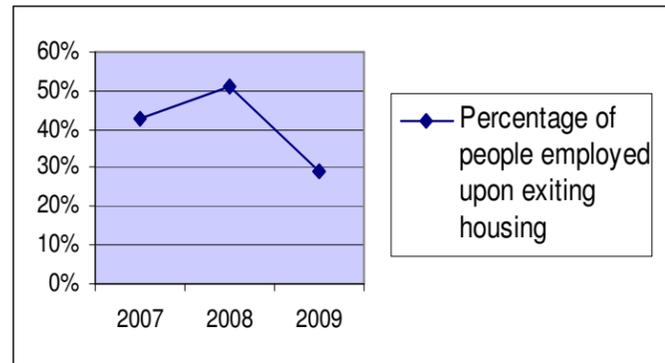
Permanent Supportive Housing units are apartments for people with disabilities where they receive the services they need for independent living that may include mental health care, health care, employment services, etc. The goal of the Orange County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness is to create **40 units** of Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless persons; 12 units have been created so far in the first three years.



Continuum of Care Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) supports the development of Permanent Supportive Housing units for chronically homeless individuals. The Partnership anticipates receiving notification of our 2009 award this spring for the requested amount of approximately \$420,000, bringing the total amount of Orange County Continuum of Care funding since 2005 to almost \$1.5 million.

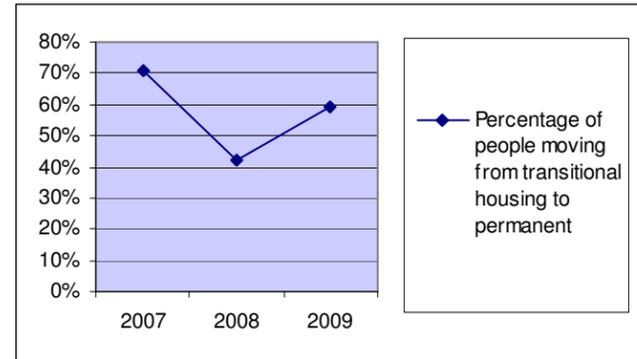
Goal #2: Increase Employment

One of HUD's five main National Homelessness Objectives is for at least 20% of people that exit Transitional Housing (where people may stay usually up to two years while receiving case management) and Permanent Supportive Housing programs to be employed. In 2009, 29% of people exiting these programs were employed. The Partnership speculates that the drop from 2008 is due to the small number of people exiting these programs (six individuals in 2009) and the economic downturn.



Goal #3: Prevent Homelessness

Another of HUD's five main National Homelessness Objectives is to increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from Transitional Housing Programs to permanent housing to at least 65%.



Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Orange County DSS, partnering with Housing for New Hope, received a grant of \$1 million in September 2009 from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and began implementing the program last November—the Partnership to End Homelessness played a key role in applying for the grant. HPRP is a new HUD program that provides financial assistance to households that would otherwise become homeless and helps those who have lost their homes obtain stable housing.



Photo by Crystal Street

Emergency Assistance

The Interfaith Council for Social Service, Orange Congregations in Mission, Neighbor House, and Orange County Department of Social Services provide emergency shelter, financial assistance and food to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Photo by Michelle May

Interfaith Council for Social Service (IFC)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Meals served at the Community House Kitchen	80,172	78,460	85,136
Bags of groceries distributed	9,129	11,507	14,201
Households that received emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities	485	760	897
People provided with shelter (unduplicated count; numbers have decreased because clients are staying longer due to lack of employment & housing opportunities)	836	760	681
Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM)	2007	2008	2009
People that received food, clothing, or financial assist. for rent, utilities, or medications	5,254	6,812	7,777
Neighbor House of Hillsborough Food-for-All Program	2007	2008	2009
Dinners served Mondays - Thursdays	17,000+	18,000+	18,500+
Orange County Department of Social Services	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Households that received emergency financial assistance (duplicated count; maximum \$200 annually per household for housing, utilities, food, gas, and/or medicine)	3,357	3,969	4,963

Goal #4: Increase Access to Services

The Partnership hosted two **SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)** trainings by the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness in 2009, for a total of 33 case workers trained in the last three years. SOAR is a highly effective method of applying for disability benefits for homeless individuals that results in much higher approval rates and shorter waiting periods.