



# Housing for New Hope *News*

FALL 2006

Housing for New Hope is a nonprofit organization working to prevent and end homelessness one valuable person at a time.

The organization's mission is to encourage and assist homeless people and other persons in crisis to move toward lives marked by increased levels of stability, dignity, hope, and independence.

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Housing for New Hope  
18 West Colony Place  
Suite 250  
Durham, NC 27705  
(919) 489-6282  
housingfornewhope.org

## Offering a PATH from Chronic Homelessness

"I thought she was crazy."

Allison was reflecting back to a year ago and her first impression of Dian Wilson, Housing for New Hope's PATH coordinator.

"Dian came up to me and asked how she could help. No one had ever done that before. Everyone would turn away from me."

At the time, Allison was living in an abandoned trailer off Riddle Road in Durham. Prior to that she lived in a tent in the New Hope Commons area, in an abandoned garage off Highway 54, and in other makeshift quarters throughout the area. She had been living like that for the better part of nine years.

Allison is one of the chronically homeless, a person who has been homeless for over a year continuously or has had multiple episodes of homelessness over the last three years. Allison is not alone. Durham's 2006 homeless point-in-time count found that 155 individuals suffered from chronic homelessness. Allison also suffered from mental and physical disabilities, also common characteristics of homeless individuals. In the 2006 point-in-time count, 151 homeless individuals suffered from severe and persistent mental illness.

Housing for New Hope's PATH program was designed to serve both of these populations, ones that too often fall through the cracks. PATH stands for Projects Assisting Transitions from Homelessness. Housing for New Hope began the program, funded primarily by Durham Center, in 2004. PATH provides outreach to chronically homeless individuals who indicate mental illness. Housing for New Hope staff build trusting relationships and assist with access to ongoing services, medication, and housing.

Dian and PATH peer specialists Georgia Harris and Sharyl Richards travel throughout Durham searching under bridges, in abandoned



*After nine years of homelessness, Allison has a new view.*

houses, and on street corners, among other places, identifying individuals needing help. Over the past twelve months alone, Dian and her staff reached out to 466 individuals, the first step in PATH's work with the chronically homeless. From there, Dian does an initial assessment to determine whether an individual suffers from mental illness, which leads to enrollment in the program. Over the past twelve months, PATH enrolled 51 individuals, who received ongoing services of case management, housing, and financial assistance.

PATH's work is exemplified by a typical Friday in October. Georgia and Sharyl began the day at the Food Bank, loading up PATH's maroon Ford minivan—a donation from Durham Center—with food for clients and others with whom they would meet throughout the day. While PATH staff have an office at Northgate Presbyterian Church on North Roxboro, it is rare that you find them there. The minivan is Georgia and Sharyl's real office, where they spend the bulk of their workday.

On that particular Friday, their numerous stops included visits with and food donations to a man living in the woods off the train tracks in East

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Durham, a family staying temporarily in a motel, and a man camped at the intersection of Roxboro Road and Highway 147.

Conversations with these individuals included updates on housing searches and the status of disability applications, which is the biggest challenge for the population that PATH serves. About 80 percent of PATH clients have yet to be approved for Medicaid, though most all of them are eligible.

Even going through the necessary steps to be considered for Medicaid funding can be a huge challenge for the chronically homeless, and much of Dian's, Georgia's, and Sharyl's time is spent helping individuals obtain the necessary identification, transporting them to the required appointments, and guiding them through the numerous application processes.

Friday's trip also included a visit with Allison at her new apartment in the Lakewood section of Durham. After Dian's initial visit with her a year ago, Allison came to the decision that for her physical and mental health a drastic change needed to take place. PATH helped her through the complex process of obtaining an identification card, social security card, and food stamps. Eventually, Dian began showing her potential apartments, and Allison signed a lease one month ago. Rent is being paid initially

through the county until Allison begins to receive her disability income. PATH also helped with onetime start-up costs like utility deposits, for which it has a pool of funds to offer.

Georgia and Sharyl's visit with Allison illustrates that PATH's work does not end when a home is found. Those enrolled with PATH remain in the program for up to a year after they have found a home and are provided with food and clothing when needed, transportation, and ongoing case management.

It was evident from their visit with Allison that a genuine friendship has developed. The companionship that PATH staff provides is one of the most important yet hardest to quantify aspects of the program. Allison's next-door neighbor, Vicky, was one of PATH's first clients two years ago. Dian still maintains contact with Vicky, who is still grateful for PATH's assistance in getting her off the streets and into a home.

While Allison now has a home, she cannot help but think about her many friends that are still homeless. When asked about the difference that having her own apartment has made to her life, the first thing that came to her mind was the weather and how she does not have to worry about it in the same way that her friends still do. ☺

## We're at Work Building to Meet the 10-Year Plan

Housing for New Hope is excited to announce the pending completion of ten new efficiency apartments for homeless individuals with disabling conditions. Housing for New Hope's new Ann Atwater apartment building, named in honor of the longtime Durham activist and community builder, is a response to the identified and urgent need for permanent, supportive, and affordable housing in Durham.

Since May 2005, Housing for New Hope has offered efficiency units at its Andover Apartments for single persons who are homeless and capable of living independently but who need ongoing access to supportive services for treatment of mental illness or other disabling conditions. The new Ann Atwater building will double the number of units available at Andover Apartments to twenty.

In the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Durham*, recently adopted by the City and County of Durham, there is tremendous emphasis on the development of permanent housing for homeless individuals with disabling conditions. Housing for New Hope played a leadership role in the development of the plan and now is working hard to make sure that the plan's outcomes are met. ☺



*The Ann Atwater apartment building will be completed by December.*

## You're Invited to a Graduation

Housing for New Hope invites you to the graduation of Ryan, Holly, Harriet, and Aleen, who have recently completed their year-long residencies at Phoenix House and Dove House. It will take place on **Sunday, November 19 at 5 p.m. at St. Stephan's Episcopal Church, located at 82 Kimberly Drive** in the Hope Valley section of Durham. Dinner will follow the ceremony.

**Ryan** came to Phoenix House after having "burned all my bridges." Not even his family would talk with him. Ryan now lives in Housing for New Hope's Sherwood Park Apartments. He works for C.T. Wilson Construction and is going to school to become a certified carpenter. "I have so much gratitude for Phoenix House," said Ryan, whose family will be attending the graduation.

**Holly** entered Dove House last year after drug dependency led her to prison and homelessness. She then went through vocational rehabilitation and entered the Dove House. She now has her own

apartment and works at an area restaurant. She plans to go back to school to study business and finish her degree.

**Harriet's** year at Dove House was significant for many reasons. She went back to school to become a certified nursing assistant and now works for two area health providers. And she is in the process of looking for an apartment for herself and her grandson. "It is a great feeling being clean, having a job, and being closer to my children and grandchildren," Harriet said.

**Aleen** was brought to recovery and the Dove House by a wake-up call that occurred after the passing of her sister. This year has allowed her to complete the career development program offered through Durham County and to obtain a job at an area restaurant. She plans to move in with her son and would like to open her own recovery house to help others in need as Dove House has helped her. ☺

*For more information about the graduation, please contact Eric Breit, Development Director, at (919) 724-0578 or [eric@housingfornewhope.org](mailto:eric@housingfornewhope.org).*

# Moved by Generosity

Thanks to the incredible generosity of some of its supporters, Housing for New Hope has moved to new administrative offices. The office space, located off Pickett Road and Highway 15/501, was donated to Housing for New Hope by **DeWitt and Alice Myers**.



*DeWitt and Alice Myers*

alumni office.

We also thank board president **Charlie Wilson** and his construction company **C.T. Wilson Construction** for donating many hours for the move and for refurbishments and technological upgrades needed for our new office space. Special thanks to **Proctor Flooring** for providing and installing the new carpet for the office.

We also thank pastor **David Keck** and **Northgate Presbyterian Church**, where our administrative offices were housed for many years. We are happy that the close relationship will continue as Housing for New Hope's PATH program and Presbyterian Urban Ministries are now housed at Northgate. 🏡

## Alumni Donation Highlights 3rd Annual Breakfast

More than 280 people helped to make Housing for New Hope's 3rd Annual Breakfast a huge success. One attendee wrote, "I just had to write and say that your breakfast was about the most moving experience I have ever known. In a world that in our present time seems so filled with hatred and ill will toward fellow men, the pure goodness shining through in the room this morning restores one's faith and hope in how this world could be."

Attendees heard informative and passionate presentations by Martha Are, Homeless Policy Specialist for North Carolina; Steve Chalmers, Durham Chief of Police; and Alphonso Williams, Housing for New Hope Program Supervisor and alumnus.

Following Alphonso's message, the Alumni of Housing for New Hope, who like Alphonso are graduates of the transitional housing programs, presented the organization with a check for \$1,600 in grateful appreciation of the support they received.

Overall, Housing for New Hope received pledges, gifts, and sponsor donations totaling more than \$94,000. As a result of the breakfast, Housing for New Hope has 108 new supporters, people who had not pledged or given to the organization in the past.

Thank you again to each one of you who has supported the work and vision of Housing for New Hope by your participation in this endeavor! 🏡

Now retired mental health professionals, DeWitt and Alice housed their practice at the office since 1988. After retiring, they thought that their office would be useful to an organization working to make a difference in the community. After learning about the work of Housing for New Hope and its space needs, DeWitt and Alice found the perfect match. We thank DeWitt and Alice for their tremendous generosity in donating such a wonderful and useful space, which provides room for our expanded staff and our

**Housing for New Hope has a new address:**

**18 West Colony Place, Suite 250  
Durham, NC 27705**

**Our new phone number is:  
(919) 489-6282**

**And please visit us on the web:  
[housingfornewhope.org](http://housingfornewhope.org)**

## A Word from Terry Allebaugh

I often hear a comment after delivering a presentation about homelessness that there are some homeless people who choose to be so, that they actually prefer staying out in the woods and not being responsible. My response is that I have never met a person who chooses to be homeless. I *have* met men and women who have given up and settled for being homeless, because they no longer believe that anything else is possible; day-to-day survival has become all that matters.

During Durham's last point-in-time count conducted in January 2006, 502 homeless people were counted. As stated in the earlier article about our PATH program, 155 were reported as chronically homeless. Most of the chronically homeless are sick, suffering from mental illness, addiction, physical and developmental disabilities, and often combinations of all of the above. They cannot end their homelessness without intervention, most importantly the provision of services and stable housing. Their illnesses did not cause their homelessness, but homelessness has made their illnesses much worse.

Through our PATH program, we make contact with many of the chronically homeless like Allison, slowly building a relationship of trust. We are exploring ways to build that support team so we can offer more long-term assistance. With the operation of Andover Apartments and the soon-to-open Ann Atwater building, we offer permanent, affordable, efficiency units. With help from the Durham Center, we also are renting apartments to house the chronically homeless.

Some of the men and women we work with have given up hope and are resigned to homelessness. I think it is the responsibility of Durham to carry that hope for them until which time they can reclaim it for themselves. With the passage of the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Durham*, we as a community have said collectively that we are not willing to settle for homelessness in Durham. Our choice makes all the difference in the world for those who tragically have settled for homelessness.

Thank you for all you do to help us break the cycle of homelessness. 🏡





**Housing for New Hope**  
18 West Colony Place, Suite 250  
Durham, NC 27705

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### **Working to Prevent and End Homelessness, One Valuable Person at a Time**

Housing for New Hope began in 1992 to offer help for the complex problem of homelessness by offering shelter to homeless men at Phoenix House. It has since evolved to construct a unique continuum of programs, each offering help for a specific aspect of the problems faced by those who are homeless, or whose lives are continuously at the edge of crisis or complicated by disabling conditions.

#### **Over the past 12 months, Housing for New Hope:**

- reached out to 466 homeless persons, enrolling 51 of them in housing placement and ongoing services;
- assisted 900 families with \$120,000 for rent, utilities, and medicines;
- provided transitional housing for 45 homeless men and women;
- provided permanent housing for 44 homeless people, many of whom are disabled;
- facilitated the development of the *10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Durham*; and
- developed a new 10-unit apartment building for homeless people with disabling conditions.

#### **Programs**

##### **Outreach and Crisis Assistance**

- **PATH**—Support services for homeless persons with mental illness
- **Presbyterian Urban Ministry**—Crisis assistance for families with limited income, many at risk of becoming homeless

##### **Transitional Housing**

- **Phoenix House and Dove House**—Provides housing and a structured program for homeless persons to regain independence in their lives

##### **Permanent Housing**

- **Andover Apartments**—Supportive, affordable housing for homeless persons with mental illness
- **Sherwood Park Apartments**—Supportive, affordable housing for homeless persons living at or below the poverty level
- **New Directions**—Develops supportive, affordable housing for homeless persons

#### **Program Staff**

Dot Ellis—Pastor/Director, Presbyterian Urban Ministry; Program Supervisor, Dove House and PATH Outreach  
Sam Fisher—Resident Manager, Phoenix House  
Georgia Harris—Peer Specialist, PATH  
Hap Johnson—Property Manager, Andover Apartments  
Jack Preiss—Housing Developer, New Directions  
Cynthia Reade—Program Associate, Presbyterian Urban Ministry; Case Manager, Dove House  
Sharyl Richards—Peer Specialist, PATH  
Shelia Smith—Resident Manager, Dove House  
Doug Wellemeyer—Housing Developer, New Directions  
Sam Whitted—Program Manager, Sherwood Park Apartments  
Alphonso Williams—Program Supervisor; Case Manager, Phoenix House; Chairman, Housing for New Hope Alumni  
Dian Wilson—Program Coordinator, PATH

#### **Administrative Staff**

Terry Allebaugh—Executive Director  
Connie Haines—Financial Director  
Eric Breit—Development Director  
Pam Meza—Administrative Assistant

# Our Valuable Supporters

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Housing for New Hope between November 1, 2005 and October 31, 2006. Without you, our work would not be possible.

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Jeanne Boehlecke	Tim & Mimi Conder	Duke Department of Radiology	

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## Multiply Your Gift x2 Help Us Meet the Stewards Fund Challenge

Housing for New Hope is excited to lead into our 15th Anniversary Year serving Durham by announcing that the Stewards Fund has awarded us a \$45,000 Challenge Grant. **End-of-year donations made to Housing for New Hope will be matched dollar for dollar by the Stewards Fund.**

Each \$1,000 received by Housing for New Hope can:

- sponsor a resident at Phoenix House or Dove House for a period of one year;
- pay heating bills for ten families seeking help from Presbyterian Urban Ministry;
- pay prescription costs for twenty disabled or elderly Durham residents; and
- assist two graduates of the transitional housing programs to move into independent housing.

We must receive no less than \$45,000 by January 31, 2007, in order to receive the matching funds from the Stewards Fund.

For more information about the Stewards Fund Challenge, please contact Eric Breit, Development Director, at (919) 724-0578 or [eric@housingfornewhope.org](mailto:eric@housingfornewhope.org).

### Yes, Multiply My Gift x2

Please accept my year-end contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, which will be doubled by the Stewards Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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