



**United Way of  
Metropolitan Atlanta**

# Regional Commission on Homelessness 2009 Update

# The strength of our success. . .

## A Regional Approach:

- Eight jurisdictions voluntarily coming together to solve homeless problems have been a best practice.

## A Strong Focus:

- Commission's strong focus is proving to be effective on: (1) ending chronic homelessness within 10 years; (2) preventing homelessness; and (3) creating a more responsive system for the temporarily homeless.

## A Collaborative Effort:

- Continuous communication and cooperation between homeless service providers, federal, state and local governments, and the business and faith communities, have proven to be very effective in accomplishing goals of the community.

# Our Jurisdictions

## Clayton



- Created more than 60 units of housing: Covenant House, GRO, St. Joseph's.
- Started Fort Gillem Redevelopment Project, which is slated to open in 2011.
- Calvary Refuge program with case management has an 80% success rate.

## Cobb

- Has over 75 units of housing: MUST Ministries, Extension, CSB.
- MUST Ministries started program for Veterans and Harmony House for discharge planning.

## DeKalb

- Has over 250 housing units: Travelers Aid, St. Jude's, Dekalb CSB, DeKalb Cooperative.
- County has redesigned its service delivery.
- Centralized effort by community created one-stop shop program for services.

# Our Jurisdictions



## Douglas

- Has 101 units of housing: Douglas County Shelter, Douglas CSB, The Door.
- Men's Assessment Center is opening soon.
- A Homeless Count is conducted regularly.

## Fulton

- Has over 1,500 housing units (including the City of Atlanta).
- Fulton County government has added case managers, and created partnerships with City of Atlanta and providers.
- Jefferson Place transformed from a shelter into an effective supportive housing program.
- Has an ongoing and leading discussion in jail discharge.

## Gwinnett

- Has over 70 units of housing: Mary Hall Freedom House, Impact Group.
- Planning assessment center and discharge planning program .
- Completed first homeless census this year.

# Our Jurisdictions

## Rockdale

- Rockdale was the first regional county to partner with the Commission.
- Rockdale County Emergency Relief broke ground for 40 housing units for Phoenix Pass.
- Awarded \$7 million grant from SAMSHA for Kidsnet, a model program and system of care to serve kids.

## City of Atlanta

- The 24/7 Gateway Homeless Services Center helps 6,000 people per year.
- Distributed 500 Atlanta Housing Authority housing vouchers.
- Provided \$22 million in funding for over 700 housing units.

# It's about the people...



United Way of  
Metropolitan Atlanta

These people came through our supportive housing programs and have now reached self-sufficiency.

Sharon Hudson



Dominic Johnson



Barbara Rogers



Alvin Bailey



# Bricks and mortar: Homeless services centers



•MUST Ministries

•The Center for Family Resources



# Bricks and mortar: Supportive housing units

- Carrington Point Apartment Homes



- Quest 35

# Bricks and mortar: Supportive housing units

- Columbia Towers



- Park Commons at  
Sylvan Hills



- Candler Forrest  
Apartments



# Highlights from the past six years. . .

## Our progress

- Used regional approach to bring eight jurisdictions together to solve homeless problems.
- Implemented Street to Home and Shelter to Home programs using “Housing First” efforts.
- Working with the city, received \$22 million in ADA bonds to develop housing with support and assessment centers.
- Raised more than \$40 million from private funders.
- Created centralized case management system.
- Created Hope House for homeless men with substance abuse issues.
- Collaborated and shared best practices to end chronic homelessness nationwide.
- Partnered with City of Atlanta to obtain more than 300 housing units upon turnover of Fort McPherson.

# Highlights from the past six years. . .

## Our progress



- Coordinated 7-8 outreach teams to continually reach out into the shelters and streets to serve homeless people.
- Provided \$1 million toward prevention and improved procedures for assistance throughout the community.
- Tracked 750 people in housing every quarter, and approximately 90% remained stable and housed after one year.
- Created more than 2,100 units of housing with support services.
- Reunified more than 10,000 people with family or loved ones.
- Served more than 7,000 people at the Gateway each year.
- Created more than 450 units for women and children with another 200 coming online by the end of the year.
- Partnered with Veteran's Administration to provide 300 units of housing and services to veterans.

# Highlights from first six years. . .

## Our progress

- Provided employment for more than 1,200 homeless persons through our partners in the last 2 years.
- Supported Georgia Housing Search to provide access to affordable housing. More than 75,000 units listed.
- Provided bus for transportation at Gateway.
- Obtained full-time SSDI person at Grady and changed system of applying for benefits.
- Negotiated 3 year extension with MARTA for tokens.
- Working with DCA, obtained extra points for supportive housing projects in LIHTC QAP.
- Created Councils: Women & Children's, MH/Addiction, Supportive Housing, Discharge Planning and Employment.

# Success stories

Through our programs and services, homeless people find the resources they need to reach self-sufficiency. These are just a few of the lives we touch.

Kelly Padgett



Teresa Westmoreland



Renee Vivarette



Jack Hopkins