



## Homelessness In Downtown Nashville

### **CURRENT STATISTICS IN NASHVILLE:**

- On any given night, Nashville has about 4,000 homeless individuals and families including children.
- Last year, Metro Nashville Public Schools reported having 2,049 homeless children in their school system. Most parents DO NOT report their lack of housing to school officials for fear of losing their children.
- The 2011 Point-in-Time Count reported 2,245 homeless individuals (360 outdoor count + 1,885 indoor shelter count)
- An average of 30 people die on the street each year.

### **The Situation of Homelessness in Downtown Nashville**

- The faces of homelessness are diverse. In downtown Nashville we are talking about the chronically homeless, who:
  - ▶ Have been homeless for more than a year;
  - ▶ Represent about 800 individuals;
  - ▶ Use the most resources;
  - ▶ Are on the frequent user list of the Police Department (2010/2011 police survey tracked):
    - \* 52 individuals arrested 1,634 time at \$1,000 per arrest;
    - \* The same 52 individuals received 818 ambulance ride at \$750 each, and an additional \$1.00 per mile;
  - ▶ Suffer from mental health issues; and
  - ▶ Hang out in the downtown area.

### **The Solution to Homelessness in Downtown Nashville**

- The Downtown Housing First Campaign is designed to take 30 chronically homeless individuals off the streets of downtown by providing permanent housing with wrap-around case management services. (See Downtown Campaign Flyer).
- Housing First costs \$17,000. Rent costs \$6,000 per year (available low-income rental apartments are identified throughout the city) and case management services cost \$9,000 - \$11,000 per person per year.
- We know Housing First works, because we have a 92% housing retention rate.
- Expansion of the Vulnerable Veterans Program: 14 chronically homeless veterans have come off the streets of downtown Nashville. Additional case management dollars will make it possible to expand this program in the downtown area.

**Housing First Formula For Success: Housing + Case Management + Income = Reduction in Homelessness**

### **Barriers to Housing**

- No or low income
- Felonies
- Youth w/out parents
- No ID, birth certificate, driver's license
- Lack of childcare
- No rent deposit
- Lack of transportation
- Social Issues
- Lack of low-income housing for individuals between 0 and 30% of the poverty rate

### **Sources**

2011 Point in Time Count Data

Housing First explained in 3 minutes: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=3534467n>