

Newsletter

Office of Homeless Services

• APRIL 9, 2025

• ISSUE 11

• Written by: April Calvin, Director

Let This Be The Last Storm Without Shelter

The severe spring storms sweeping through our city are yet another reminder of the vulnerability many of our neighbors face daily. The Office of Homeless Services is acting urgently, aligning governmental resources and working across agencies to protect lives—both housed and unhoused.

This moment called for bold leadership strategically aligned and working together over the last 8 months. Recently, the Prioritization Team selected Anthes Drive for a focused housing surge, guided by our Outdoor Housing Strategy assessment tool, developed by the Shelter, Weather, Outreach, and Prevention (SWOP) Committee of the Homelessness Planning Council. The decision reflects critical safety concerns for encampment residents, the surrounding community, and even the hundreds of commuters traveling by rail nearby daily. That's why we've taken a trauma-informed, housing first approach, connecting with residents and nonprofits to house each resident, connect with them, and give them access to tools they need to stay permanently housed. Their voices are clear: they want housing. They want a chance.

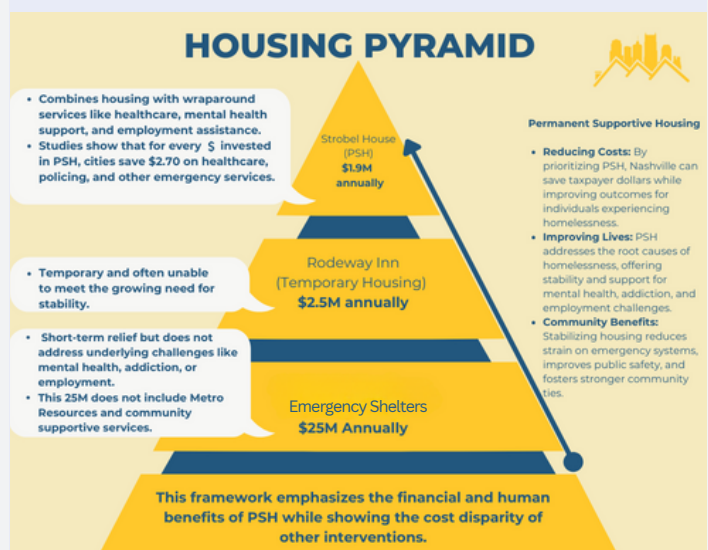
Our housing surges have resulted in:

- ✓ 45% decrease in unhoused deaths
- ✓ Reduced EMS and ER visits
- ✓ 88% retention rate in housing

When we break down silos and unify our efforts, we can move even more people from homelessness to transitional housing to permanent homes.

As the National Alliance to End Homelessness reminds us: ***“For those already experiencing homelessness, it's crucial that safe and dignified shelter options are available to get people out of tents, into a secure environment, and ultimately back into housing.”***

It costs an average of **\$40–\$54K per year** to support someone living unsheltered. By contrast, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) costs just **\$20–\$22K per year**—a smarter, more compassionate investment.



We recently hosted our sister city partners from Austin, TX where they have developed **over 1,200** new PSH units and a recurring budget to sustain them. We will continue to build upon our foundational work to enable more PSH in Nashville. More to come...

SAVE THE DATE !

2025 State of Homelessness Symposium

Hosted By Office of Homeless Services

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Event registration coming soon!

See event details (page 2)

April Calvin

Community Impact and Connection

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• Written by: Demetris Chaney

A Place to Call Home: Lawrence's Journey to Peace and Purpose

Meet Lawrence—a warm smile, a welcoming heart, and a man who knows the power of second chances. At 62 years old, Lawrence is doing something for the very first time: managing his own bank account. It may sound simple, but for Lawrence, it's a milestone that represents freedom, stability, and a future filled with hope.

Just seven months ago, Lawrence became one of the first residents to move into Strobel House, Nashville's first Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development. Today, he's thriving. He recently celebrated five months of sobriety and completed his treatment program a journey marked not just by personal discipline, but by the support and care he's found in his new home.

"The staff here care about me," Lawrence shared. "It was nobody but God. I just needed someone to care."

And care, they did. With consistent support from staff and peers, Lawrence now cooks meals in his very own kitchen sometimes inviting fellow residents over to share a bite, a laugh, and a sense of belonging. For a man who spent years surviving on the margins, these everyday acts are nothing short of extraordinary.

"Since I been here, I got peace, peer support, and Christ," he said, his voice full of gratitude. "I'm not perfect. I've made mistakes. But having someone care about me and give me a hand-up made all the difference in the world."



Lawrence's story is just one example of what's possible when we invest in people and provide more than just a roof over their heads. Permanent Supportive Housing offers wraparound services healthcare, recovery programs, peer support, and compassion. It's not a handout. It's a hand-up.

Like Lawrence, many of our Nashville neighbors experiencing homelessness are counting on us. With Permanent Supportive Housing, we can answer that call—not just with shelter, but with hope, dignity, and the chance to start again.

Get Connected

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT?

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based practice for helping people with serious mental illness gain competitive employment. IPS is a person-centered, self-directed and strength-based approach to job search.

- This is a referral-based program.
- Referrals can only be made by your case worker.
- For more information on the referral process, please have your case worker contact Amari Cecil at: amari.cecil@nashville.gov



SAVE THE DATE

2025 State of Homelessness Symposium
Hosted by Office of Homeless Services

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

The event will feature:

- Keynote addresses from national experts
- Updates on local funding and resources
- Networking and collaborative opportunities
- Training sessions and engaging discussions
- Exposition opportunities for service providers

For inquiries, please contact Kayla Ritchie, Community Engagement Officer,
at kayla.ritchie@nashville.gov

Three Times the Impact: Growing Need Met with Powerful Community Response

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• Written by: Demetris Chaney

Thank you to all our incredible community partners who made this month's Resource Fair at the West Precinct a tremendous success. Because of your commitment, we were able to bring critical services directly to those who need them most and this month, we saw three times the attendance compared to last month. That's a clear sign: the need is growing, and so must our response.

Every month, our Office of Homeless Services brings providers to the people through citywide Resource Fairs, helping our most vulnerable neighbors access the care, support, and resources they deserve. If you're a service provider and want to join our efforts, we need you. There is room at the table for every organization ready to step up. Join us in meeting this moment with compassion and action.

To get involved in next month's Resource Fair, please contact our Outreach Manager, Joseph Parker, at joseph.parker@nashville.gov.



Patrons at the West Precinct Resource Fair



Joseph Parker, Outreach Manager (Left) and Jason Frazier, Outreach Coordinator (Right)

For more information, contact:

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Visit **Office of Homeless Services.**

