

United Way of Laramie County End-of Year Report

Page 1

Agency Name: Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network **Program:** Homeless Family Shelter & Transitional Housing **Reporting Period:** Jan - Dec 2009

Contact Person: Trish Peacock **Phone:** 772-8770 **E-mail:** cihn@bresnan.net

Agency Mission/Vision:	The mission of Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network is to offer homeless families with children the opportunity to achieve job stability and housing by providing short-term shelter, food, case management, and hospitality while utilizing local resources within local congregations and the community. Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network is a community response to the needs of homeless families with children.
-------------------------------	--

Community Issue Program Targets:	Helping Neighbors in Crisis and Strengthening Families
---	--

Program Target Population: Homeless families with children

- Fully homeless families with children; Single and/or two-parent families
- Living in Poverty; Weak support systems; No health insurance; Low job skills/education; In financial crisis
- Unreliable transportation and daycare; Victims of crime, medical crisis, incest
- Characteristics include: lacking financial stability, lack of job skills, in crisis, families at risk
- Needs include: sustainable permanent work, child / daycare, safe shelter, regular nutritional meals, documentation, support programs, GED, social services
- Requirements are: must be willing to acquire new skill training, diligently work at finding a job, medical / mental health programs, parenting / budgeting classes, follow specific program guidelines of house rules.
- Safe affordable housing in a reasonable timeframe; Downturn in the economy now affecting number of jobs available and quality and quantity of candidates in competition for any job
- Number of families in poverty due to unemployment, job downsizing and companies closing is increasing; Funding and direct giving being reduced or non existent

Program Significance to the Community

- CIHN targets population as a program that does not put a bandage on a problem but fully redirects families; Case Manager to help families trek the myriad of paper to getting social services
- Identify new skill levels; Safety of families and community; Nutritional food to reduce need for medical care or crisis
- Children in school daily and stable, Children under 5 undergo an assessment at STRIDE, after-school enrichment opportunities and summer care while parent (s) work
- A permanent address to receive mail, make appointments, enroll children in school, be eligible for social services
- Rental assistance for families having completed the program for two months continuing the help toward a healthy financial future.
- The impact: target population is attaining the skills and knowledge to avoid the situations that originally made them homeless.
- Families are removed from the streets; Medical emergencies and crises are reduced; At risk families stay together rather than being separated
- Families that graduated our program return periodically for needed advice on issues that could result in new financial problems.
- The impact of our program is a safety net of security and education to prevention to prevent reoccurrences.
- The most significant trend is the growing numbers of homeless families with children due to the economic downturn.
- 2009 began typical in the ability to turn a family from fully homelessness to graduation in an approximate four to eight week time span. The last two families entering our program in 2009 took four months to locate employment
- Competition for jobs is greater in number of applicants, experience, and level of education.
- Fewer jobs available in Dec. of 2008 an approximate 127 nonprofessional want ads ran in the Sunday paper; as 2009 came to a close a typical Sunday would have only 27 ads.
- The shelter program is more important to our families as we keep them longer
- Basic cost of living increases such as food cost increases

Agency Name: Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network

Program: Homeless Family Shelter and Transitional Housing

Reporting Period: Jan - Dec 2009

Program Resources		Program Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Exec. Dir (20 paid hours) Case Manager (25 hours) & 2 ExperienceWorks (36 hours) 273 volunteers, 13 hosting/supporting congregations, 17 volunteer coordinators Facility/Equipment: 2 offices, rooms for showers/laundry, day center, computer with internet, phone, 4 bedrooms, 2 staff computers, air mattresses, bedding, passenger van, furniture storage, general office equipment i.e., copier for resumes Volunteer Board of Directors 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Management - eligibility determinations, develop & monitor case plan, assess strengths for job search, referrals, coordinate transportation, establish and guide family budgeting, monitor employment search, enroll and communicate with school professionals about families, housing, coordinate donations of furniture, time, space, support families through short-term crises Scattered-Site Transitional Housing Program launched Sept. 2007 Skill development in parenting, budgeting, financial stability, medical issues, crisis intervention 	
Outcome	Performance Measure	Method of Measure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families receiving immediate shelter 26 Families finding employment in the community 25 Families finding housing 23 26 families eating regularly and nutritionally 26 families safe off the streets in a bed at night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 families accepted into the program 25 found permanent jobs 26 families fully homeless 23 found permanent housing 40 school aged children in our program all enrolled in school 4747 hot nutritional meals served 2099 safe bed nights provided to families off the streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records review Phone call statistics Exit interviews Volunteer Records Daily case management and weekly case plans 	
Program Results		Results Analysis and Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully homeless families with no outside support 7 At risk families court ordered 2 Minority families 9 Length of stay 17 to 92 days off the streets safely sheltered Jobs searches 3328 New job training 2 Medical needs: mental illness: 3, pregnancy: 1, prescriptions: 6, ER visits: 4, Doc appt.21 25 families found permanent jobs 23 families found permanent housing 40 children were in school daily 26 families were fed hot meals nightly and slept in a safe building <p>The trend analysis is frightening as the economy tightens, job search becomes longer, more selective, less benefited, and length of stay in shelter is extended three times more than last year</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate relief from crisis Immediately removal from the street Consistent day care and school enrollment for children Nutritional meals, volunteer and staff support Partnerships to maintain long term sustainability Gaps in community assistance identified and answered Program help for mental illness, addictions, parenting skills Housing support Many more faith communities to come on board New and matching funding opportunities Develop support committee network for fundraising, etc. <p>The first step must be job development and skills training, then additional financial support, and perhaps a self sustaining shelter in the future with day care, emergency housing, apts., and offices</p>	