

Background and talking points for Neighbor story

A home is more than simply a shelter; it is a foundation that allows one to focus on the future. If a permanent place to call home is not available, it is difficult, if not impossible to focus on any other aspect of life. Beyond Shelter allows individuals to fully experience the joy and comfort of having a home of their own.

The Beyond Shelter Program utilizes the Housing First approach, which involves moving long-term street homeless individuals directly into housing and then linking them to support services, either on-site or in the community.

Housing First Program Key Concepts

- A focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible
- A variety of services delivered to promote housing stability and individual well-being on an as-needed and entirely voluntary basis
- Assist formerly chronically homeless in:
 - Obtaining long-term stable housing
 - Maintain housing by complying with program expectations
 - Achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency possible to improve quality of life
 - Beyond Shelter will link safe, affordable housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community
 - Build independent living and tenancy skills
 - Assistance with integrating into the community
 - Connections to community-based health care and treatment
 - Connections to employment services and Social Security
 - Gaining employment/stable income.

About Jack,

The first night in the home Jack slept on the floor, he was so overcome with gratitude and shame he felt he did not deserve to be in the house while others remained on the street

Since coming to the home, he been in recovery and sustaining sobriety

This last February almost lost his hands due to frostbite riding his bike to work

He is fully employed, been promoted to a supervisory role

He is giving back by volunteering for a Jail Ministry, which helps the recently released inmates find housing, food, and clothing. He became involved in this ministry after driving by the County jail one winter day, and he and his friend noticed a guy standing on the corner wearing shorts, tank top, and flip flops. He had been released with what he was wearing when he was arrested in July.

Jack's latest efforts to give back include starting a series of the front yard free library. As an avid reader, Jack knows the value of the written word.

The \$50,000 -150,000.00 cost of someone to live on the street is a national average put forth by the Bureau for Housing and Urban Development. Homelessness costs include

- Shelters and emergency room visits,
- Costs of mental health services for homeless, who suffer a high rate of mental illness. Partially due to the stress of being homeless
- increased police, fire, courts, correctional facilities experiences
- Extend hospital stays due to the increase in infections and violence
- Extra security for public service buildings, e.g., libraries, and private businesses to prevent, deter, and theft losses or just cleaning up from damages a homeless person activities.