



**AND FAMILY  
SERVICES**  
2016 RECAP  
**TRANSFORMING  
LIVES**



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A 501(c)(3) and founded in 1974, GSH transforms lives by providing permanent affordable housing, emergency financial services, budget counseling and case management to working households that are struggling in Fairfax County, Virginia.



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**GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
HOUSING**

## OUR IMPACT

In mid-September, one of our residents, Francine, a mother of two small children, moved on from GSH housing and signed a lease in her own name.

In May 2015, Francine was working for a newspaper distributor, and unable to afford housing in our area, she found herself and her family having to relocate to the Red Carpet Inn located next to our office.

Within a month of learning about GSH and being interviewed, she had moved into one of our Farrington Place units — a stone's throw from the Huntington Metro.

While living with us, Francine was determined to improve her employability and earn more income. She completed a certified nursing assistant's course, graduating with her CNA certificate, and secured a higher-paying position as a healthcare aide. Her improving income helped her to cleanup her debt and credit issues, resulting in a much stronger credit score.

Also having secured a housing choice voucher — which required better credit and a solid work income — she was able to sign a lease in her own name. The family moved on to a townhome rental on Richmond Highway.

A great success story and a great report on the kind of impact we have on our residents. Here's a quote from her thank-you note to GSH:

“Without your assistance, I honestly don't know where we would be. We are so thankful to have had the support of Good Shepherd Housing in building our future. Thank you for the work that you do!”

## BY THE NUMBERS



In our area, a market analysis found that for every two families making between thirty and fifty percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), there is only one affordable unit of housing available to them.



- A FAMILY MUST EARN AN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$69,240 TO AFFORD A TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT.
- 49% OF ALL PERSONS IN FAMILIES WERE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
- 32% OF ALL PERSONS WHO WERE HOMELESS WERE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

A minimum wage earner would have to work nearly **four full-time jobs** to afford a two-bedroom unit at the Fair Market Rate in Fairfax County.



IT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU, BUT THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS IN OUR REGION LIVE IN THE FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY. ONLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ARE THERE MORE PEOPLE WITHOUT HOMES.

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

For more than 40 years, GSH has helped end homelessness and enable self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing and emergency financial services to low-income and working families and individuals in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Last year alone we helped more than 1,000 working-class households who were living unstably housed or were, in fact, experiencing an episode of homelessness.

Our housing is not just “bricks and sticks”. Rather, our housing is the kind of housing that gives households a fresh start to a new future. When combined with our strong support services, our housing gives them hope, by transforming their lives, their neighborhoods and our community.

Within two years, most of our residents become self-sufficient by improving their credit scores, enhancing their incomes, slashed their debt burdens, and learning to budget and spend their dollars wisely.



Most of all, they have reached a measure of financial independence. Permanent housing will now always be theirs. Housing has been secured. It is no longer where they stay just for today.

## GSH PROGRAMS

### APARTMENTS BUDGETING COUNSELING (ABC)

We help struggling households obtain housing that is affordable. Once housed with GSH, we provide them individualized case management that will help them clean up their credit history, learn new money management skills and gain the financial independence they need to move on to financial success.

### HOUSING AS TOP PRIORITY (HTP)

GSH offers a bridge to affordable rental housing in the community, along with guidance, support, and limited financial assistance to those households facing homelessness.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES ASSISTANCE (ES)

GSH provides assistance to households at risk of homelessness with one-time per year financial grants that prevent evictions and utility disconnections, or help with first month's rents and security deposits. Applicants requesting assistance are carefully evaluated for factors that lead to long-term housing stability.

### CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

We help ensure that children in our housing programs do not miss out on critical after-school and extracurricular enrichment activities. This long-standing program provides our children with school supplies, holiday gifts, access to summer camps, music lessons, and STEM programs.