



# Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

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*Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities*

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## THRESHOLDS PROGRAM

**Second Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2012**

Single men face unique challenges to overcoming the barriers of homelessness. As the needs differ, so do the objectives. The **Thresholds Program** is designed to provide short-term shelter and supportive services to chronically homeless single men. With a significantly shorter length of stay, program personnel work quickly with the men to develop gainful employment opportunities and to secure permanent housing. By providing practical, applicable information, education, and services in a condensed timeframe, men are provided intensive, “life-ready” skills in the shortest period possible. This efficient process moves men into stable, permanent housing swiftly but carefully. Moreover, they have other necessary resources and tools that will ensure that they can maintain it.

### PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

The population served in the Thresholds Program is homeless single men from the city of Milwaukee. These individuals have entered the program from extremely low-income backgrounds with inadequate resources to secure housing.

**During the Second Quarter of 2012, 33 single men were served by the Thresholds Program. There were 30 new intakes and 31 discharges. Demographically, of the new intakes, 53% were African-American, and 47% were Caucasian. The average length of stay at exit was 38 days.**

**Issues other than homelessness faced by the new intakes include Mental Illness (27%), Drug Abuse (20%), Alcohol Abuse (30%), Developmental Disabilities (10%), Physical Disabilities (30%). Many of these men faced multiple issues simultaneously.**

### PROGRAM GOALS, INDICATORS AND RESULTS

The Thresholds Program is based upon the active and rapid involvement of single homeless men in a variety of activities, workshops, and concrete tasks that increase knowledge, improve skills, and teach new behaviors and strategies for future success in stable, long-term housing.

**GOAL 1: TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN SINGLE MEN.**

**Indicator: 30% of participants will obtain stable housing.**

**Results: 53% of participants who left Hope House obtained stable housing upon discharge.**

**GOAL 2: TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT INCOME FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Indicator:** *20% of the Thresholds Project participants will secure employment upon exiting the program.*

**Results:** *47% of the participants have successfully obtained employment upon exiting the program.*

**GOAL 3:** **TO INCREASE GREATER SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PARTICIPANTS.**

**Indicator:** *Adults that complete the Thresholds program will receive supportive services that prepare them for employment or housing.*

**Results:** *Residents received training in Tenant Landlord Relationships.*

### **SUCCESS STORY:**

Ralph\* spent the last decade living in Utah, working as a teacher. He was laid off due to budget cuts and struggled for some time trying to find work. He maintained his apartment and kept up with his bills through unemployment, but when that ran out he was forced to move from his home. With nowhere else to go, he decided to move to Milwaukee and stay with his sister, hoping that he would have better luck finding work in Milwaukee.

He stayed with his sister for almost a year and still was unable to secure a job. Because his sister had a husband and children of her own, the living arrangement could not be permanent. After nearly a year living with his sister's family, he decided to leave and give them space, opting to get into shelter.

Once he came in to the shelter, Ralph worked hard to find a job and was able to secure employment as a substitute teacher with MPS. Ralph worked with his case manager to budget his new-found income in order to get caught up with his past due bills while also putting money aside to use for housing. After a couple months, Ralph had enough money saved, was caught up on his bills and was able to utilize the rapid re-housing program to secure permanent housing.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*