



# Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.

209 West Orchard - P.O. Box 04095  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

---

*Ending homelessness and creating healthy communities*

---

## THRESHOLDS PROGRAM

**Second Quarter: July 1 – September 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 Third Quarter of 2012, 56 single men were served by the Thresholds Program. There were 44 new intakes and 43 discharges. Demographically, of the new intakes, 52% were African-American, and 43% were Caucasian. The average length of stay at exit was 26 days.**

**Issues other than homelessness faced by the new intakes include Mental Illness (47%), Drug Abuse (7%), Alcohol Abuse (9%), Physical Disabilities (27%) and HIV/AIDS or other related diseases (7%). 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: 14% 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:** *35% 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:**

Elliot\* first came to Hope House unemployed and had already exhausted his unemployment benefits. It took him about 3 weeks to secure a stable, permanent job. He worked with his case manager for another 2 months, saving every penny possible until he had saved up about \$1000. Once he hit that mile stone, Elliot and his case manager worked together to find an affordable rooming house to move to where he could cover his weekly rent and still continue to save some money until he had enough to find himself a full apartment. He is currently living in his apartment and has been tapped for a management position at the store he works at.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*