



# Celebrating 20 years!

## 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

1996-2016

### 2015-2016

**1584**  
bed nights  
(bed filled per night shelter open)



**3168**  
meals served



**138**  
operating nights



**928+**  
volunteer hours



**36**  
Individuals served



Shelter open daily 6 pm-8am, Nov 15-Mar 31. We financially support off-season services, too.

### A look inside...

12 beds: 10 for men; 2 for women in a separate room.



2 meals per day and lunch bags offered.

Life skills classes offered to all residents: crisis intervention, employment counselling, budgeting skills, etc.

### How can you help?



#### Donate **time**.

- Be a laundry volunteer
- Collect and deliver food and materials
- Conduct drives for supplies
- Help to staff the shelter
- Share expertise with residents or the Board



#### Prepare **meals**.

- Prepare bagged lunches
- Prepare a meal for 14 and deliver it to the shelter
- Make one dozen boiled eggs and deliver them to the shelter



#### Give **financially**.

- Make a financial contribution
- Donate gift cards (Target and Giant preferred)
- Help fundraise and attend shelter fundraising events

# SUCCESS STORY

(released with permission)

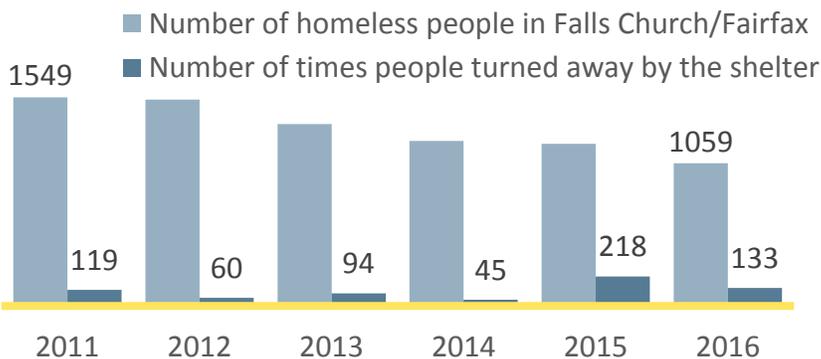
**Clarence**, a Navy veteran originally from South Carolina, entered the winter shelter in fall 2015 after more than 10 years on and off on the streets of Arlington and Alexandria. Clarence had struggled with drug addiction, and had been sleeping in the back of his truck in the parking lot of his church. "I was really hungry, and I was really humble," he says. At the shelter, he spoke with a case worker, who connected him with badly-needed dental services --he was missing most of his teeth --and provided him with counseling. He says, "Counseling was so vital. My life was in shambles. When you get in a shelter situation, you don't often find people who want to hear, [but] I felt a genuine caring situation when I was there. I was confident, I was relaxed, I was pushing the limits to apply myself. They gave me a belief in myself that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else."



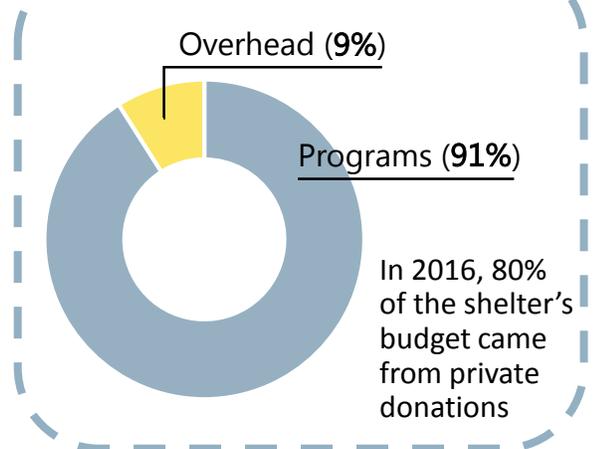
By the time the shelter closed for the season on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Clarence had rented an apartment in downtown Falls Church. He celebrated a year at his job (an auto parts shop) in September 2016, noting "I'm really proud of that because all my bills and expenses, I'm able to pay all of that. There's a reward in that feeling." We asked Clarence if he'd like to say anything to shelter supporters. He told us, "I could not have made it without their help. It was so cold where I was. The services of the warm place to stay, the hot soup, the counseling -being able to open up to somebody- were so vital. They saved my life by giving me that place to live for those four months."

## Small but Critical

In 2016, the shelter turned away people 133 times due to lack of space. Though the number of homeless people is on the decline in Falls Church/Fairfax overall (see graph below), many homeless still have nowhere to go. They need your help.



## FY2016 Expenditures



**"Thank you!"** -the Board



217 Gordon Road  
Falls Church, VA 22046



fcfriends



FriendsofFallsChurch  
HomelessShelter



fcshelter@gmail.com



fallschurchshelterfriends.org



703-854-1400