



Project HOPE New River Valley

Paddington: Homeless, Unaccompanied, yet Resilient

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Paddington Bear was recently featured in a full length film. It has been used to highlight some of the issues of homelessness. It brings to life the classic story of the sweet but troublesome bear who finds himself alone in a London train station with only the suitcase he carries. Paddington is found by the Brown family, sitting on his suitcase (bearing the label "Wanted on Voyage") with a note attached to his coat that reads, "Please look after this bear. Thank you."

You can use the book or the movie to discuss fears associated with homelessness. An animated version of the first story can be accessed at the following:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play?yit=A0LEViwSVcFUFOcAzDUnnlQ;ylu=X3oDMTB0ZjNuMHJ1BHNIYwNzYwRjb2xvA2JmMQR2dGika1lIUzAwM18x?p=paddington+bear&ttr=21&vid=C519E1057753821647CFC519E1057753821647CF&l=1172&url=http%3A%2F%2Fts3.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DUN.608042721008553642%26pid%3D15.1&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DukNDcJtjSIQ&sig=11blt6p6k&tt=b&tit=Paddington+Bear+-+Please+Look+After+this+Bear&sig=11d1roq1c&back=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.yahoo.com%2Fyhs%2Fsearch%3Fp%3Dpaddington%2Bbear%26ei%3DUTF-8%26hsimp%3Dyhs-001%26hspart%3Dmozilla&sigb=12ris4i48&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001>



Project HOPE NRV is a regional program for Homeless Education which includes the five school division in the New River Valley.

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New River Family Shelter Opens New Sites



Since 1989 New River Family Shelter (NRFS) has provided emergency housing to families with children. As the only scattered shelter program in the New River Valley, they offer a private, supportive environment for families to recover from a housing crisis. They also connect families

to local support programs to address the need for food, clothing, education, and employment.

In the fall two of the shelter's locations closed due to finances and repairs. In April a new location in Christiansburg opened, and the VonBora House in Blacksburg will open again after extensive repairs. A rededication ceremony is planned.

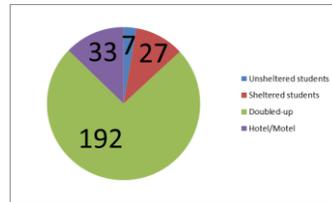
On April 11, a fund raising event, "Home Is Where the Heart Lives," will be held at Squires Student Center including dinner and entertainment.

To learn more about this valuable resource and the April event visit

<http://nrfamilyshelter.org/>



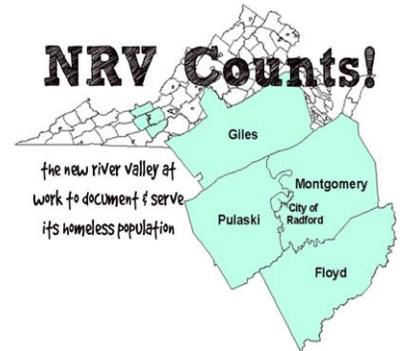
NRV Participates in the Homeless Point-In-Time Count



The Point-In-Time Count is a census of unduplicated homeless persons in sheltered and unsheltered locations throughout the state. It is conducted each year by

service providers and volunteers, and is coordinated through Virginia's 30 Continuum of Care (COC). The count is conducted each year as required by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

A total of 259 students were homeless in the NRV in the period of August 2014 through January 2015.



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Sports Illustrated Highlights the Plight of Homeless Athletes



Isaiah Lamb lives in a car with his parents and washes and studies in a neighborhood laundromat. Lawrence Mattison, 17, fights in a cage for the cash prize. Bobby Limon, 16, 6'2", high school

lineman, went from a 44" waist to 38" not because of a diet but because he did not always have food to eat. Tyritta Dixon, 18, endured homelessness and abuse since 8th grade and now tries to make a home in the home of relatives for herself and her daughter. These and other stories can be found in the Sports Illustrated article *Homeless Athletes: The Power of Sports and the Struggle to Survive* <http://www.si.com/longform/homeless/>

More than 100,000 students on U.S. youth, public school, and college athletic teams don't have a stable, adequate

place to live. Sports Illustrated goes inside the lives of three teen athletes struggling to overcome the hardships of homelessness. The video of these three athletes illustrates how athletes as well as non-athlete teen struggle to maintain their lives will still attending school.

Please view [Homeless Athletes: The Power of Sports and the Struggle to Survive](#).

This 12 ½ minute video would be an excellent stand-alone introduction into the world of homelessness for secondary school staff.

Professional Development Opportunity

Trauma in the Classroom: Minimizing Disruptions to Learning

Thursday, April 30, 2015 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST (please adjust for your time zone)

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4654896091279491842>

Description: In this webinar, NCHE staff will discuss the traumatic impact of homelessness on students and schools. While the content does provide an overview of trauma, it will also provide specific examples and strategies that can be used to shape interactions with students, parents, and even coworkers who have been exposed to trauma. Specifically, the topics explored will include:

- The definition of trauma and complex trauma;
- Who is impacted by trauma and how, including information on signs of exposure and triggers that can cause a "fight, flight, freeze" response;
- Trauma-informed organizations and strategies for schools; and
- Secondary trauma