



Project HOPE New River Valley

THIS ISSUE:

Housing First	1
Statistics	1
Scholarship	2
Poster	2
Webinars	2

“Housing First” Who is being served?

Housing First is the new model being supported by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to deal with the issue of homelessness for families and individuals. It is an alternative to a system of emergency shelter and transitional housing progression. Rather than moving homeless individuals through different levels of housing moving them closer to independent living, Housing First moves the individual or household immediately from the streets

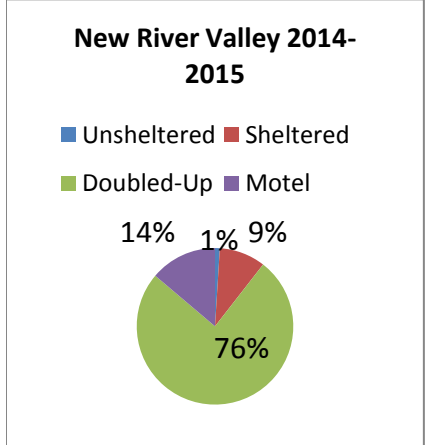
or homeless shelters into their own apartments. Remember that, according to HUD, families that are doubled-up or are paying for housing in hotels do not qualify under their definition as homeless. Locally Community Action administers the Rapid Rehousing dollars that are allocated for the purpose of housing individuals on the streets or in shelters. As the graphic below illustrates, that leaves most of the families served by Project Hope in

the lurch. This is a reminder how important it is that the school systems do what they can to keep students stable in their same school as families move from place to place couch hopping and attempting to scrape together resources for housing. If you would like to read more about the Housing First philosophy [Wikipedia](#) has a comprehensive description.

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

Contact Us:
 Aline Brinckman
abrinckman@mcps.org
 Regional Coordinator
 750 Imperial Street SE
 Christiansburg VA 24073
 Phone 540.382.5100 x1026
 Fax 540.394.4449

NRV School Districts Report 304 Total Homeless in ‘14-‘15



In the New River Valley in 2014-2015 there were 304 homeless children registered in the five school divisions. This figure is down from the 386 the previous year. We saw an increase in the number of children in motels totaling 42. This number was more than the 29 that were sheltered in the Women’s Resource Center and the New River Family Shelter together. Only three children were unsheltered, and 46 were unaccompanied. The children are tagged according to what their living situation was when first identified. A child might be in a motel and then double up with friends but their identification will remain “motel” since that was their first situation. A total of 230 children were doubled-up.



NRV Public School Homeless Liaisons:

Floyd County

John Wheeler
wheelerj@floyd.k12.va.us
 Office: 540-745-9400
 Fax: 540-745-9496
 140 Harris Hart Rd. NE
 Floyd, VA 24091

Giles County

Scott Meade
dmeade@gilesk12.org
 Office: 540-921-1421 x16
 Fax: 540-921-1424
 151 School Road
 Pearisburg, VA 24134

Montgomery County

Aline Brinckman
abrinckman@mcps.org
 Office: 540-382-5100
 x 1026
 Fax: 540-394-4449
 750 Imperial Street SE
 Christiansburg, VA 24073

Pulaski County

Jennifer Bartley, MSW
jbartley@pcva.us
 Office: 540-994-2558
 Fax: 540-994-2514
 202 N. Washington Ave.
 Pulaski, VA 24301

Radford City

David Sable
dsable@rcps.org
 Office: 540-731-3647
 Fax: 540-731-4419
 1612 Wadsworth Street
 Radford, VA 24141

Community Foundation and Project HOPE Collaborate to Develop a Scholarship for a Homeless Senior

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley and Project HOPE New River Valley will collaborate on a scholarship to be awarded to a senior from an NRV High School for the purpose of post secondary schooling. The scholarship will not be available this year but we are hoping that it will be available in an amount from \$500 to \$100 in the year 2017-2018. It will take \$15,000 to vest the scholarship. The scholarship may be used for vocational training, community college, or a 4 year college. Each applicant will be asked to fill out the regular scholarship application and answer one additional question about their homeless experience. The applications will be judged by

a panel selected by the Foundation. Donations may be made to the Community Foundation of the NRV at PO Box 6009, Christiansburg, Virginia 24072. Please put Project HOPE on the memo line.



NCHE Higher Education Poster

This 8½ x 11 color poster, alerts unaccompanied homeless youth to contact the relevant authorities if they believe they may qualify for independent student status on the FAFSA due to lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. [Download the poster in English.](#)



Professional Development Opportunity

Trauma in the Classroom: Minimizing Disruptions to Learning
 Monday, January 11, 2016 | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EST

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1968021730417207042>

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

Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 | 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM EST

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4879018347372736770>

Description: In this interactive webinar, presenters will review important information about supports available to homeless youth as they seek to attend college. Attendees can hope to gain a better understanding of:

- Fee waiver options for college entrance exam and college application fees
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process for both accompanied and unaccompanied homeless youth
- College Cost Reduction and Access Act provisions pertaining to unaccompanied homeless youth and the FAFSA
- Options for seeking financial assistance beyond federal financial aid
- Options for undocumented youth wishing to attend college

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with presenters and fellow attendees through interactive polls and discussion periods.

