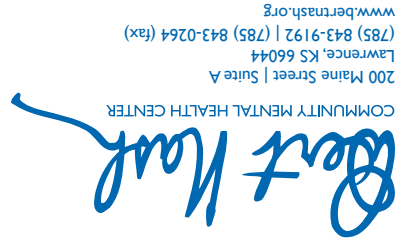


To successfully achieve this necessitates three overall realities. First, we must have adequate resources to support the outreach workers/service providers. Secondly, there must be appropriate material and social resources for those who are in a state of homelessness. And finally, the client must have the willingness to do what is necessary to actually utilize those resources as well as develop the practices and habits that get them off the streets and successfully living self-sustaining lives. The first two of these three requirements are entirely up to resource and service providers, i.e. providing the required social and material resources for those who have no resources at all. The last of the three is entirely up to those who we are trying to help. More often than not, however, it is a lack in the first two of these requirements that discourages and prohibits the third. It therefore behooves us to work harder on securing the first two so there is no excuse or barrier preventing or working against the third. It is our sincere belief that the community of Lawrence has the wealth of resources necessary to adequately provide the necessary resources for successfully fighting poverty by getting people off the streets and living self-sustaining and productive lives, but we have yet to fully mobilize or access them. We have taken large steps in this direction, but there are still steps to be taken.

Without continued funding, many of these homeless individuals and families will "remain in the cracks." If you feel the need to help, donations are welcome. Please contact the Community Development Office at (785)843-9192 and ask how you can make a donation to the Homeless Outreach Program.



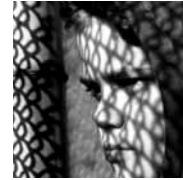
For more information
 please contact Team
 Leader RDS, Carla Helm
 (785) 830-1819

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OUTREACH TEAM



Homeless Outreach Program



Providing intensive & personalized support

The Homeless Outreach Program is a community based outreach team designed to seek out homeless individuals and families, assess their needs, provide support and/or facilitate access to necessary resources and services such as housing, employment, disability services, medical treatment, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, dental care, and other basic needs. Outreach workers provide one-on-one, face-to-face services for homeless individuals and families as well as collateral contacts with service/resource providers. The team is also available to support the staff of local shelters in assisting with crisis situations.

Since the inception of the team in 2006, community service agencies have verbalized a noticeable improvement in how effectively homeless individuals and families access services, keep appointments and follow through with service agency recommendations. These improvements have been attributed directly to the Outreach Team's supportive interactions with homeless individuals and families. The Outreach Team provides the necessary assessment, structure, support, and reminders to ensure a more accurate and efficient identification of appropriate services, and a more effective flow through service agency systems such as Lawrence Douglas County Housing Authority (LDCHA), Social Security and SRS, Health Care Access, DCCCA (Community Based Drug and Alcohol Services) and others.

In the first quarter of 2008, 1320 service contacts were made, culminating in over 844 hours of service provided. These efforts have resulted in decreasing duplication of services, and the repeated "starting from scratch" that many homeless individuals and families experience regularly.

A large portion of outreach work encompasses extensive and personalized support in employment and housing services. By building relationships with local employers and landlords, coordinating services with SRS and LDCHA back to work programs, the Outreach Team provides uniquely tailored employment and housing support. Once employment and housing have been obtained, Outreach Specialists continue to work with clients as needed to facilitate reliable transportation, establish and maintain good relationships with landlords, and provide or assist with identifying resources for emergency rent and/or utility support. Once the individual or family seems to be stably housed and achieving self-sufficiency, referrals to community agencies are made to assist clients in achieving non-housing/employment related goals. This distinctive, wrap around service significantly increases individuals' and families' potential to maintain self-sufficient living beyond the term of service with the Outreach Team.