



Emergency Shelters Update – April 2024

In the three and half years of our Emergency Shelters Program we have served 58 people. We've helped 14 people move on to independent housing, 8 are in supportive housing, and 16 are currently in our shelters. The remaining 20 people have either moved on of their own accord or we've made the difficult decision to ask them to move on because our program does not have the capacity to support their needs (e.g. mental illnesses, addictions, etc.) that require professional support.

Currently our program supports 25 shelters and their occupants, including outreach clients.

As the Emergency Shelters initiative has developed, we've honed our ability to support individuals effectively despite, at times, limited resources compared to other shelter programs. We've become adept at identifying those we can assist and maximize the use of available resources. Additionally, we've developed strategies for placing individuals into appropriate housing opportunities, leveraging our growing staffing capacity to enhance our impact. Furthermore, we prioritize referring individuals to supplementary resources tailored to their unique needs, ensuring comprehensive support throughout their journey. This is due to the hard work of our Shelters Coordinator in partnership with the countless dedicated parish volunteers who daily reassure our shelter occupants that they are valued, cared for, and loved.

A previous shelter occupant, Michael, lived in one of our shelters for almost two years. He was housed on August 1, 2023 and currently remains independently housed. He said of his experience:

Wow, it's so nice to land so soft and with so much care, love and patience. I have been treated like a father and mother should treat their son. You have been with me for almost 2 years, through your reach and support, I was able to get out of my car and out of the cold. I was able to slowly get back into a life. Your kindness and patience with a hurt beat person was timely. You were able to feed me, cloth me, and heal me.

The program gave me so much. A roof so I could rebuild my strength. You gave me love and rebuilt my trust in people. I was able to relax, so I could rebuild with out stress. Each step got me closer to this beautiful apartment.

Being able to not worry about money until you had strength to go look for a place. I was very lucky to have met all of you, my times with all my new friends helped save a tired man.

A lot of time, effort, and care by many people has made it possible for this initiative to accomplish what it has. It has enabled us to answer, all be it in a small but mighty way, the growing and ever changing needs of the housing crisis in our city. We are grateful for all involved who have made the program what it is and help us continue to support those in need.

If you would like to support the work of the Emergency Shelter program you can:

1. Donate! Visit www.halifaxyarmouth.org and click on Donate and select the Emergency Shelters Project.
2. Volunteer! If you belong to a parish that hosts a shelter check to see how you can help.
3. Partner! Do you know an organization that we could partner with to help support shelter occupants to take next steps in their journeys? Reach out to our Shelters Coordinator, Lindsay Misiner at lmisiner@halifaxyarmouth.org with possible leads.
4. Pray for all involved in our Emergency Shelter Program, that together we can help reassure each person of their dignity and worth.

For more information on our Emergency Shelters program visit:
www.halifaxyarmouth.org/shelters