

# Charlotte County Homeless Coalition

*On the move in 2010 to prevent hunger and homelessness!*

## 2010 Point in Time Homeless Survey

January 2010, the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition performed a one day snap shot of the annual Point in Time Homeless Survey (P.I.T) as required by State and Federal agencies. The PIT survey was conducted throughout the county by several agencies and reported to CCHC as the lead agency for data collection.

A comparative analysis, from 2009 and 2010, was performed by CCHC after the compilation of all data was completed. The overall analysis continued to show the increase of homelessness, families in distress, and the need for emergency shelter operations, such as the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition facility. The 2009 P.I.T reported 561 homeless persons, in one day, while 2010 accounted for 626 homeless persons, in one day.

A particular area of concern



Charlotte County Homeless Coalition Safe House

for CCHC is the growing number of homeless families with children, children 18 and under, in the county. A dramatic increase of 20% over 2009 reporting, was accounted for in the 2010 survey.

The analysis of the 2009 and 2010 reports produced a significant increase of 10.4% in persons reporting homeless-

ness and or financial distress in the county, based on the one day snap shot. Emergency shelter operations, at CCHC, reported an even larger increase of 46% of persons surveyed in need of immediate assistance.

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## Homelessness on the Rise, CCHC Shelter Responds

December of 2008 Charlotte County Homeless Coalition opened its doors to help provide shelter for those in desperate need. Since its opening the CCHC Shelter has provided shelter to 62 Families, 174 single females, and 401

single men, totaling 1098 persons sheltered.

Shelter operations have seen a increase of 4% over last years first quarter, as foreclosures and evictions continue to increase. In addition to beds, the shelter also provides a break-

fast and dinner 7 days a week. Meal service averages 55 persons for breakfast and 120 for dinners **daily**. The dining room serves both residents of the shelter and the homeless residing in the nearby woods.

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### *Special points of interest:*

- P.I.T Analysis 2009-2010
- CCHC Shelter Update
- Food Pantry Service
- Charlotte County Families
- Transitional Housing
- Charlotte County C3
- Executive Summary

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## 2010 Point in Time Homeless Survey, continued

There are some positives that are being reported this year. The summation of this report shows that greater preventative care is being directed toward veteran services to assist those that have served in our military. While having any veteran in "need" of services is not acceptable, the fact that county services are working diligently to resolve veterans matters more quickly is an important finding.

2010 P.I.T Survey one day snap shot also saw a decrease in persons with disabilities needing homelessness services. CCHC has worked with many local agencies to assist with the short and long-term care of

disabled persons throughout the county.

The survey showed a tremendous increase of females reporting a need for assistance in 2010, 28% over 2009, the homeless male population has decreased 4% from 2009. A larger majority of single persons, 13%, reported a need in 2010 verses the decline, 9%, of married persons requesting same or similar services. The trend of increasing clients identifying themselves as single is attributed to the rise in family breakups due to financial and other circumstances. There was also a noted increase in the need for additional food resources.



CCHC striving to assist our Homeless Veterans in Charlotte County.

## Charlotte County Agencies Work Together

It is our mission to end hunger and homelessness in Charlotte County, it is to that end county residents and agencies are working together. "The cooperative effort between the human service agencies in Charlotte County has been extraordinary", noted CCHC Executive Director Angela Hogan. The county's 2-1-1 directory of available human services and the ability to speak with a "real" person has helped the

residents of Charlotte County find necessary services during these difficult economic times.

Many agencies in the county have reached far beyond their office doors to assist residents with basic needs, means for gaining employment, re-training, and even support for their transportation requirements. It is our collective mission to help all residents

*"It is our mission to end hunger and homelessness in Charlotte County, it is to that end county residents and agencies are working together" - Angela Hogan Executive Director CCHC*

of Charlotte County not only stabilize, but improve their current living conditions.

## Food Pantry Service Continues to Grow

Not unlike the last few years 2010 opened with several areas of concern for Charlotte County; higher unemployment, the need for shelter, human services, and the need to feed the people of Charlotte County.

CCHC Food Pantry has responded to this need with a great 2010 Partnering Plan. First, was the creation of a better flow process on our food pantry day. Second, a simplified program of registering needy families has allowed us to increase the amount

of families served on a weekly basis. We now average 60 plus families per week. Third, is the greater commitments by our local vendor support network; Harry Chapin Food Bank, Publix Supermarkets, and the Knights of Columbus, to mention a few, have helped to provide more food and assist with stocking food for our daily hot meals. It is only through this type of support that Charlotte County Homeless Coalition can continue to persevere in these challenging economic times.



CCHC provides a breakfast and dinner 7 days a week. The Food Pantry serves an additional 60 plus families per week on average with a 3 supply of food.

## Charlotte County Families Staying Together in Tough Times

Throughout our community families face a multitude struggles everyday; how do we keep our home, how do we feed our family, how can we make sure our children receive a proper education, and how can we stick together in these tough times.

Many families have decided they can't stay together. More and more families are focusing on what it will take to make it through these tough times as a family. Spouses and or significant others are seeking part-time jobs in addition to a full-time job to keep the "roof" over the family. Parents and guardians alike are making sure their children are receiving a proper education and will be prepared for the new

job market when the economy turns around.

Even in a homeless situation many families are working hard to stay together. Shelters in Charlotte and Lee County now offer families the ability to be housed together in an emergency shelter. In many cases these "family units" are full waiting lists have been developed. The commonality amongst the shelters is that families are trying to work through this period with support from each other. Parents and children alike are striving to better the family as a whole, each contributing what they can, and continuously looking forward, to a better time.



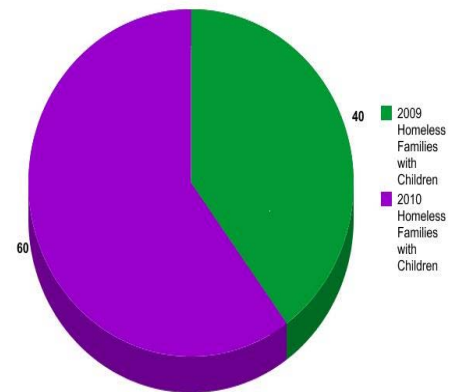
## Charlotte County Families Have Greater Needs in 2010

The 2010 Point in Time Survey revealed many areas of concern for Charlotte County residents, but one area was particularly alarming; the increase of 20% in homeless families with school aged children throughout the county.

A countywide network, established in 1999, referred to as the Charlotte County Collective or C3, is working diligently to provide solutions to this growing area of concern. In addition to housing homeless families with school aged children in the

county, the C3, has identified several areas of need; food, attendance in schools to include transportation to and from school, school supplies, school meal service, clothing, and countywide tracking/reporting of homeless families with school aged children.

With the continuing tough economic conditions, in the county, the C3 has prepared itself to assist the homeless families with school aged children of the county with a great number of programs.



## Transitional Housing Program Provided by CCHC

CCHC started a "Transitional Housing" program in 2006, offering homeless clients with 3 to 4 children an opportunity to rent a home. All homes have a private fenced yard for children to play.

The qualifications for potential residents have been relaxed slightly to ensure residents have this opportunity to step into these homes while in transition.

Residents are required to pay an afford-

able monthly rent and electric.

Since inception, the four homes, one of which is modified for persons with disabilities, have been used to move families from homelessness back into the community and into a stable environment.

The Transitional Homes are only a step for residents to use to get back on their feet, these homes serviced 24 residents in 2008-2009 and 33 in 2009-2010 thus far.



**One of four Transitional Homes owned and managed by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition**

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**CCHC provides food pantry service every Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.**



**Serving the needs of homeless families and individuals since 1989.**



**CCHC Executive Summary 2010**

As all of us who live in Southwest Florida know, 2009 was a whirlwind year of change and financial stress. Many of us have seen our friends and neighbors lose much of what they had worked for. Families who had once been donors and volunteers of the Coalition became clients. Just like all of us in our personal lives, the Coalition has had to tighten our belt and reassess our spending priorities. It is undeniable that the Homeless Coalition looks much different today than it did in previous years. We are strong and passionately committed to serving any-

one who comes to us in need. We have reaffirmed our dedication to treating every client with respect and dignity while always striving for client independence. The kind of culture change the Homeless Coalition went through last year is a testament to the strength of the character and compassion of our staff, Board of Directors, funders, United Way, County Government, and local businesses and volunteers. It was representatives from all these diverse groups and organizations in Charlotte County who came together and refused to give up in

the face of obstacles and tough decisions. Quietly this past summer, the Coalition celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With this benchmark came a clear understanding of the importance of our services to the most vulnerable members of our community. As we begin 2010, the Coalition is focused on finding permanent solutions to the challenges of preventing hunger and homelessness in Charlotte County. I invite you to join us and express my sincere admiration for those who already have.

*- Angela Hogan, Executive Director*

