



# Coalition on a Mission

a monthly newsletter of the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

**February 2016**

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## Principle into practice: finding a way home



Bruce has had his share of struggles. At 67 years old, he confesses to having been involved with "criminal elements" for the better part of his life. An admitted addict, Bruce often found himself living in and out of shelters, in motels, and sometimes on the street. He made money illegally through shoplifting and drugs because he felt like those were his only options. But two years ago, after another incarceration and subsequent homelessness, Bruce hit bottom and decided to seek help. "It was the first time in my life that I had been homeless that long," he explains, "I realized how much I had thrown away in the last 20 years."

Bruce came to us through SHC-NM's Crisis Housing Program. Upon release from jail, his case manager from Agave Health helped get Bruce into crisis housing and stabilized in a home. After 4 months in crisis housing, Bruce was able to secure permanent housing. And with all his supportive services in place, Bruce is learning how to cope with life differently. "I have a good case manager," states Bruce and, as he started to do everything he was asked to do, "it was almost seamless."

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"I found I was worth something." Bruce T.

### The 5 Principles of Housing First

1. Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
2. Consumer choice and self-determination
3. Recovery orientation
4. Individualized and client driven supports
5. Social and community integration

## Volunteers Needed!

Teach students about how to end homelessness



*Housing First is a nationally recognized "best practice" that moves people off the street into stable, affordable housing with supportive services to address mental health, substance abuse, and employment needs.*

SHC-NM is launching its innovative service-learning project, "Housing First! The Key is Housing" in February 2016 for Albuquerque public and private schools. The program is an advocacy and educational program piloted by SHC-NM that provides education to elementary, middle, and high school students about homelessness and the most effective intervention for preventing and reducing homelessness, Housing First. Using SHC-NM educational materials, students will learn about Housing First and have an opportunity to participate in a service project to benefit people experiencing homelessness. SHC-NM is currently seeking business sponsors, school partners, and volunteers.

For More Information:

Call: (505) 255-3643, ext. 1113 Email: jbear@thehousingcoalition.org

Please check our website for other volunteer opportunities!

[www.thehousingcoalition.org/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.thehousingcoalition.org/get-involved/volunteer/)



## Finding a way home continued from page 1

Bruce's story illustrates many of the principles of Housing First. Bruce was a former tenant of SHC-NM but was not successful in his initial attempt at permanent housing. When he returned several years later, he was able to do so without judgment. Because of the principles of Housing First, SHC and its partners were able to find a different strategy that gave Bruce another chance at being permanently housed. He was also able to determine which supportive services, if any, he would engage in to help him stay housed successfully.

Bruce now knows that one of the most important things he needs to do is create good boundaries. "I let people in my life that weren't good for me. And I would do without so they could have what I thought they needed. I wanted people to like me but all they did was take. I know now that if I don't take care of myself I can't take care of anything else." Bruce attends Narcotics Anonymous regularly, does a lot of reading, and stays in contact with his case manager and members of his church. "What I don't do is hide my missteps or the misfortunes I have had," says Bruce.

Now that he is permanently housed, Bruce has a lot of plans. "I have to be settled, take care of my medical issues, and possibly go back to school. What I have to be careful of is not to sabotage myself when things are going well. I had a lot of feelings of inadequacy. But with permanent, supportive housing I found I was worth something."

Your donation helps us end homelessness - permanently  
[www.thehousingcoalition.org](http://www.thehousingcoalition.org)

### Volunteer Opportunities at SHC-NM

*Do you want to give back to the community in a way that will contribute to ending homelessness permanently?*

*When you donate your time to SHC-NM you are part of the team dedicated to preventing and reducing homelessness for people with behavioral health issues in New Mexico.*

#### Opportunities Include:

- Service Learning Project
- SHC-NM Board of Directors
- Fundraising Committee
- Events Committee
- Community Building
- Property Improvement

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

##### Call:

505.255-3643 ext. 1113

##### Email:

[info@thehousingcoalition.org](mailto:info@thehousingcoalition.org)

##### Visit:

[www.thehousingcoalition.org/get-involved/](http://www.thehousingcoalition.org/get-involved/)

## 2015

by the numbers



## 20 Years

Housing First

Bringing people home since 1996

### Voucher Programs



Households in permanent housing



Households newly housed



Families newly housed



Success Rate (housed 1 year or more)

### SHC-NM Properties



Affordable Housing Units



Households newly housed



Families transitioned to permanent housing



Individuals got a new start with re-entry housing

## Welcome Karen Anderson!

Director of Property and Asset Management



SHC-NM is pleased to welcome Karen Anderson as Director of Property and Asset Management. Karen comes to us from the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority where she worked as a program manager. As director of Property and Asset Management, Karen oversees SHC's entire property portfolio and supervises Site Managers and Maintenance Technicians at each of our properties. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, Karen holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a minor in Communication. In her spare time, Karen loves to take long walks with her dog Petey and create beautiful paper craft artwork in a variety of mediums.