TRANSFORMING
LIVES & COMMUNITIES

2017
Our Mission
To offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless and low-income people.

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Our Philosophy
“A Hand Up, not a Handout.” As a private, non-profit organization, Homeless Solutions has been helping the homeless and working poor in our community since 1983. We are unique in what we do. It’s not just about providing a warm meal and a place to sleep. Our goal is to provide people with the tools and surroundings they need to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. What sets our non-profit apart from others is our Continuum of Housing through our Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing Program (THP), Mt. Kemble Home and Affordable Housing.

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A Message from the CEO and Board Chair
Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2017, we are struck by a theme of transformative change.

Certainly, life-changing impact is most evident in the number of men, women and children whose circumstances we help turn from hopeless to hopeful this past year.

Approximately 600 people received shelter and housing through our programs and services this year.
100% of the families that graduated from our Transitional Housing Program secured permanent, affordable housing.
Exit surveys of shelter guests showed that 83% were “highly optimistic” about their future after their time in our programs. Transformative, indeed!

Organizationally, we have not shied away from transforming how we do our work so that we can best address homelessness in our communities.

Affordable Housing: We delivered seven new apartments last year (9% increase in our portfolio) to have the strongest possible impact on our most vulnerable neighbors.

Staff Certification: We began a unique training program for a team of HSI staff to become certified alcohol and drug counselors. This training has already had a transformative impact in keeping our guests sober and working towards their goals. In our Safe Haven program for homeless individuals with a mental health diagnosis, where 75% of guests have a co-occurring drug or alcohol addiction, dismissals due to violations were decreased by 60% compared to the prior year. In fact, dismissals were down in three out of our four Shelter Programs thanks to new tools and a new approach to challenges around addiction.

New “Buddies” Mentoring Program: The concept emerged from front-line staff, who saw that, often, older children in our programs were being saddled with quasi-parental responsibilities to help the household, along with trying to cope with their own homeless trauma. Our volunteer mentors have reported such joy from the adventures they’ve had with the kids, that we’re not sure who is benefiting the most from the program. We have many more children who are eagerly seeking a “buddy”, and hope to triple the number of participating mentors in the coming year. Contact us if you are interested.

We often hear from our graduates how we have given them a “second chance at life”. This exemplifies the transformative experience at Homeless Solutions. This would not be possible without your support, encouragement, and dedication.

We are thankful for your ongoing commitment as we continue our fight against homelessness while transforming the lives of those in need in our community.

www.homelesssolutions.org | 3
CADC Training
New this year, Case Managers are becoming Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors (CADC). This allows staff to help guests upon entry rather than putting them on a waiting list to seek counseling. This training has reduced the number of substance abuse terminations and improved overall success rates.

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM
When families move out of THP, they have the option to enroll in our Family Supportive Housing Program, also known as the Outreach Program. This Program provides follow up Case Management Services for two-years following their exit. These families can continue to attend educational workshops and receive some additional support as needed. The goal of this program is to ensure that they remain housed and do not cycle back into homelessness. In 2017, 31 families received services through our Outreach Program including 34 adults and 52 children.

THE MAIN SHELTER
Our four Shelter Programs allow our guests in need of emergency shelter to transform their lives. The goal of each program is to prepare our guests to successfully return to independent living by providing a safe environment, Case Management services, and transportation. Our Case Managers work closely with each guest, providing job search assistance, counseling, connections to childcare and medical services, household budget planning, and housing assistance. In addition, guests participate in workshops on a range of important topics, including resume writing, financial planning, and parenting education. In 2017, in our main shelter we sheltered and served 279 people.

THE MT. KEMBLE HOME
The home was built over 190 years ago but became a residence for single, senior women with limited means in 1887. It became a perfect addition to Homeless Solutions’ Programs in 2013. After a recent 2-year renovation, 22 senior women now call it home. Each morning they go downstairs to their shared kitchen and prepare a meal of their choosing. They enjoy conversation, doing crafts, or playing games in the common area. When the weather permits they spend time relaxing on the grand front porch. Volunteers are there regularly to visit and provide entertainment. Our Senior Residential Support Staff member is there to provide 24-hour supervision, ensuring the residents’ safety.

100% of the families that graduated the program in 2017 successfully moved to permanent housing.
My Success Story

I was afraid I was going to end up dead. I had no other choice but to take my kids and flee the abusive life we were living. We moved in with my mother. Four people living in a one-bedroom apartment was not ideal. Ultimately, the stress of our circumstance became too much for my mother and she literally kicked us out the door. I was a single mother with a 9-year-old and a baby with nowhere to go.

I was desperate to find a place to live that I could afford. When I opened the mail to my 7th housing rejection letter, I felt so defeated. I had a steady job as a Medical Assistant but couldn’t afford to live in Morris County. I needed help.

My life was forever changed after finding Homeless Solutions. When we arrived at the Transitional Housing Program (THP), things fell into place. We worked on a plan for me to reach my goals - repair my credit, save money and find housing. It was hard work but the staff always took the time to listen and give me the support and encouragement I needed.

During my time at THP, I accomplished my goals. It would not have been possible without things like the one-on-one financial coaching and the scholarship I received towards childcare. This relieved so much stress and allowed me to save a significant amount of money. I also made a career change while at THP. The resume workshop was a big help. I now have a higher paying job as a Corrections Officer and dream of being a Detective one day.

I am so grateful to the volunteers and donors. Especially during the holidays. I couldn’t believe I was given a turkey and a basket filled with all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving dinner. And, they even managed to find my daughter the sold-out book she wanted for Christmas. I was overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers.

Today I sit anxious, yet excited, about leaving the program. I learned so much and I’m ready to move on and make our new apartment a home of our own.

Note: Homeless Solutions respects everyone who comes to us for help and many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while this story is true, the names have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.
Our Events
Joining together to Transform the Lives in our Community

THE DREAM BUILDERS’ BASH

It was another sold-out event with 375 local residents gathered to raise $320,000, an all-time high for our Shelter and Housing Programs. Attendees enjoyed an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, a wine pull, a raffle, silent & live auctions. They heard from our program graduate Jillian. She shared her journey of being raised in a loving, affluent, home, earning a college degree, being a teacher and getting married but falling on hard times due to an untimely combination of a job loss and medical problems. Their lives were transformed by our program and they shared their gratitude.

GRAN FONDO NJ

The Gran Fondo NJ is a 2,200 person bike ride with five scenic routes through Morris County. Homeless Solutions has been a beneficiary since the ride’s inaugural year in 2011 with one of the ride’s largest teams, “Riding for Homes.” The team has grown from three to 75 riders including four Board Members and five HSI staff members. This year our team raised over $60,000 for our newest affordable home on Walnut Street in Morristown. The team enjoyed their perks including our signature jersey, welcome happy hour, pre-ride pasta party and award ceremony.

WOMEN’S DAY

Our 10th Annual Women’s Day was held at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone. Attendees selected a morning activity of Golf, Yoga, Pilates, a Boxing Circuit, The Bar Method, 5K Run, or a Power Walk. Activities were followed by mimosas and mingling, services from Depasquale the Spa, a ticket auction and champagne pull. Attendees were moved by the video highlighting the success of an HSI guest and her life transformation thanks to our program. The event surpassed last year and raised over $68,000.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

HSI’s Young Professionals are a group of community-minded individuals under 40 who live or work in Morris County. The group hosts networking and fundraising events throughout the year. For Thanksgiving, they provided 36 families baskets including the trimmings for a Thanksgiving meal, turkey and all! And, our shelter guests appreciated the gift cards the young professionals donated at our ‘Party with a Purpose’ for the holidays.
Our Volunteers... Helping to Transform Lives

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Over 550 volunteers work tirelessly across Homeless Solutions taking part in everything from cooking at the shelter to stuffing letters for mailings, being mentors, hosting birthday parties, leading educational workshops, joining event committees, painting, planting flowers and even being cheerleaders for our Gran Fondo Team.

Served 39,390 breakfasts and dinners at the shelter.

Led 36 workshops for our Shelter guests and Transitional Housing Program participants.

Donated 844 holiday gifts for our Shelter guests, Transitional Housing Program participants, Mt. Kemble Home Residents, and Outreach Families.

Hosted 48 “Fun & Games” Night, for our children.

Gran Fondo volunteers biked over 3,000 miles and the team raised over $60,000.

When asked what she wanted to do with the money she made from her lemonade stand, 5-year old Delaney said, "I want to have a birthday party for kids who don’t have a home". She did not have a homeless shelter near her and drove almost 2 hours to throw a great birthday party for our shelter children.

“Socks in a Box” is what 10-year old Faith calls her volunteer project. She collects socks for the homeless in the Township of Roxbury and surrounding areas. Faith collected and donated over three hundred pairs of socks for the guests in our shelter.

The Chatham High School “Homeless Solutions Club” was formed 2 years ago. They host birthday parties and spring celebrations, serve as monthly babysitters, prep & serve lunch, assist with art projects with the children and organize donation drives.

Contact TamalaReynolds@hsinj.org to learn more about volunteering.

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Thank you for helping to transform so many lives in 2017
Homeless Solutions’ supporters are vital to the success of our programs and services.

Other Ways to Get Involved
✔ Cook & serve a meal at the shelter
✔ Organize a Food Drive for our pantry
✔ Organize a Clothing Drive
✔ Become a Mentor for our Buddies Program
✔ Lead an Education Workshop
✔ Join one of our Special Events Committees
✔ Be a Sponsor and support our events
✔ Join our Young Professional Group
✔ Be donor and give a “hand up” to those in need in our community

Contact Chief Development Officer Stephanie Cicale at stephaniecicale@hsinj.org to learn more.
Funding for Morristown Project

Housing Trust Fund, and Somerset Hills Bank.

Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency's Special Needs

being provided by the Morris County HOME program, the New

move into their homes early in 2013. Additional financing is

Morristown. We are hopeful our new tenants will be able to

is located at a bus stop, and is in walking distance to downtown

Additionally, the property is around the corner from a park,

• low VOC or no VOC paints and sealants
• formaldehyde-free countertops, cabinets and vanities,
• bamboo or linoleum flooring
• Hardi Plank siding
• photovoltaics and solar hot water
• low-flow water fixtures and toilets
• insulated concrete forms with fly ash and local aggregate
• high-efficiency fiberglass windows,

the tenants. These include:

healthier living environment and to reduce utility expenses for HSI and

The six apartments incorporate many “green” features to provide a

Friend of much-needed affordable housing in our area,” said Stewart E.

Inc. and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York in the develop-

“Somerset Hills Bank is excited to participate with Homeless Solutions,

from homelessness. Somerset Hills Bank, a member of the Federal

friendly apartments for low-income households to avoid or emerge

tal funding to help finance our development at 81 MLK Avenue in

Federal Home Loan Bank of New York awarded $120,000 in capi-

Homeless Solutions is thrilled to share the news that in October the

initiative created to formally thank and update our most gener-

Giving Circle members

Leadership Giving Circle Advisors including

introduced several

Guests enjoyed the chance to visit Furnishing Solutions and

donations (contributions of $1,000 or more annually).

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Our Mission:

To offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless

children and low-income people.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Breaking Through Homelessness

“...What impressed us the most is their motto, a hand up, not a handout. This goes along with what we teach our children here. To empower themselves and work towards their goals.

- Master Jae Hyeon Jo

Chief Instructor & Founder
Elite TOMA Martial Arts Academy of Randolph