

Our History

Shelter House came into being in 1981 as a grassroots responder to the homelessness crisis in Fairfax County. Community volunteers from several ecumenical groups joined together to help address the needs of their homeless neighbors. They started by providing direct, emergency assistance – items such as food, blankets, and warm clothing were distributed from the trunks of their cars.

The tragic hypothermia death of a homeless man on Christmas Day in 1983 in the Bailey's Crossroads area galvanized the community to do even more. Churches opened winter shelters, and Shelter House volunteers and others advocated to Fairfax County Government to devote more public resources to the homeless.

As a result of this advocacy, Shelter House secured a County contract in 1985 to open one of the first homeless shelters in Fairfax County. Over the last 40+ years, Shelter House has continued to expand to meet the needs of the Northern Virginia community.

In April of 2020, Shelter House opened Fairfax County's first Quarantine, Protection, Isolation, and Decompression (QPID) shelter in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comprised of over 210 beds, this shelter served individuals experiencing homelessness or unstable housing who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, were exposed to the virus, or who were at high-risk for negative outcomes due to age or medical condition. This shelter played a critical role in the community's response to COVID-19 and closed in March of 2022 after serving nearly 900 individuals.

In February of 2022, Shelter House expanded into Loudoun County in order to meet the needs of Loudoun's most vulnerable residents. Through this expansion, Shelter House has established itself as a premier regional provider of homeless services and evidence-based housing solutions.

In January of 2023, Shelter House merged with Family PASS, an organization that provided critical supportive services to families at-risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. Now as a program of Shelter House, Family PASS will continue to provide families with a path to economic self-sufficiency.

Our Approach

Shelter House's **mission** is to prevent and end homelessness and domestic violence by engaging the community, building effective relationships and providing crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services. We envision a community free of homelessness and domestic violence where everyone has an equal opportunity.

Our team stays up to date on the latest methodologies to help stop the cycle of homelessness and domestic violence. One such example is the implementation of Rapid Re-housing. Rapid Re-housing is the provision of housing location support, rental assistance, and intensive case management services to help those experiencing homelessness return to housing as quickly as possible. When we initiated this approach in our community, it helped us reduce the length of stay in our shelters by 55% and allowed us to serve more families per year.

Our Impact

Last year Shelter House served 3,455 individuals - half of whom were children. Across all programs, Shelter House moved 63% of households into permanent housing.

501(C)(3)



Community-Based
Non-Profit
Organization

Founded in

1981



Fairfax and
Loudoun
Communities



Neighbors
Experiencing
Homelessness and
Victims of Domestic
Violence.



\$15+M

Annual Operating
Budget

Diversion Services

Through a partnership with Fairfax County Government and Community Solutions, Shelter House provides diversion services to help single individuals find a safe alternative to homelessness. Through this pilot program, single individuals seeking shelter receive time-limited, solution focused support and, when needed, flexible financial assistance to help them avoid shelter.

Prevention Services

Shelter House provides prevention services to families at risk of homelessness in half the service regions in Fairfax County. The crisis intervention and supportive services provided help families that meet the eligibility criteria to stabilize in housing and avoid homelessness altogether.

Emergency Shelters

> Patrick Henry Family Shelter (PHFS)

PHFS is Shelter House's charter program and has been operated by the organization under contract with Fairfax County since 1985. This apartment-style shelter in Falls Church serves 9 large homeless families (those with 5+ members) at a time and has 42-beds.

> Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter (KHFS)

KHFS opened in 2007 and was the first emergency shelter in Fairfax County to adopt a rapid re-housing approach — an approach that was so successful, it has since been incorporated into all emergency shelters in Fairfax County. Located in Fairfax, this 62-bed program has the capacity to serve 24 families at a time.

> Artemis House (AH)

AH is Fairfax County's only 24-hour emergency shelter program serving victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking. This 83-bed program consists of two 24-hour locations, AH Region 1 and AH Region 3. Both locations provide comprehensive services which help survivors (with and without children) to safely flee and stabilize after their traumatic experiences before transitioning to safe housing away from their abusive partner.

> Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC)

In February of 2022, Shelter House assumed operation of the LHSC. The LHSC provides 24-hour emergency shelter for individuals and families, in addition to offering a Drop-In Day Program for adults experiencing homelessness. During the winter months, the LHSC also provides Hypothermia shelter for adults experiencing homelessness.

Domestic Violence & Supportive Housing

> Prevention Services

Domestic Violence Prevention Services are designed to help victims of domestic violence who wish to flee but are not able to enter emergency shelter by providing flexible financial assistance and mobile advocacy services to help them obtain safe, affordable housing without ever becoming homeless. This program serves 60 households annually.

> Domestic Violence Rapid Re-housing

Shelter House's Domestic Violence Rapid Re-housing program serves victims of domestic violence exiting emergency shelter by providing housing location support, financial assistance, and case management services geared towards safety and housing stability. This program serves approximately 70 households annually.

Permanent Supportive & Affordable Housing

> RISE & Kate's Place

Shelter House's permanent supportive housing programs, comprised of 38 units, end family homelessness by providing a stable, supportive environment to homeless families who have experienced chronic homelessness.

> Offsite & NOVACO

These programs offer permanent, affordable housing below fair market rate to a total of 10 formerly homeless families.

Family Preservation and Strengthening Services (Family PASS)

In January of 2023, Family PASS became a program of Shelter House. Since 2006, Family PASS has provided critical support services to working families at risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. As a program of Shelter House, Family PASS will continue to provide families with a path to economic self-sufficiency through intensive case management and comprehensive support services.

About Us

Shelter House, Inc. is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence in our community. All of our shelters use a rapid re-housing approach, which is the provision of housing location support, rental assistance, and intensive case management services to help those experiencing homelessness return to housing as quickly as possible. Our dedicated staff is committed to providing life-changing and sustainable housing solutions by empowering those we serve to become self-sufficient and safe. To learn more or to join our team, visit our website: www.shelterhouse.org.