



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Greater Cleveland

Y-HAVEN PROGRESS REPORT

The Y-Haven Program assists homeless men, 18 years and older, to become self-sufficient, free from drugs and alcohol and achieve permanent housing. Multiple issues, in addition to homelessness, plague the men who come to Y-Haven.

Chemical dependency issues, mental illness and dual diagnosis (chemical dependency and mental illness), combine with poverty, lack of vocational skills and family estrangement leave the residents who come to Y-Haven with little hope for a brighter tomorrow. Y-Haven provides transitional housing, recovery services, treatment for mental illness, educational training, vocational services and assistance with permanent housing placement. Y-Haven operates two programs in the city of Cleveland with the capacity to serve 133 homeless men.

While many residents are self referred, most of the referrals are provided from the Men's Mass Shelter located at 2100 Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. More than 3,000 men have turned to Y-Haven for help since it first opened. In addition, over 60 percent of those who complete the two-year program successfully live drug and alcohol free in permanent housing.

Y-Haven's foremost mission is to house the city and county's homeless male population. To that end, we work closely with the mass men's shelter at 2100 Lakeside to ameliorate the number of men in emergency shelter and to stop the cycle of men returning to the street. In 2009, Y-Haven housed and delivered services to 264 men. Last year, 159 men entered Y-Haven's residential substance

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Y-HAVEN

PROGRESS REPORT

abuse program and an astounding 86% graduated from the 90-day Primary Treatment Phase. One hundred percent of those with a mental health diagnosis or dual diagnosis received voluntary mental health treatment within one month. Of the 159 residents, 142 (91%) increased their employment readiness skills and income. Lastly, there were 113 men who secured permanent housing (through family reunification, home ownership, subsidized housing, etc.).

The “average” Y-Haven resident is male, 37.5 years old and has a seventh grade education. Approximately 99 percent of homeless clients served are alcohol or chemically dependent. Nearly 40 percent of clients have a history of mental illness. The racial composition of the residents includes: 61% African American, 35% Caucasian, 4% are Hispanic or “other”. All clients must be homeless and 18 years or older.

Y-Haven is a member of the Office of Homeless Services Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care, which coordinates resources to ensure there is no gap or overlay in services to the homeless in Cleveland. In addition, Y-Haven is certified as a residential treatment center and operates under the guidelines of several agencies (including the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], the Ohio Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Addition Services [ODADAS], the Ohio Dept. of Development [ODOD] and the Veterans Administration [VA] that assure quality programming and best practice implementation through various types of review and program audits. Y-Haven has demonstrated, over a fourteen year period, a level of excellence that has set the standard for men’s transitional housing in Northeast Ohio. The program has received HUD’s Award of Excellence and HUD’s Outstanding Performance Award in recognition of innovative use of Community Development Block Grant funds.

All programs are located at the Carl B. Stokes Social Service Mall located at 6001 Woodland Avenue in Cleveland. Clients have accessibility to public transportation, health care assistance and educational/vocational programs.

Green Team

After determining that there were multiple obstacles to employment for the homeless, Y-Haven created their own job training and placement program. The program addresses these barriers by offering participants the necessary



training and work experience that will allow them the opportunity to develop long-term, transferable skills, a consistent work history and economic self-sufficiency.

Y-Haven’s Green Team Custodial Program celebrated its fourth year in 2010 with 40 men and women successfully graduating from the program. Since its inception, there have been 16 (ten-week) class sessions held and 156 graduates. The graduates, all of whom obtained recognized industry certified credentials, have enjoyed an 82 percent job placement rate. The YMCA is proud to be one of the major employers of the graduates.

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Y-HAVEN

PROGRESS REPORT

The Green Team Program is accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), which assists service providers in improving the quality of services, demonstrating value, and meeting internationally recognized, organizational and program standards.

Open Door Program

The Open Door Program is a new program managed by the YMCA of Greater Cleveland's Y-Haven Program. Open Door offers formerly incarcerated individual's comprehensive case management, transitional housing and permanent housing placement with CMHA.

Through the residents' participation in the program, they will gain the necessary skills that will aide in ameliorating antisocial attitudes and behavior. Homeless men who are at least 18 years old and have been released from a correctional institution within the last 24 months are eligible for our program.

Clients must have received a minimum of three months of core services (i.e. a wrap/treatment plan, active engagement with a case manager, etc.) prior to being referred to the program and must continue to receive case management wraparound services from the referring agency throughout the duration of their stay at Open Door.

The creation of the Open Door Program exemplifies a distinct partnership with Center for Families and Children, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, the YMCA of Greater Cleveland (Y-Haven Program) and Cuyahoga County Office of Re-entry. The program began the last week in November of 2010 and served seven new clients last year.

