



October 2023

An Addendum to the Greenville Homeless Alliance
2021 Report on Homelessness

Living with untreated schizophrenia left Christopher in survival mode. He faced a daily mental battle as he struggled to distinguish between what was real and what was only in his head. His loneliness left a pit in his already empty stomach. During the day, he searched through trash cans for food. At night, he curled up under the Hampton Station Bridge until he drifted off into a fitful sleep.

For individuals like Christopher who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, there is no safety, no stability, no place to exist without unrelenting exposure to the outside world.

Despite the many great things our community has to offer, Greenville County is not immune to the heartbreaking realities of homelessness. **The rising number of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness cannot be ignored.** In 2022, at least 4,136 men, women, and children experienced homelessness in Greenville County. Although 126 individuals were counted as experiencing unsheltered homelessness during the 2022 Point in Time Count for Greenville County, local outreach professionals estimate that number is drastically underreported. For example, Place of Hope, the day shelter operated by United Ministries, had 894 visits in 2022.

“I share my life’s journey with family members, friends, and co-workers who live with addiction and mental illness. We all do.

If we listen closely, they help us understand how difficult it is to find what they need amid the chaos of their day-to-day existence and the unpredictable challenges that persist in a life of addiction, mental illness, and sometimes both.

I want to be a part of a community where compassion is our compass, one that embraces diversity and provides resources to community members living with addiction and mental illness. I want to live in a place where we build a network of support that is available and accessible to everyone in need.”

Mary Anne McLendon
Community Member

**HOMELESSNESS IN
GREENVILLE COUNTY**

At least **4,136** men, women, and children experienced homelessness in Greenville County in 2022-23.

**EMERGENCY
SHELTERED**
Over 12 months

2,381

UNSHELTERED
One night

126

**SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN**
Full school year

1,629

Data from Upstate Continuum of Care 2023 State of Homelessness Report, 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, and Greenville County School District McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Count 2022-23.

The Greenville Homeless Alliance was founded on the belief that through collective action, homelessness is solvable. We exist to find sustainable solutions to homelessness through education, advocacy, collaboration, and innovation so that everyone in Greenville County has a safe, affordable place to call home.

The purpose of this brief is to offer insight into unsheltered homelessness, its causes, and the current solutions being employed to mitigate its effects. Our intent is for this information to lay the groundwork for discussions about solutions to end unsheltered homelessness in our community.

[Link](#) to Christopher’s Story of Hope



WHAT IS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

Homelessness does not describe who someone is, but an experience someone is going through. Unsheltered homelessness refers to a situation in which an individual is sleeping in a car, under a bridge, or in a place not meant for human habitation. Often referred to as invisible or unseen, this subpopulation represents the most visible form of homelessness for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

When an individual is unhoused, they are deprived of fundamental needs. Without housing, their health, safety, and overall well-being are under constant threat. In addition, there is an increase in exposure to extreme weather and physical attacks. Their vulnerabilities are exacerbated by a lack of access to necessities such as food, transportation, and adequate healthcare. They face not only the physical hardship from lack of basic necessities but also the mental hardship of isolation and the stigma of homelessness.

POINT IN TIME COUNT

The [Point in Time \(PIT\) Count](#) is an annual survey to count the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. It is conducted across the nation by the Continuums of Care (CoC) on behalf of the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#). The data gathered helps community leaders and organizations make informed decisions on strategies to alleviate homelessness. Greenville County is one of the 13 counties represented by the [Upstate Continuum of Care](#).



Photo of frontline providers who gathered to participate in the 2022 PIT Count.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronic homelessness describes a person who has experienced homelessness for at least a year, and often longer, while challenged with a disabling condition such as a serious persistent mental illness, a physical disability, and/or a developmental disability. While some men and women experiencing chronic homelessness spend time in emergency shelters, most live unsheltered.

Those experiencing chronic homelessness often make up less than 30% of a community's homeless population¹ yet rely heavily on community services. This group often faces the highest barriers to housing.

Outreach and engagement to help this population enter emergency shelters — and connect to housing — are important for safety and health. It can also help pave the way to permanent supportive housing (PSH), a proven solution to chronic homelessness. PSH has been shown to help people experiencing chronic homelessness achieve long-term housing stability and improve their health and well-being.

HOW DOES UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY?

Homelessness affects all of us. Without the stability of secure housing, individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness use community services like hospital emergency health care services and the criminal justice system to a greater extent than stably housed community members.

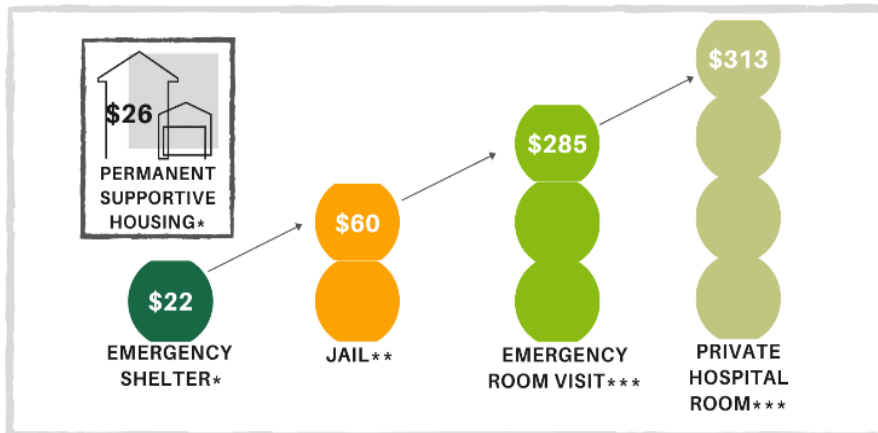
According to a [2017 study conducted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness](#), a person experiencing chronic homelessness costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,578 per year. When individuals experiencing chronic homelessness are connected to supportive housing, the cost for taxpayers is reduced by nearly 50 percent.² Supportive housing is defined as a stable, safe place to live with support services going forward.

“Homelessness isn’t someone else’s issue, it is our issue.”

Brandon Cook
Senior Medical Respite Manager
National Health Care of the Homeless Council
GHA Steering Committee Chair

Average Daily Public Cost Per Person

within Greenville County



*Data provided by Upstate CoC Gaps Analysis & Systems Report

**Data Provided By the Greenville County Detention Center

***Data Provided By Bon Secours St. Francis Health System

When you examine the average daily cost per person to the community, emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing are both better for the individual and more cost effective for the community.

A community committed to the well-being of all its residents protects the most basic right to life and supports fundamental rights such as adequate food, clothing, housing, and living conditions, access to physical and mental healthcare, and protection from discrimination of any kind.³ **When we end homelessness, it benefits all of us.**

“We have a strong interest as a community in combating homelessness because of the tragedy of human suffering, the effects on innocent children, and the accumulative cost to our society.”

Butch Kirven
2019 Greenville County Council Chairman at
2019 Report on Homelessness in Greenville County Press Conference

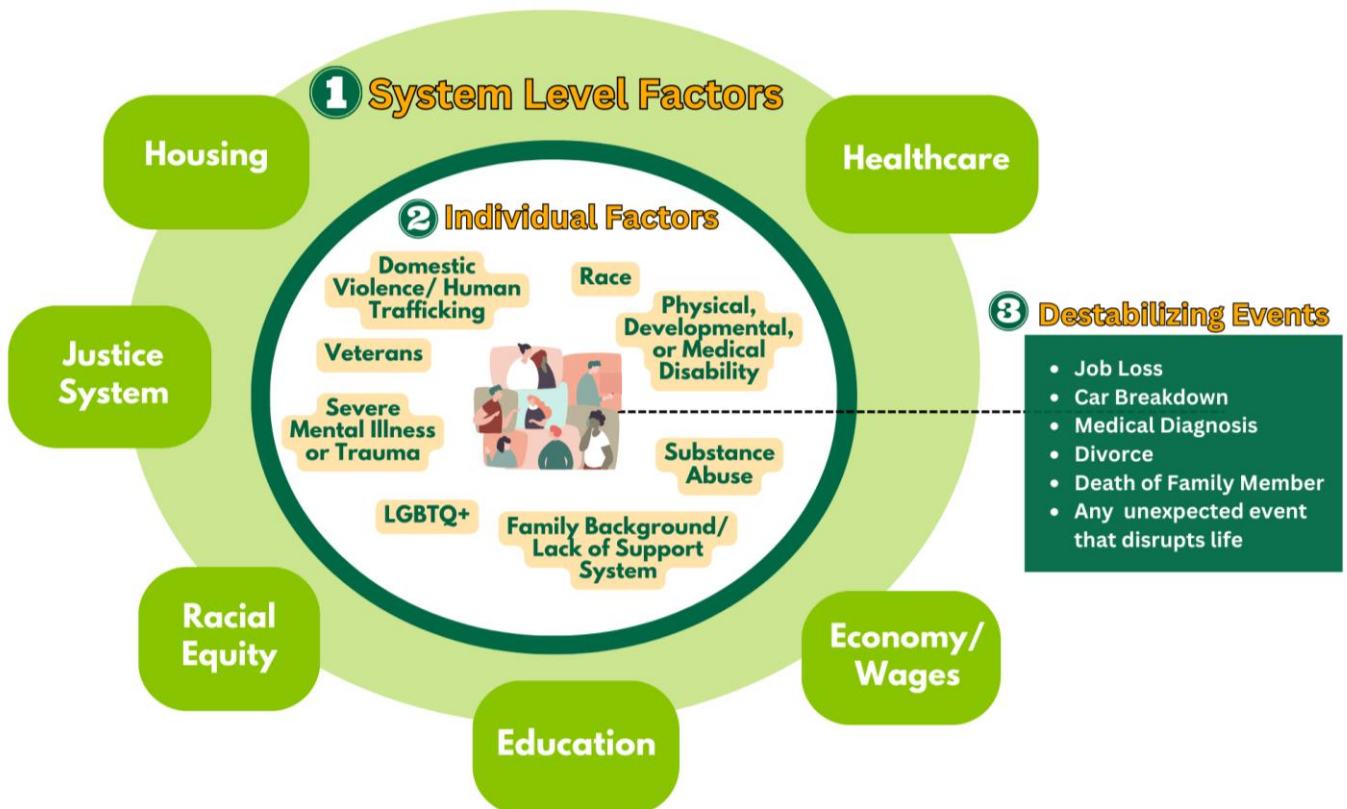
WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

The belief that unsheltered homelessness is solely attributable to mental health, substance use, or laziness is a misconception.

Unsheltered homelessness is a product of

- 1) System level factors - conditions or barriers at the system level that create disparities,
- 2) Individual factors or risk factors that increase vulnerability at the personal level, and
- 3) Destabilizing events that can launch an individual into the experience of homelessness.

The dynamic relationship between these three factors is the reason it is difficult to point to one primary cause of homelessness.



WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

1 System-Level Factors

Systems can propel a community forward or hold it back as their structures often benefit some and create disparities for others. GHA focuses its work on the systems that impact homelessness, recognizing that system level failures like racial inequity and affordable housing create disparities that can lead to the experience of homelessness.

HOUSING

One system level example that is negatively affecting our community is housing. Greenville does not have enough low-cost housing options available to meet demand. In 2006, Greenville County had 800 affordable homes available at an affordable rent range of \$200 to \$650 per month. By 2016, there was a deficit of 2,500 homes. Today, there are 32,000 households in Greenville County living in housing that is not considered affordable.⁴

In addition to the deficit in affordable housing, not all incomes have kept pace with the rising cost of housing in Greenville County. Many individuals experiencing homelessness, especially the chronically homeless, live on a fixed income, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). The average fixed SSI payment in South Carolina in 2023 is \$914 per month or \$10,968 annually. Based on that income, an affordable rent rate would be \$274 per month.⁵

“Trying to find housing for a client when there is no affordable housing available **has made my job impossible**. The alternatives also feel like dead ends, as there are rarely open beds at boarding houses or emergency shelters, and even motels are becoming full now too. The closest place I could find housing for one of my clients was at a communal living space in North Carolina!

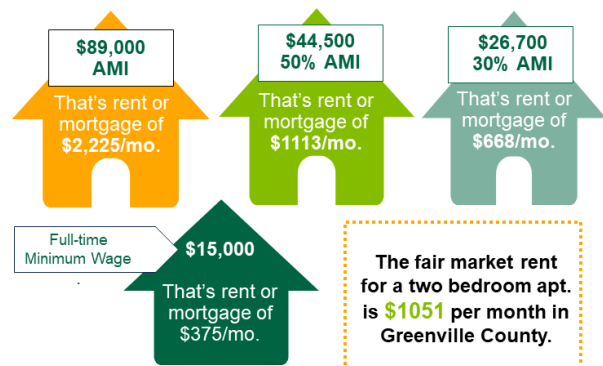
We cannot ignore the affordable housing crisis anymore.”

Emily Kodat
Crisis Ministry Coordinator
Buncombe Street Methodist Church
Educate Working Group Member

Housing is considered affordable if a household spends no more than 30% of their income to live there. At the center of the definition of affordable housing is Area Median Income (AMI). AMI is defined as the midpoint of a specific area’s income distribution and is calculated on an annual basis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). AMI is used to determine the federal government-calculated income limits for affordable housing programs. The AMI for Greenville County for 2023 is \$89,000 for a four-person household.⁶

What is Affordable Housing?

Spending no more than **30%** of income on rent and utilities. So, if you make...

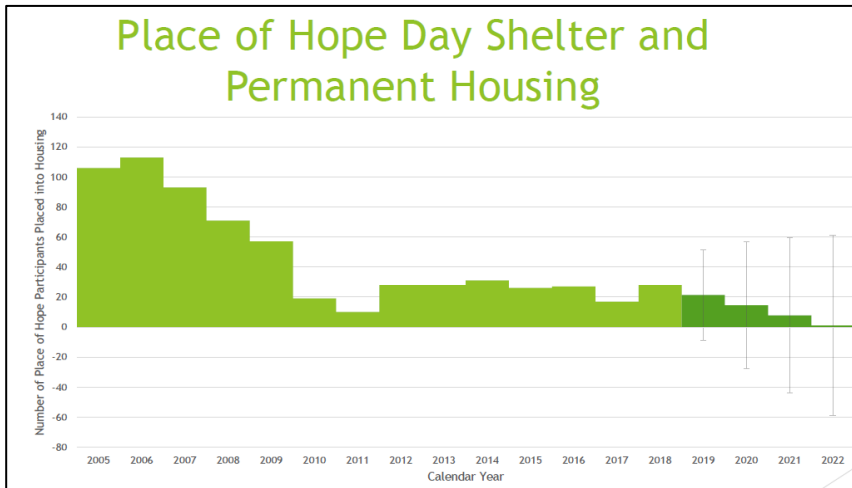


Source: <https://mlihc.org/oor/state/sc>

WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

HOUSING (cont.)

This graph illustrates the substantial decline in the number of successful housing placements at United Ministries' Place of Hope's day shelter program from 2005 to 2022.



Frontline service providers attribute the decrease in housing to increases in rent to match market value, increases in evictions, lack of funds, and fewer housing providers willing to accept housing stabilization funds like Housing Choice or Project Based Vouchers. These resources, which are issued by HUD, provide financial assistance that keeps the tenant from paying more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities.

The economy, land availability, the cost of building, the cost of housing, and many other system level factors combine to make exiting homelessness difficult. Current Upstate CoC data identifies only 6 available housing options per month across the entire Upstate. When a community has no affordable housing options for those living with a fixed income, their system has failed. Our community needs an abundance of housing that is affordable for everyone: from CEOs, newcomers, and teachers to entrepreneurs, hospitality workers, and those experiencing homelessness.

Without adequate housing, individuals turn to emergency shelters to find temporary housing. However, Greenville County has 450 emergency shelter beds and almost all are full on any given night.

A newcomer's response to this issue is often: "More emergency shelters, more beds!" At best, these are necessary stopgaps. At worst, they prolong the time an individual experiences homelessness, and without housing options, men, women, and children living in emergency shelters have nowhere to go. Emergency shelters should operate like emergency rooms, a temporary place to meet a crisis need.

"In the last 10 years, we went from 30 to 50 properties offering housing for under \$400, and now we're lucky to find one housing property renting for \$550 per month. Before we were also able to use housing vouchers to stabilize a participant's rent, but now housing providers rarely accept vouchers. We need to implement new solutions because old methods are clearly not working."

Nick Bush
Program Manager of Place of Hope
GHA Steering Committee

Why those experiencing unsheltered homelessness may choose not to go to an Emergency Shelter:

- A couple may be unwilling to separate to access single-gender shelters.
- They may have pets.
- They may have institutional "hangovers" from time spent in prison or psychiatric hospitals.
- They may have mental health disorders that prevent living in congregate settings with others.
- Adults age 55 and older may need more handicap accessible accommodations. ⁷

WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

HEALTH

Another system level factor that contributes to unsheltered homelessness is access to healthcare. Health issues and medical debt often contribute to a loss of housing, and homelessness itself has a significant negative impact on health and access to care. Unsheltered homelessness exposes individuals to numerous health and safety risks, including exposure to extreme weather conditions and violence. Lack of access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and healthcare services exacerbates health vulnerabilities. Experiencing homelessness can drop one's life expectancy to 50 years compared to 78 years for those in stable housing.⁸ In addition to housing and healthcare, there are other system level disparities to address, such as racial inequity, educational underachievement, lack of adequate wages, and the justice system.

The average life expectancy of a person experiencing homelessness is **50 YEARS OLD**

2 Individual Factors

In contrast to systems, there are many individual risk factors that increase an individual's vulnerability to experiencing homelessness. These include: physical disability, mental health challenges, substance use, domestic violence, trauma, and lack of a support system. These factors can make an individual more susceptible to unsheltered homelessness but are not always direct causes. In the example of Christopher's story, we see how an untreated mental health challenge and disconnection from family support contributed to him seeking shelter under the Hampton Station Bridge.

3 Destabilizing Events

Destabilizing events include: job loss, the death of a family member, a car breakdown, divorce, a health diagnosis, or any unexpected event that disrupts an individual's life. These are factors that can affect anyone and are often the catalyst to homelessness.

An individual living paycheck to paycheck may not have the money needed to endure the unexpected expenses that come with a destabilizing event. In Greenville County, around 55,000 people live at or below the poverty line⁹ and about 40% of households across the United States don't have \$400 in savings that could be used for a crisis.¹⁰ Without adequate savings to combat these life-altering events, individuals can be launched on the path to homelessness.

"The Greenville Police Department understands that no one benefits from incarcerating people experiencing homelessness. We will continue to work with our partners at GHA to provide assistance and treatment for people in the homeless community. "

Tim Conroy, Lieutenant,
Central Business District,
Greenville Police Department

Additionally, these destabilizing events can be traumatic, and even if they are not, homelessness itself is traumatic. Everyday activities such as going to the bathroom, changing clothes, or sleeping can be arrestable offenses if done outside.

The complexity of causes for unsheltered homelessness requires a robust repertoire of solutions delivered by multiple service providers to create a connected community where homelessness is brief and rare.

WHAT ARE LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

While an individual may be launched into the experience of homelessness either gradually or abruptly, their exit from homelessness is a journey. Exiting homelessness requires connection to resources, service providers, and housing. To effectively find and deploy solutions to end unsheltered homelessness will take engagement from all of us. Hospital systems, law enforcement, governments, non-profits, businesses, the legal system, and the faith community each have a part to play.

Here are some of the strategies currently being implemented by our connected community in Greenville County to support an individual or family's journey out of homelessness into housing.

CONNECTING TO RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach• Day Shelters/Services• Healthcare for the Homeless Mobile Unit• PATH Mental Health Services• Medical Respite
CONNECTING TO HOUSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Shelters• Coffee Club• GHA Housing Navigator
HOUSING OPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permanent Supportive Housing• Shared Housing

This is not a comprehensive list. Individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness may also begin their journey to housing through other programs not mentioned in this brief, such as recovery and transitional housing programs.

These strategies have formed in response to homelessness over the years, but there is more that can be done to end homelessness. We believe it is important to continually review and assess the effectiveness of solutions to homelessness.

WHAT ARE LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

Connecting To Resources

These strategies offer opportunities to connect those experiencing unsheltered homelessness to resources that meet basic needs and help begin the journey to stable housing.

OUTREACH

Outreach is the **practice of going to those living unsheltered, developing relationships, and working to connect them to resources and services that can offer a path to stable health and housing.** Outreach is person-centered and involves going to the person where they are geographically, emotionally, and physically, addressing basic needs while working on trust and building a relationship. Connections to professional case managers and social workers can decrease the length of homelessness which can reduce the overall trauma experienced by individuals and decrease the cost to community services such as emergency healthcare, detention centers, and emergency shelters.

DAY SHELTERS/ SERVICES

Day Shelters and Centers like **Triune Mercy Center, United Ministries Place of Hope, Pendleton Place Youth Resource Center, and United Housing Connection's pilot Housing Resource Center** offer a single place for those experiencing homelessness to gain access to a wide variety of services ranging from laundry, mail, and showers to medical/vision care, physical therapy, mental healthcare, legal advice, art therapy, recovery support, charge phones, and connection over meals. Providing a myriad of essential services at a single site keeps individuals from "service hopping", searching for transportation, and taking time away from work or children to get what they need.

HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS MOBILE UNIT

The Healthcare for the Homeless Mobile Unit is operated by **New Horizons Family Health Services, Inc.**, and provides medical services for those experiencing homelessness across the Upstate. The unit travels to emergency and day shelter locations to offer ongoing access to care and medication that is often essential for physical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

PATH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) staff at **Greater Greenville Mental Health (GGMHC)** serves adults who are experiencing homelessness and are dealing with a serious mental illness. The team serves those in emergency shelters as well as those living unsheltered. The program provides services ranging from outreach to assessment and psychiatry services. PATH also provides supportive services to residents living at Reedy Place, a community of 23 permanent supportive housing one-bedroom apartments, as well as the over 100 scattered sites of supportive housing in the community.

MEDICAL RESPITE

In 2019, **Miracle Hill Ministries** and **New Horizon Family Health Services, Inc.** partnered to provide the first medical respite facility in South Carolina. Housed in the Greenville Rescue Mission and Shepherds Gate, the Medical Respite provides a safe place to recover for men and women well enough to leave the hospital, but whose recovery would be impossible if they returned to the street.

[Link to Dwayne's Story of Hope](#)



WHAT ARE LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

Connecting To Housing

These strategies offer opportunities to connect those experiencing unsheltered homelessness to service providers necessary to move into stable housing.

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Emergency Shelters play an important role in our community providing housing, case management, meals, personal hygiene services, and access to medical attention. These organizations meet men, women, youth, and families often in a moment of trauma. But by helping meet basic needs, Emergency Shelters equip individuals to continue on the path toward housing stability. Access GHA's Emergency Resource Sheet [HERE](#) to see a list of Emergency Shelters in Greenville County.

[Link to Dan's Story of Hope](#)



COFFEE CLUB

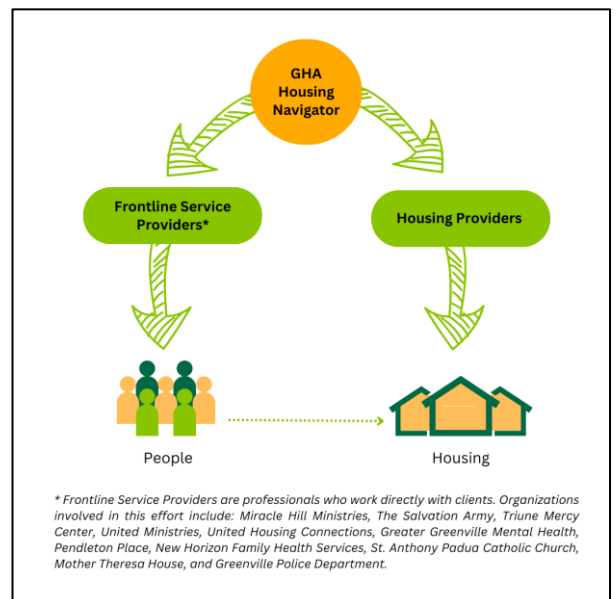
Coffee Club* was created 18 years ago when a group of frontline service providers met over coffee to discuss how to best support clients experiencing homelessness, together. The group has grown to more than 24 professionals from different organizations that meet weekly and focus their efforts on **outreach and collaborating (case conferencing)** to identify specific solutions for individuals. The need for more rental housing in a price range that is affordable for individuals making \$20,000 and less annually has grown as well. This intentional effort to understand the needs of the person experiencing homelessness and connect them to the most effective resource or service has proven to show consistent success in connecting individuals experiencing chronic homelessness to stable housing.

GHA HOUSING NAVIGATOR

In 2023, GHA partnered with **Piedmont Health Foundation** to hire DeAndrea "DJ" Wilson Hillman as GHA's Housing Navigator. The Housing Navigator will lead a pilot over the next three years that focuses on building relationships with housing providers** to increase

housing options available to frontline service providers* working with people experiencing chronic homelessness.

She will also update monthly a centralized database created to help identify housing that ensures the household pays 30% or less of their gross income in rent. The list, formerly updated annually, was recently enhanced by GHA partners to include the ability to search if a property accepts Housing Choice Vouchers, is within one mile of Greenlink, has additional move-in considerations/fees, and currently has a waiting list.



** organizations or individuals who rent or manage a property

WHAT ARE LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

Housing Options

These current housing options offer proven solutions for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and specifically chronic homelessness, to move into stable housing.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Permanent Supportive Housing is an evidence-based and nationally recognized solution that provides safe housing for previously chronically homeless individuals. They are visited regularly by mental and physical health professionals. Additional support includes assistance with everything from medications and food shopping to budgeting and

socialization. The goal is to build independent living skills and connection to essential services. For people who may have spent years, even decades, outside, things that are familiar to the securely housed can look foreign: How to cook on a stove. How to wash laundry. How to operate air conditioning. And perhaps just as importantly, how to find community.

In Greenville, permanent supportive housing is the model for Reedy Place and the under-construction Church Street Place at Poe Mill, both operated by **United Housing Connections**. In addition, scattered home sites are operated by **Greater Greenville Mental Health**, **Gateway**, **Mental Health America of Greenville County**, and **Project Care** (for HIV/AIDS patients). Those staff collaborate to wrap support around their residents.

While this level of care is expensive, it actually provides savings to the community. People living on the street can be frequent law enforcement and hospital emergency room users. Data from the South Carolina Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs demonstrates the dramatic decrease of 92% in annual charges to healthcare and justice systems when long-term supportive housing is available for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

“If we are going to end homelessness in our community and elsewhere, we have to have housing with supportive services.”

Mary Kay Campbell
Greater Greenville Mental Health

Permanent Supportive Housing Impact

for **11** Reedy Place Residents

2 Years BEFORE Program Entry

2 Years AFTER Program Entry

Unhoused

Housed

Detention Center and Healthcare Charges*

397 Days in Detention Center **30**

252 Days in In-Patient Behavioural Health **40**

10 ER Visits **1**

62 EMS Transport Services **7**

*According to the SC Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

Annual Cost to Taxpayers

\$210,447

\$17,625

Annual Cost per Resident

\$19,132

\$1,602

92%

Decrease in Costs
2 Years After Program Entry

Meet Walter and Janet and learn how PSH positively impacted their lives [HERE](#).



SHARED HOUSING

Shared Housing is when two or more unrelated people live together, split the cost of rent, and share common spaces. Living with other people – especially when transitioning out of homelessness – has extraordinary social, mental, and emotional benefits. It also is a more affordable option than renting an entire home on one’s own. And, when paired with support services like those demonstrated at [Good Shepherds House](#), this housing option also helps individuals improve their well-being.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

New Solutions to Consider

All of the strategies mentioned in this report have multiple partners from different sectors of our community. Collectively, they are positively impacting unsheltered homelessness. However, to shift the systems that currently hold homelessness in place, we must do more and invite you to consider the following solutions.

- **Increase Permanent Supportive Housing** – PSH works and offers an evidence based solution for those experiencing chronic homelessness. We need an increased focus on developing more PSH, both in its traditional form like Reedy Place and Church Street Place, and also in more innovative formats like Tiny Home and Shared Housing communities.
- **Increase Number of Housing Providers Renting to 30% and Below AMI** – Our community needs more housing providers willing to give opportunities to individuals exiting homelessness. GHA's Housing Navigator and Coffee Club will move into 2024 leading this charge. With innovative flexible funding and the assurance of supportive services from Coffee Club members, there is tremendous opportunity for new housing providers to engage and create exits from homelessness.
- **Tiny and Micro Homes** – Much like shared housing, Tiny and Micro Homes provide private space within a community environment. This model, when paired with supportive services and amenities that create a thriving community, can be an affordable option for people to move out of unsheltered homelessness. GHA endorses models like [Community First! Village](#).
- **Homeless Court** - While still in development in Greenville, this solution addresses criminal misdemeanor charges. Barriers for people can be reduced and collaboration can increase among law enforcement, service providers, the City Municipal Judge, magistrates, and Solicitor's office. [Watch "What is a Homeless Court"](#).
- **Built for Zero** - Built for Zero is a movement of over 100 cities and counties across the country that have committed to [measurably ending homelessness](#) for entire populations, many beginning with Veteran and chronic homelessness. Using data and proven methodologies, these communities have changed how local homeless response systems work and the impact they can achieve.

We believe homelessness is solvable.

The faces on our [Seen | Heard | Valued](#) community mural on the back of Triune Mercy Center's Sanctuary affirm that belief. These faces, each with a personal story of hope, felt the disparities of failed systems, vulnerabilities of individual risk factors, and the crisis of destabilizing events. They also experienced the powerful hope from frontline service providers, organizations that collaborated to meet their needs, and housing providers willing to give them a fresh start.

This connectedness creates a system of support that can ensure all members of our community are **seen, heard, and valued**.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Get Engaged

Homelessness is solvable.

Join us and learn more about what homelessness looks like locally, see how you can advocate for local solutions, and engage as a community member who wants everyone in Greenville County to experience the dignity of being seen, heard, and valued.

LEARN

- [Sign up](#) for GHA Updates.
- [Visit](#) GHA's YouTube Channel for Mythbusters and Stories of Hope.
- Check out reports and resources at www.gvlhomes4all.org.
- Set up a meeting with GHA's Housing Navigator to learn more about becoming a housing provider or GVL iGNITE Fund donor.

ADVOCATE

- Champion efforts to fund permanent supportive housing and other inventive housing solutions alongside community partners GOAL Justice, Greenville Housing Fund, and Greater Good Greenville.
- [Sign up to get](#) GHA Call to Action emails to stay current on advocacy opportunities.
- Bookmark our online [Homelessness Resource Guide](#) and share it with those who need it.
- Attend a GHA Advocacy Training Academy.

VOLUNTEER

- Support [GHA and our Community Partners](#) involved in outreach and serving those experiencing homelessness with your time and/or donations.
- Make hygiene kits or pop-top bags to share.
- [Follow GHA on Social Media and share.](#)

CREATING SYSTEM CHANGE

Systems change is about shifting the conditions that are holding a problem in place. Greenville Homeless Alliance Working Groups are strategically aligned to address the conditions (like policies, relationships & connections, and mental models) that impact the issue of homelessness. To learn more about joining a Working Group, contact hgatchell@gvlhomes4all.org.



Acknowledgments

The **Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA)** would like to thank everyone who participated in the creation of this brief.

- Special thanks to Deb Richardson-Moore and the Coffee Club for launching this brief with candid conversations and insight.
- We also want to thank everyone who participated in our July Stakeholder meeting and answered the questions:
 1. What do you want the community to know about unsheltered homelessness?
 2. What do you want to know about unsheltered homelessness?

Your feedback helped to guide the development of this brief.

- Thank you to Mary Kay Campbell and Julia Mullen for your wisdom and thoughtful edits.
- And finally, a very special thank you to **Claire Beachy**, *Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County/Collaborate and Advocate Working Groups* and **Emily Kodat**, *Educate Working Group* for your discernment, compassion, and all of the hours invested researching, writing, and editing this brief.

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The Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA) is a coalition of partner organizations and individual stakeholders igniting change to address homelessness in Greenville County. Charged with looking for sustainable solutions to homelessness, the Greenville Homeless Alliance works to **educate, advocate, collaborate, and innovate** with policymakers and the community.

VISION: Safe, affordable homes for everyone in Greenville County

MISSION: To strengthen partnerships and broaden support in order to increase options for individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness and who are seeking stability and a safe, affordable home.

VALUES: Equity, Integrity, Inclusiveness, Pragmatism, and Courage

STEERING COMMITTEE

Brandon Cook, Chair
New Horizon Family Health Services, Inc

Stacey Owens, Vice-Chair
SPINX

Kia Keyton, Secretary
On Track Greenville

Matthew Johnson, Treasurer
Matthew K. Johnson Law Firm, LLC

Nick Bush
United Ministries

Mary Kay Campbell
Greater Greenville Mental Health Center

Adrick Ceasar
Good Shepherds House

Bruce Forbes
Upstate Continuum of Care

Nalisha Henry
United Way of Greenville County

Amanda Taylor
Triune Mercy Center

Gail Peay
Habitat for Humanity of Greenville

GHA is governed by a steering committee, which sets the strategic priorities, coordinates action, and ensures the financial and human resources to support the collective agenda are available. **United Ministries** serves as GHA's host organization and the **Community Foundation of Greenville** is the fiscal host.

We invite everyone in our community to become fiercely committed to ending homelessness and participate in creating a systemic and empathetic community-wide response to do so.

GHA Staff

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