

legal limit).

When it is freezing, drinking numbs the body to the effects of the cold temperature; still alcohol does not stop the damage, just the ability to feel. People living on the street drink to forget they are cold, they drink to forget they are starving, and they drink because they have nothing.

Why do people let this happen to them? Why do they wait to seek out treatment? People need hope to take action. The men who came to us saw hope when their friend returned sober and clean after entering our program. They come to us because they want warmth, food, and shelter. They come to us reaching out for help. The hand of help must be there when a person reaches out. At Project Renewal we are trying desperately to do just that, HELP. What we are able to do on any given day is provide something to eat, a place to do laundry, or even take a shower, but there is no housing and people need a roof over their heads in order to recover. One program goal is to find affordable housing for our clients. The supply problem for affordable housing in Sussex County worsens daily as property values increase. Persons with an income, even our middle class can no longer find homes or rentals. So, for persons, just beginning to build back their lives there is nothing. This group has many needs, especially supportive housing, and transitional housing, which are vital pieces of the solution to homelessness in this country. Supportive housing and transitional housing should not be created at the expense of other necessary interventions; they can only succeed as part of a well-funded continuum of care that prevents homelessness, offers shelter and emergency care to everyone in need, and provides affordable housing to all.

Substance abuse disorders are public health challenges that can be managed effectively when the entire community supports people who suffer from these treatable diseases. Housing is crucial to the success of treatment.

At Project Renewal we offer services, such as support groups, individual therapy, and life skill

classes. We provide psychiatric services and primary health care. We can set people up for entitlements if they are eligible or GED classes and vocational training, for some we can even find jobs. With just six months into the project that was targeted to serve 30 persons a year, we have admitted 37 individuals. Over half of these clients are remaining drug and alcohol free.

We have exceeded our target number and most likely will double the amount we had expected to serve. All these supports are important, and they help, but nothing matters if there is no place for people live. It is hard to participate in treatment when you do not know where you will spend the night. Without sober housing for ongoing recovery people remain at risk for relapse.



Housing for the Long Haul

Strategies Toward Permanent Affordability, Security of Tenure, and Resident Control

The Annual Conference of the Delaware Housing Coalition

● Wednesday, May 5 ●

● Modern Maturity Center ● Dover, Delaware ●

Conference Presenters

- Rick deAngelis, Director, Housing Policy and Research, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Walt Dixie, Executive Director, Jubilee Homes of Syracuse, Inc. (CLT)
- Peter Rhoads, Director of Finance and Development, Manufactured Housing Program, New Hampshire Community Loan Fund
- liz wills, Director of Technical Assistance, Institute for Community Economics

Panels and Sessions on:

New Models for Extending Housing Affordability
 Building a More Independent Nonprofit Housing Sector
 Creating New Revenue Sources for Affordable Housing
 Legal Strategies for Increasing Affordable Housing