On any given night in Central Louisiana, approximately 165 people find themselves without a home to rest their head. Many end up in shelters. Some, unfortunately, aren’t so lucky. Nearly one third of the homeless in Central Louisiana have no access to shelter. These are our community’s most vulnerable homeless; people who often have co-occurring disabilities like mental illness and substance use disorder; people who have all but given up on hope.

The year 2015 brought tremendous growth for the Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition, as we saw our list of programs and services rapidly expanding. CLHC went from an organization whose role was simply to secure federal funding for our community’s homelessness programs, to becoming a leader in providing direct services to our community’s most vulnerable homeless population. We added two new programs in FY15-16: Street Outreach and Permanent Supportive Housing. With these new programs in place, Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition began playing a direct part in reducing the number of people who are homeless and unsheltered in our community. These programs are designed specifically for those who don’t have access to shelter resources.

Beginning with Street Outreach, we search for and identify people who live unsheltered and then refer them to services and resources to meet their needs. For most, Permanent Supportive Housing is the best choice. Permanent Supportive Housing provides a permanent housing apartment lease plus support services and case management to ensure housing stability, so that no one returns to homelessness. The services provided by CLHC literally take people off the streets, put them into housing, and then provide supports to make sure they are able to stay there.

Also in 2015, we proudly became the new owners of one of Alexandria’s well known buildings, the former KRRV Building, as it’s popularly known. This property located at 1515 Jackson Street will serve as the Virginia Soprano Housing Resource Center once renovated, providing access to hygiene facilities, case management, and more for people who live unsheltered. Thanks to support from our community, we expect renovations to begin in early 2017.

The Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition Board of Directors, CEO, and Staff Members are extremely proud of the work that we do every day, but we recognize that we could not do what we do without the support of our great community. It is your donations, your volunteer hours, and your advocacy that allows us to make a difference in the lives of those who are homeless and unsheltered, and ultimately to make a difference in our own community.

Together, we’ll make sure that Central Louisiana is a place that everyone can call home.

Kendra Gauthier
Shane Williams, President
Attorney General’s office

John Amos, Vice President
Catholic Diocese

Susan Carnahan, Treasurer
Crest Operations

Stacey Douglas-West, Secretary
Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA)

Willie Johnson
Retired Military

Deborah Dumars
Retired Social Worker

Robert Fields
Retired Military

Pat Deal
Phoenix Family Life Center

Kimberly Boyd
Cleco Corporation

Brittany Dixon
Good Shepherd Funeral Home

Jessica Powers
Formerly Homeless

Gary Perkins
Business Acceleration System (BAS)

Brittany Jackson
Crest Operations

Lee Baxter
Retired

Kelly Shannon
Rapides Regional Medical Center

Nolan Spillers
First Federal Bank of La.

Trevor Sonnier
KALB TV

Liz Lowry
Kinetix

Shirley Branham
City of Alexandria Community Dev.

Jim Hurst
Consultant

Michael Wynne
Probation and Parole

This is an exciting time to be part of the Central Louisiana Coalition to Prevent Homelessness. A lot is happening: the coalition’s move to direct services, new programs to identify and house the homeless, the soon-to-be-opened Virginia Soprano Housing Resources Center—to name a few. Thank you for your support of CLHC! 

John R. Amos, JCD
Incoming President of the Board of Directors
CLHC’s Outreach program is led by the Outreach Coordinator, Kyle McGee, and utilizes volunteers to locate people who live unsheltered on the streets, in abandoned houses, or other places not meant for human habitation. Each homeless individual receives an acuity assessment to determine additional needs, such as mental health treatment, substance use treatment, or assistance with applications for food stamps or disability benefits. The Outreach Coordinator then maintains a “by name” listing of every homeless person encountered and works with them identify housing and other resources.

“The Street Outreach program is the vital connection between the homeless and our community’s resources. We are boots on the ground, finding the homeless where they are, providing necessary assistance, and linking them to services, such as shelter, housing, and more.”

Kyle McGee
“It is very rewarding to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Things that we take for granted, they have hoped for, and are now receiving; a bed to sleep in, a bath or shower, a kitchen to cook in, and a place of comfort.”

LaTessa Mathews

The Permanent Supportive Housing program provides permanent housing and support to people who are “chronically homeless” through apartment leases scattered throughout Central Louisiana. The program is managed by LaTessa Mathews, MSW, RSW. Some of these supports include transportation, counseling, referrals for substance treatment and mental health appointments, and assistance with obtaining disability benefits. While the apartment lease is critical to resolving a homelessness issue, it is the supports provided by LaTessa that enables clients to remain housed without the risk of returning to homelessness. LaTessa teaches them life skills such as communicating with their landlord, paying their utility bill, buying groceries, and managing their money. The people served by this program must have a disability diagnosis, therefore they often face additional challenges when trying to maintain their housing. The supports included with this program are just as vital to the client’s housing success as the actual apartment lease. Currently, the program is funded to lease up to 14 apartments at one time.
The HMIS is a software program used by nonprofit service providers and faith-based organizations to track and record services provided to people who are homeless. The system is able to track financial assistance, shelter stays, and length of time homelessness. It is used by several local churches as an effort to reduce duplications of services, so that a family or individual is not assisted by many churches for the same financial need. Any authorized user of the system can view the service history of a client or family to ensure that needs are met but not duplicated. The HMIS is managed by a Database Administrator, Megan Vets.

St. James has assisted people in the Central Louisiana area with rent, utilities, gas money, bus tickets, and ID cards for about five years. We have seen the need grow in our area and knew that these services should be documented to prevent duplication of aid and ensure funding can be distributed to as many in need as possible. HMIS was our answer. We encourage similar missions to join HMIS and help streamline the distribution of services and financial aid in our community!

Rita Klock
St. James Episcopal Church

Easily track outcomes such as:
1. Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless
2. Persons Returning to Homelessness within 2 Years
3. Number of Homeless Persons
4. Income Growth for Homeless Persons
5. Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time
6. Preventing Homelessness
7. Successful Placement and Retention of Housing
The Virginia Soprano Housing Resource Center is nearing the renovations stage! This building was purchased in August 2015 after a generous donation by the family of Virginia Soprano to develop a hygiene and resource center for people without a home. Since then, CLHC has been engaged in a Capital Campaign to provide the necessary renovations. This facility will feature a public hygiene center with showers and laundry facilities; access to essential communications such as telephone, internet, and a mailing address; plus case management services and other supports. The new Housing Resource Center will expand upon the Outreach program already in place at Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition. Look for renovations to begin in January 2017!

“People so often say things like “He should just go get a job” when they encounter someone who is homeless. Think about that statement. We all know how difficult it is to find employment once you’ve lost work, but imagine if you had not showered in months, or even years. How difficult would it be to get a job then, or even just an interview? Not only is good hygiene essential to overall health, but having a safe place to shower is crucial to helping someone who is homeless to set, and achieve, their personal goals.”

Kendra Gauthier
The Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition serves as the Lead Agency for a collective impact collaboration known as a Continuum of Care, or CoC. The CoC is made up of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, along with stakeholders and members of the community who have an interest in ending homelessness. CoC Members work together with the Lead Agency to address homelessness for three distinct subpopulations:

- Veterans Homelessness
- Chronic Homelessness
- Youth and Family Homelessness

The CoC Lead Agency submits an annual application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund programs and services targeting any of these three populations. In 2015, the Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition submitted an application for over $700,000 to fund homelessness programs in Central Louisiana. Each project was awarded funding by HUD in early 2016.

Quarterly meetings are open to the public and occur on the fourth Thursday of each Quarter: January, April, July, and October.

### 2015-2016 CoC Members

**Membership is $50/year, June through May**

- Brittany Dixon
- Brittany Jackson
- Chris Blanchard
- City of Alexandria
- Community Healthworx
- Deborah Dumas
- Diocese of Alexandria
- Faith House
- Family of Grace Church
- First Baptist Church, Pineville
- FUMC, Alexandria
- Hope House
- Inner-City Revitalization
- John Amos
- Kara & Scott Bertrand
- Kelly Shannon
- Kimberly Boyd
- Nolan Spillers
- Patricia Deal
- Philadelphia Baptist Church
- Re-Entry Solutions
- Robert Fields
- Salvation Army
- Shane Williams
- St. James Episcopal Church
- Stacey West
- Susan Carnahan
- United Way
- Vernon Community Action Council
- Volunteers of America
- Willie James Johnson

### CLHC Staff:

From left to right:

**Kendra Gauthier, Kyle McGee, LaTessa Mathews, and Megan Vets**
HOW DOES YOUR DONATION MAKE AN IMPACT?

On average, the Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition is able to secure matching grant funds at the rate of 400% for every donation received. That means that for every dollar donated, CLHC receives up to $4 in matching grant funds to provide services to people who are homeless. When matched with grant funds:

- your $100 donation becomes $500
- your $500 donation becomes $2,500
- your $1,000 donation becomes $5,000

Most of our grant funding requires local matching funds, and this is how your donation truly makes a difference in Central Louisiana! Without your donation, we could not get the grant funding to provide services.
“Thank you” to our 2015-2016 Funders

Foundations:
Coughlin Saunders
Harvest Fund
Huie-Dellmon Trust
Louisiana Charities Trust
Virginia Martin Howard

Donors:
AT&T
Brittany Battiste
Callista Salazar
Christine Normand
City of Alexandria
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Cynthia Kendrick
Diane Bolton Circle
Doug Davis
First Presbyterian Church
Fr. Chris Nayak
Gary Perkins
John Amos
John Davidson
Joseph & Mary Descant
Joseph Wallpaper & Paint
Joy Floyd
JRS Associates
KP Jewelers
Katharine Geary
Kathy Bonner
Krewe of Gratiae
Lee & Carol Baxter
Marcia Olson
Melissa Flurry
Mike & Donna Young
Patience Quilters
Patrick Cunningham
Pleasant Green Baptist Church
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Shane Williams
Sisters of Charity
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St. Rita Catholic Church
Susan Carnahan
Suzanne Crise
United Methodist Women
Wildwood Pizza
Word of Grace
Xiaoshu Yang
Yoga YaYa