

## How can we end homelessness in Ramsey County?



By working together with a common vision, we can create...

*A more livable community, where shelters are used only for emergency transitions and every family and individual has a permanent place to live.*

### 1. Housing

- ❑ **Create Supportive Housing.** Create 920 units of permanent supportive housing (housing that includes access to supportive services) by 2010. As of December 2009, 739 units of permanent supportive housing have been financed.
- ❑ **Expand Housing Opportunities.** Create additional housing options for homeless individuals, such as flexible rental assistance and housing vouchers.



### 3. Outreach

- ❑ **Build on Effective Outreach Models.** Reaching people where they are at is the first step to assisting long-term homeless individuals off the street and into housing. Effective street outreach is essential to connecting people with housing opportunities.



### 2. Prevention

- ❑ **Prevent Homelessness.** Heading Home Ramsey increased family homeless prevention funding by 56 percent from 2006 to 2008. Continue to expand prevention efforts and create a network of providers for early identification of at-risk households. Intervene quickly when homelessness strikes to ensure that it does not become a long-term tragedy.
- ❑ **Provide Alternatives for At-Risk and Homeless Youth.** There are very few emergency beds for youth, no family reunification services, and very little in the way of transitional or permanent supportive housing for youth in Ramsey County. The Youth Action Team is focused on detailing the existing gaps in services and looking at expansion of emergency shelter services.
- ❑ **Build Support and Stability.** Increase training and employment opportunities to increase earned income. Close to one-fourth of persons experiencing homelessness are working, and so many more want to work, but need help in gaining and keeping employment.



### 4. Systems Change

- ❑ **Improve Coordination.** Improve the coordination and delivery of housing and services. Improve cultural competence of providers.
- ❑ **Effective Discharge Planning.** Improve discharge planning for those exiting public and private institutions.
- ❑ **Maximize the Use of Public and Private Sector Funds.** Where possible, work to coordinate and effectively leverage public and private funds to have the greatest impact on ending homelessness.
- ❑ **Build a Community-Wide Response.** Engage a broad spectrum of support (business, government, faith communities, providers, and community members) to end homelessness.



For more information, contact:

**Carol J. Zierman, Coordinator**

Heading Home Ramsey (City/County Effort to End Homelessness)

651.266.8004 or [carol.zierman@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:carol.zierman@co.ramsey.mn.us)

(Updated 1/18/2010)