



Annual Report, 2015

2015

Board of Directors

President

Sherri Ingram-Hudgins, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Secretary/Treasurer

Paul Kirkpatrick, Community Crisis Services, Inc.

Member

Dave Lamoreaux, Registered Piano Technician

Mission

Providing grants that empower the homeless while building community.

Background

A Hat for Harold incorporated in Maryland in May, 2012, received its IRS 501(c)(3) designation as a public charity on September 21, 2012, and distributed its first grants on November 12, 2012.

Distribution of micro grants is accomplished through a peer council where homeless individuals bring their requests and serve on the council. The council votes on authorizing requests based on whether 1) the request is part of the five H's-- heart (motivation/relationships), health, housing, hired, and a little help, 2) the request can only be reasonably obtained at A Hat for Harold, and 3) whether the requestor is a positive participant in the A Hat for Harold community.

Participation in the peer councils provides not only an opportunity to have a need filled that has been difficult previously, but even more importantly, allows the participants to have a voice in the distribution of funds and in determining their own best course of action as they move toward stable housing and employment. A Hat for Harold is hopeful that providing this forum for active participation will rekindle a sense of responsibility and accountability and be a factor in building self-esteem and dignity.

Operation

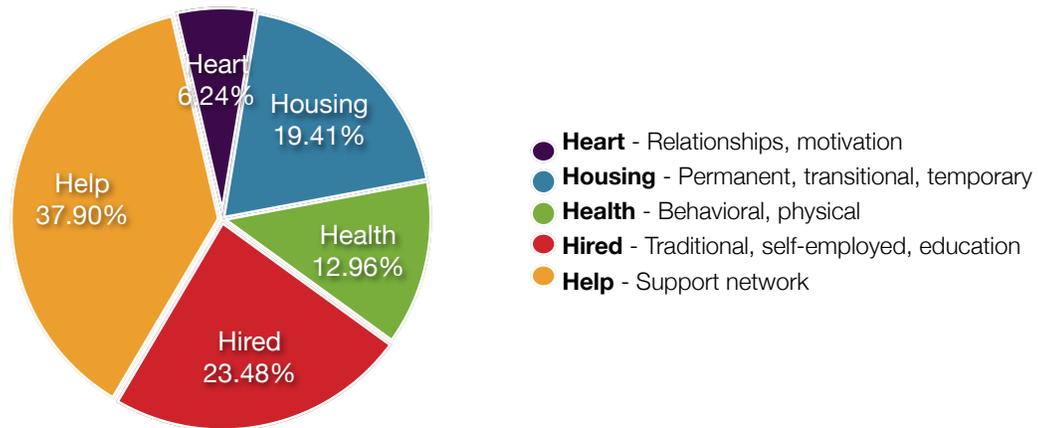
A Hat for Harold is volunteer-based and holds its council meetings directly in the homeless community, leaving overhead expenses to a minimum.

A Hat for Harold currently sponsors two peer councils: its charter location in Jessup, MD that operates out of the Route 1 Day Resource Center, and a second location in Henderson, KY which operates out of the Father Bradley Shelter for Women and Children.

2015 Finances

Item	Amount	Comments
Balance at beginning of year	\$17,300.09	
Donations	\$17,887.00	
Other income	\$15.28	Interest
Microgrants distributed	(\$10,939.02)	102 micro grants averaging \$107.25 ea
Expenses	(\$769.08)	Largest expense: \$595 in Directors and Officers insurance for one year of coverage
Balance at end of year	\$23,494.27	

2015 Distribution of Grants



Reflections

Fifty-four individuals that have received grants from A Hat for Harold—since inception—have moved into housing. While these clients were assisted by multiple organizations in this process, A Hat for Harold is proud to have played a role in their lives during this important transition.

Cell phone minutes and payments on overdue utility bills were some of the most common grant requests in 2015. Cell phones have become ubiquitous in our society, and they provide a needed lifeline so clients can be reached by social service agencies, potential employers, and family. In Henderson, past due utility bills can block a person’s ability to be placed into housing. Bills of over \$1000 can be daunting and discouraging. However, with as much as \$300 in a grant, the women regain hope...and hope is required to change a person’s life.

A Hat for Harold is committed to continuing its work to empower individuals dealing with the effects of homelessness while building community through the peer council process.