

# 2014-15 Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program

Each week throughout the winter, faith communities across Fairfax County host homeless men and women in need through their partnership with **Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program**. Faith communities play an integral role in this program extending our capacity to care as our facility is not large enough to host all of our most vulnerable neighbors. By becoming a Hypothermia Prevention Partner you join our Ministry of Service in answering the Call to Care for county residents with no other place to turn.

## **Q1. What are the program dates for this year's Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program?**

A: The 2014-15 Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program begins on Monday, December 1, 2014 and concludes on the morning of Tuesday, April 1, 2015.

## **Q2. Who does the Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program serve?**

A: The Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program serves any Fairfax County resident over the age of 18 who is presently experiencing an episode of homelessness.

## **Q3. How many people typically participate in VOA's Hypothermia Program?**

A: During the 2013-14 Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program, Volunteers of America served more than 300 unduplicated guests in our hypothermia program.

## **Q4. What services do guests receive as a participant in the hypothermia program?**

A: As a guest of the hypothermia program, participants are provided with shelter, a hot meal, breakfast, access to case management, medical services, mental health and substance abuse services, and transportation to and from sites

## **Q5. How do guest get to and from the site(s)?**

A: VOA provides transportation to and from host sites. Participating guests arrive at [Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter](#) and are transported to the hosting site each night.

## **Q6. How many guests do you serve at each facility each night?**

A: The number of guests each facility can serve is determined by Fairfax County Building and Codes. A representative from the county will come out to your site to survey the area you have identified as the area you would like quests to sleep. The county will determine your capacity as well as whether or not additional items are needed in order for you to serve as a host for this upcoming year.

## **Q7. How many staff members accompany guests to the site each night?**

A: VOA provides staffing to accompany guests to the sites daily. There are three shifts at each site. The shifts are as follows: 5pm - 11:30pm (1 person), 5pm – 12am (1 person), and 11:30pm -7am (2 people). VOA staff will arrive onsite with clients and will not depart your venue until all guests have boarded the van to be transported.

## **Q8. What time do guest typically arrive? What time do they leave?**

A: Guests arrive at [Baileys Crossroads Community Shelter](#) by 4pm daily. While at the shelter they are allowed access to shower facilities, medical personnel and case management. All guests are offered a hot meal prior to be transported to their hosting site. Guests are typically transported with two staff members to the hosting sites each evening by 7pm. All guests are transported from the site each morning by 7am.

**Q9. Can guests leave the venue after they arrive?**

A: Guests are not permitted to leave the site after they arrive with the staff member. Guests are allowed to go outside to smoke in an area designated by the venue.

**Q10. Do you offer training to staff and volunteers?**

A: Yes. We offer both staff and volunteers training on various topics throughout the course of the year. We at Volunteers of America Chesapeake take pride in educating the community about the populations we serve. Our hypothermia staff undergoes a series of trainings throughout the course of the season to assist them in gaining a better understanding of the population we serve and tools we use as we strive to assist clients in moving one step closer to self-sufficiency.

**Q11. What specifically do you need from a Hypothermia Prevention Partner?**

A: Volunteers of America Chesapeake: Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter is seeking venues to serve as hosting sites for the 2014-15 Hypothermia Prevention & Response Program. Hosting sites would need to commit to serving one week during the hypothermia season. Weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. As a host site, your venue collaborates with VOAC to provide shelter to our homeless neighbors in need for one week during the hypothermia season. The target number of people will vary by host site and will be based on the guidelines determined by the Fire Marshall.

**Q12. I am interested in serving as a host site. What's next?**

A: If you agree to serve as a hosting site, VOAC Staff will coordinate with your team and Fairfax County Fire Department to schedule an inspection of your location to ensure that it meets the program requirements. Once you have been approved, and your capacity determined. VOAC staff will work closely with you to select your hosting week and provide training to anyone at your site who would like to participate/volunteer.

**Q13. What will Fairfax County Fire and Code be looking for when they come out to inspect our venue?:**

A: Panic hardware must be equipped on exit doors of sleeping areas with a maximum occupant greater than 49.

Sleeping areas must be located in "sprinklered" portions of the building **OR** sleeping rooms must have an exit door directly to the outside of the building. Most of our faith communities do not have sprinkler systems unless they are of newer construction.

**Q13. My site cannot serve as a hosting site, what else can we do to assist?**

A: We have a variety of volunteer opportunities, to include:

- Evening & overnight volunteers
- Gift cards in various increments for clients who participate in case management services and may need additional items throughout the season to assist with employment and housing.
- Programming and entertainment
- Donated goods, such as clothing (including socks, underwear, thermal underwear), toiletries (including soap, deodorant, wipes, etc).
- Volunteer to serve a meal at the shelter

**For more information, contact:**

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