

Wind Chill Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Wind Chill Fund?

A. The Wind Chill Fund is a campaign to raise funds to help finance operation of the Dutchess County Coalition for the Homeless (DCCH) overnight shelter and house all the homeless adults who come to our screening site each evening.

Q. How can I help?

A. Financial donations are desperately needed. HRH must raise \$175,000 per year to fully fund the operation of this program.

Q. Are there really homeless people in Dutchess County?

A. Yes. The most accurate and conservative data (from HUD's Homeless Management Information System) indicates that 1,111 individuals were homeless in Dutchess County in 2006. 466 individuals were provided 11,412 shelter services by Hudson River Housing's DCCH shelter in 2007.

Q. Who are the people served?

A. The people served are homeless women and men age 18 and older. Males represent the majority by 5:1 over females. A disproportionate number of African American individuals are served.

Q. Where is the overnight shelter provided?

A. The DCCH overnight shelter is located at Hillcrest House. Up to 60 people each evening can be served at that location.

Q. Is it safe to have homeless people staying in my neighborhood?

A. Yes. There is adequate staffing at the shelter to ensure everyone's safety. Our guests are very hungry and tired and want most to eat and rest after their arduous days.

Q. What services are provided to those staying at the shelter?

A. Guests are given two meals (dinner and breakfast) and clean, safe and warm overnight shelter. Case management services are offered to all guests to link them with entitlements, benefits and human services.

Q. Why does it cost so much to provide overnight shelter?

A. The cost of \$32 per night per person covers: two meals, shower, transportation and case management services.

Q. Why can't people stay at the shelter all day?

A. Hudson River Housing (HRH) does not have enough funding for staff to provide oversight for this program during daytime hours. Some of our guests have jobs, some attend educational programs, and others attend other programs within the community.

Q. Are volunteers needed for the shelter?

A. Yes, we depend on volunteers for providing some of the meals and a helping hand.

Q. Are non-financial donations needed?

A. Yes, donations of the following items are always needed: cereal, coffee, toiletries, personal care items (especially feminine hygiene products), single-bed linens, socks, towels, and laundry detergent.

DCCH Fact Sheet

Dutchess County

March 2007 DCCH Survey (conducted by the Marist College School of Social Work):

- 95% of DCCH guests reported being US citizens and 88% reported being Dutchess County residents.
- 24% of DCCH guests report being employed in some capacity.
- 55% of DCCH guests report a history of incarceration.

January to December 2007:

- 11,412 bed/days of service were provided by DCCH from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007
- An average of 40 individuals were served each night by DCCH.
- 326 individuals were provided service by DCCH *for the first time*.

Ongoing:

- 6 paid employees and approximately 2 volunteers per night (from 34 churches and civic organizations) staff the DCCH overnight shelter.

State & National

- One in 400 Americans were homeless according to a USA Today poll conducted in October 2005 (59,456 individuals in New York State).
- One in six households currently spends more than 50% of their income on housing.
- 49% of homeless individuals are in their first episode of homelessness.
- 34% have been homeless three or more times.