



HATAS

Homeless and Travelers Aid Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Homeless and Travelers Aid Society of the Capital District, Inc.

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COMPASSION, COLLABORATION, COMMUNITY

We reduce homelessness through compassionate programming that treats all persons with dignity and respect. We combat homelessness by collaborating with governmental funders, partner non-profit agencies, investors, our donor base, and our neighbors in need. We prevent homelessness by partnering with community housing providers to reduce evictions, code violations, and other conditions which cause homelessness. Our mission is to prevent, reduce, and combat homelessness within the New York Capital Region.

Financial Highlights

HATAS is committed to strategic growth. Over the past year agency revenues have grown from \$2,585,985 to \$3,870,653. Our finance team is managed by a full-time Finance Director, the Executive Director, and the Board Finance and Audit committee. Annual audits are performed by Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co., LLP. More information can be found on our website at www.hatas.org.

Highlights this past year include:

- Our **Capital Region Furniture Bank** furnished 971 low-income apartments last year. This is a **29% increase** over 2022. The Furniture Bank team picks up gently used furniture and then delivers it to low-income households in need. Without basic furnishings, formerly homeless and low-income households are often sleeping, eating, and living on the floor of their apartment. This level of furniture poverty negatively impacts employment, education, health, and overall stability. In addition to eradicating furniture poverty, the Furniture Bank is a workforce development employment center for the homeless, the formerly incarcerated, and other low-income adults in need. Since inception we have trained over 50 adults in warehouse operations and many have gone on to secure living-wage employment within the private sector. The Furniture Bank is also an excellent example of not-for-profit collaboration. Over the past six years we have developed a network of partners including; Healthy Alliance, CDPHP, Catholic Charities, Alliance for Positive Health, Soldier On, Northern Rivers, Unity House, Rehabilitation Support Services, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Nonprofit Partners pay a fee to HATAS and in exchange can refer clients to the Furniture Bank.

This model of “shared services” builds collaboration, reduces duplication, and is fiscally beneficial to all parties. Finally, we care deeply about our environmental footprint. By giving our community a productive way to re-purpose their gently used furnishings we diverted 350 TONS of furniture from area landfills last year. If you are interested in supporting your area Furniture Bank please contact us at fb@hatas.org or by calling 518.612.BANK.

- The **Feed and Read (FaR) Program** reduces childhood hunger while increasing attendance, classroom behavior, and academic performance. Over the course of the academic year FaR provides every student with a bag full of shelf stable food and an age-appropriate book. Students also receive a loaf of bread, fresh fruit, and a gift card that can be redeemed for one gallon of milk & a dozen eggs. Thanks to a donation from CDPHP, students receive a milk and egg card every week as opposed to every other week. We continue to see a robust group of volunteers willing to pack food for low-income students. Last year our packing teams included members from the NYS Division of Budget, National Grid, CDPHP, Pioneer Bank, Architecture+, Broadview FCU, M&T Bank, MVP, KeyBank, M&T Bank, Leadership Tech Valley, Saint Pius X Church, and numerous others. Last year FaR volunteers packed 13,106 bags of food in service to almost 500 low-income students across the City of Albany. If you are interested in supporting the FaR Program or serving as a volunteer, please contact us at info@hatas.org.
- Last year the HATAS Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) Program served 110 formally homeless households. The PSH Team once again faced a challenging year, juggling the safety of our staff and consumers, while continuing to provide essential services. The PSH Program has three primary goals: housing stability, increasing skills and income, and greater self-determination. The majority of consumers served by this program have a serious and persistent mental illness and many suffer from a co-occurring disorder. As part of our housing program, we are an active member of the Albany County Coalition on Homelessness (ACCH).
- In addition to PSH we also operate three Rapid Re-Housing programs.
 - The **Next Step** Rapid Re-Housing (RR) Program serves formerly incarcerated adults. Our work in helping formerly incarcerated persons find stability through housing, employment, and social development was highlighted last June at the National Reentry Housing Symposium in Washington D.C. The two-day conference brought together officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Our Next Step RR program was one of a handful from across the Country highlighted for its success and we were thrilled to be asked to make a presentation on the program's achievements.

- **STEHP** (Solutions to End Homelessness Program) is a Rapid Re-Housing program funded by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Last year the STEHP team rapidly re-housed 43 single adults, a **26% increase over the prior year**. Everyone housed through STEHP was previously living in emergency homeless shelters or places not meant for human habitation. More than half of those participants were chronically homeless and nearly all were living with a disabling condition. STEHP exceeded benchmarks by positively graduating more than 80% of program participants into long term housing destinations, including permanently subsidized units within Section 8, Public Housing, and local federal and state-funded housing initiatives.
- **Carl E Touhey Housing Program**: this program assists formally incarcerated homeless and at-risk households. Participants are provided with a rental subsidy, a security deposit, moving assistance, clothing, employment assistance, and transportation. According to the Prison Policy Institute, stable housing and wraparound support services are the foundation of a successful reentry from prison and “without affordable housing, formally incarcerated people can’t be expected to reintegrate.” Grant year to date, seven unduplicated persons have been served.
- The Community Transition Team (CTT), stationed at the Capital District Psychiatric Center, helps people living with a serious mental illness secure housing, navigate the public benefits system, and coordinate treatment. Last year the CTT group assisted 198 mentally ill individuals, an increase of 54% over the prior year. Additionally, the HATAS Housing Specialist stationed at the Albany County Department of Mental Health (ACDMH), works collaboratively with Care Management teams at the County to help consumers find, secure, and maintain housing within the community.
- The Coordinated Entry (CE) Program ensures that people experiencing homelessness find stable housing by identifying, evaluating, and then connecting them to housing. A standardized triage tool ranks applications based on need and then matches the person in need with the agency operating the rental unit. CE is designed to match households with the highest vulnerability with a limited pool of housing units and assistance. Last

year CE served 1,246 individuals, 13% of whom were chronically homeless. A new addition to the Coordinated Entry team this year was a full-time Landlord Engagement Coordinator. Duties include eviction prevention, relocation assistance, and case management services to support long term housing stability. Last year the program assisted 80 households with arrears and relocation assistance.

- Our Emergency Services Program is proud to operate the after-hours homeless hotline. Since 1983 HATAS has been the primary contact for homeless single adults and families in need of emergency shelter. Last year the hotline served 8,571 callers, a decrease of 20% over the prior year. Our homeless hotline is operational from 4 pm to 12:30 am seven days a week.
- The Code Blue Program ensures that homeless persons have a safe place when the temperature dips below 32 degrees. We call Code Blue alerts, coordinate placements, and serve as a liaison between area shelters and the homeless community. Beginning December of 2023 a full-time specialist from the Homeless Hotline Program was embedded at the Albany County Department of Social Services (ACDSS) in an effort to support the influx of clients during the 2023/2024 Code Blue season. We are thrilled to provide this additional level of support and service to ACDSS and homeless households within Albany County.

Governance

HATAS is governed by a diverse Board of Directors and a professional staff. We pride ourselves on fiscal accountability, servant leadership, transparency and a holistic approach to program management.

2023 Board Members: Adam Cooper (President), Tawana Davis (Vice President), Rebecca Franklin (Treasurer), Geoff Cannon (Member at Large), Joe Volpe (Secretary), Jake Cooper, Dina Maloney DeCarlo, Tyler Bellick, Nichole Eisenzopf, Chris Betts, Mike Durand, and Emily Light.

Senior Staff: Liz Hitt (Executive Director), Maria Grillo (Deputy Director), Brian Shea (Finance Director), Rachel Alexander (Director of Housing), Giovona Parente (Mental Health Director), Christine Smith (Furniture Bank Director), and Nancy Kelly (Development Coordinator). The following independent contractors support our work and our mission; Laurie Ballard of LMB Development Consulting, Brittany Lawton of Highly Caffeinated Marketing, and Charles Newton of Phoenix Confidant. Our Investment Committee is guided by Tim Meigher, a Senior VP with Morgan Stanley. Tim kindly donates his time to the committee and we are deeply grateful to him for his continued guidance.



capital region
furniture bank 





HATAS Picnic



Housing Team Members



Eradicating furniture poverty in Troy



The "A" Team (L-R) Dushawn, Pete, Andrea II



Coats from the Albany Academies



Feed and Read Delivery Drivers