

HATAS

Homeless and Travelers Aid Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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

Email: info@hatas.org

Tel: 518.463.2124

Website: www.hatas.org

138 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206

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 five years, agency revenues have grown from \$2,387,346 to \$3,742,836. 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 M.M.B. & Company, P.C. More information can be found on our website at www.hatas.org.

COVID 19 Impact

Our annual report would be hard to construct without a note about COVID 19. HATAS was classified as an essential provider of services beginning March 2020 and from day one we have continued to serve our homeless and hungry neighbors in need. 2022 was challenging for those whom we serve, our staff, and many of you. Our team members have stretched themselves in incredible ways and we appreciate your continued prayers and support. One of our primary goals since COVID began has been to assist those suffering the most and in keeping with that goal we applied for and secured \$716,115 in COVID funding. Those funds allowed us to develop a new rapid re-housing program, fund the critical need for transportation within the homeless community, and further support the Homeless Hotline team.

Highlights this past year include:

- Our **Capital Region Furniture Bank** furnished 749 low-income apartments last year. This is a **28% increase** over 2021. 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 40 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; CDPHP, Catholic Charities, Alliance for Positive Health, Soldier On, Northern Rivers, Unity House, Rehabilitation Support Services, Healthy Alliance, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. 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 divert TONS of furniture from area landfills. 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. Volunteerism was impacted by the pandemic however with COVID protocols in place 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, Leadership Tech Valley, Saint Pius X Church, and numerous others. Last year FaR volunteers packed 14,400 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 116 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 adults find stability through housing, employment, and social development was highlighted at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference July of 2019. The Next Step RR Program is one of the few RR programs for formally incarcerated single adults within the Country.
 - **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 34 single adults whom were previously living in emergency homeless shelters or places not meant for human habitation. 65% of those participants were chronically homeless and living with disabling conditions. 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. 100% of program participants live with a disabling condition, and many are classified as chronically homeless.
 - The **ESG CV RRH** (Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Program was a new RRH program to HATAS in 2021 and provided complete rental assistance to households through December 31st, 2022. Over the course of last year our ESG team successfully moved **40 households out of a homeless shelter and into a housing unit.**
- The Community Transition Team (CTT), stationed at the Capital District Psychiatric Center, helps people living with serious mental illness secure housing, navigate the public benefits system, and coordinate treatment. Last year the CTT group assisted 128 mentally ill individuals. 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 1,279 individuals, a 58% increase over the prior year. Of the total number of persons served last year, 139 were classified as **chronically** homeless.
- Our Emergency Services Program is proud to operate the after-hours homeless hotline. Since 1983 HATAS has been the go-to contact for homeless single adults and families in need of a safe & warm place to stay. Last year the hotline served 10,314 unique callers, a 31% increase over the prior year. Our homeless hotline is operational from 4 pm to 8 am, on holidays, and on weekends.
- 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.

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.

2022 Board Members: Adam Cooper (President), Tawana Davis (Vice President), Rebecca Franklin (Treasurer), Geoff Cannon (Member at Large), Joe Volpe (Secretary), Cathy Sliwinski, Chris Jean Pierre, Brittany Trela, Jake Cooper, Tyler Bellick, Nichole Eisenzopf, Chris Betts, Courtney Buckley, Mike Durand, and Emily Light

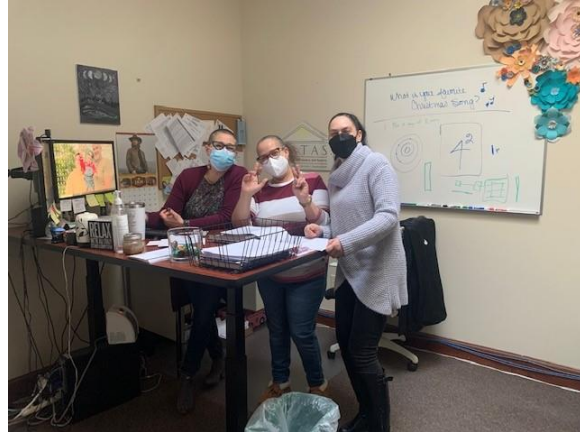
Senior Staff: Liz Hitt (Executive Director), Maria Grillo (Deputy Director), Brian Shea (Finance Director), Rachel Alexander (Director of Housing), Giovona Parente (Mental Health Director), Christine Smith (Furniture Bank Director), and Nancy Kelly (Development Coordinator). The following independent 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.



capital region furniture bank



HATAS Picnic



Housing Team Members



Award Time



Leadership Tech Valley Volunteers



CDPHP Volunteers



Annual Board Meeting