

Washington County Street Outreach Project -- Peer Operated Program grant
Dawn Little (802) 595-9084 TamiasL@aol.com
Quarterly Report - 4th Quarter 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017 I had contact with 377 peers for a total of 1,498 contact instances. These instances ranged from a brief greeting/check-in to lengthy problem solving or support sessions. Most contacts were in person, though some people phoned and a couple texted regularly. Peers were dealing with a variety of issues, the most common seemed to be dealing with finances, shelter, addiction, anxiety and other mental health challenges, relationships and health problems. Other issues included parenting, job search and job related issues, bereavement, family dynamics, abortion, nutrition, wellness, and more.

I attended 3-5 soup kitchens per week, as well as 2 community holiday meals. I provided phone support for a local homeless peer who is incarcerated in Burlington. I set up her commissary account, helped handle her mail, stored valuables, passed messages, and supported her partner who is staying alone in a tent locally. I also did regular phone support with a man who had been homeless in the area for years and was in and out of jail frequently. He has been in a halfway house for several months, has been sober for over 5 months. I encouraged him to stay where he was rather than rejoin his friends at camp where there is heavy alcohol use. He says our contact helps reduce strong feelings of isolation, keep him connected to his community and reinforce his resolve to remain sober.

I accompanied peers to 3 medical appointments, 2 service related appointments, and 2 trips to the emergency room. I helped shovel one driveway, connected one person with help doing yard work, and made 2 home visits. I dropped in at Another Way periodically to connect with peers there, and stayed at the Bethany Shelter Overflow one night. I handed out excess food from the soup kitchens and some food donated from individuals. I also handed out 5 single trip bus passes, 2 winter coats, one heavy sweater, several hats, snow pants, numerous pairs of socks and some toiletries. I passed messages from service providers, delivered mail, let people use my phone, helped look for campsites.

I coordinated with people from the following agencies to provide equipment, set up appointments, pass messages, and share information, & ideas: Washington County Court Diversion, Trinity Church, Good Samaritan Shelter, Capstone, Christ Church in Montpelier, Another Way, Bethany Shelter Overflow. I met regularly with Will Eberle of the Department of Human Services to share concerns, information and ideas to close gaps in services. I also communicated regularly with Cary Friberg of the Barre Congregational Church, who provided moral support, transportation and shared ideas. Spoke with bus riders, shop owners, car salesmen and others about homelessness and trauma issues.

I made referrals to the following agencies/businesses: Economic Services 17, Capstone 17, Good Samaritan Shelter 8, Another Way programs/community 22, Another Way for equipment 16, Another Way meals 12, Good Samaritan for equipment 12, Bethany Overflow 20, Hedding Overflow 10, CWE 8, clothing events 59, Peer Events 14, Soup Kitchens 31, food pantries 15, Voc Rehab 8, Churches - non food related 9, Plainfield Clinic 3, Good Neighbor Health Clinic 7, Express Care 2, GMTA bus passes 8, WRap training 4, Laundry Love 6, and more.

Plans for next quarter include continuing to develop relationships with local agencies, stronger presence in Barre - now possible due to very recent acquisition of a car, purchase of a laptop, regular meetings with other independent advocates/outreach workers.