

The Harriet's House Program

Established 1995
Managed and Operated by

PASSAGE HOME **Community Development Corporation**

Raleigh, NC

An Interim Report to the
NC General Assembly

February 2004

*"I had crossed the line of which I had so long been dreaming,
but there was no one there to welcome me
to the land of freedom."*

Harriet Tubman, Under Ground Railroad

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PASSAGE HOME
Harriet's House Program

ORGANIZATION MISSION	PASSAGE HOME is a faith based, interracial, ecumenical community development corporation designed to help strengthen low wealth families and neighborhoods using a community economic development strategy.
PROGRAM PURPOSE	HARRIET'S HOUSE is a specialized, transitional housing program developed to help women make a successful re-entry into the community, regain custody of their children, gain and maintain full time employment and obtain permanent, affordable housing.
GOAL	To reduce recidivism (re-incarceration) among women with children who are leaving correctional facilities.
RESIDENT PROFILE	Harriet's House women are mothers, 76% have a history of substance abuse, 30 % are Caucasian, 70% African-American, the average age is 36, 89% have completed high school, the average number of children per family is 2, and most of the mothers have experienced physical and emotional abuse issues.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	<u>The Harriet's House program operates in three phases:</u> Phase I: <u>Supervised Living</u> Residents live in 24 hour supervised housing upon leaving prison for at least their first 6 months. Phase II: <u>Transitional Living</u> Residents are reunited with their children and will live with them in their own apartments. Clients are still supervised and monitored by Case Manager and continue to receive intensive case management, support services, community meetings, counseling and budget assistance. Clients will live in this phase for an additional 6 months. Phase III: <u>Community Living</u> Clients will live an additional 6 months in affordable housing in a scattered site away from Harriet's House. Clients may receive a housing voucher for one year. <u>Aftercare:</u> Clients will be monitored for the last 6 months to make sure they are stable. <u>Note:</u> Successful clients will go through each of these phases although some will experience different lengths of time in each phase.

HARRIET'S HOUSE
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR EX-OFFENDER MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

YEAR TO DATE REPORT
February 2004

	July 1, 2002 To February 2004	
Total Families served to date: (since 1995-96)	68	
Recidivism	8-9%	
# Of families served fiscal year 02-03	20	
# Of Current Families (February 2004):	9	
# In Final Phase: (last 6 months of Aftercare)	2 of 9	
# Of Children when in custody with Mother	49	
Current Status of Families:		
• # Working:	8 of 8	
• # Meeting Parole Obligations:	1 of 1	
• # Active in AA/NA:	8 of 8	
• # Reunited with their children:	3 of 3	
• # In Educational/Vocational training:	1 of 1	
# Transitioned out of the Harriet's House Program: (02-03)	11	
• Transitioned into community programs (Oxford House, New Bern House, etc.)	0	
• Transitioned to Supportive Housing (TANF Voucher)	0	
• Drug Relapse:	2	
• Re-Arrest: (*same person counted)	0	
• Independent Living (Permanent Housing)	7	
• Other (marriage, voluntary leave, non-compliance, family)	2	
Accepted applicants waiting release/parole:	2	
# Achieving Home Ownership to date	44	
Enrolled in Economic Literacy – Home Buyer Education	6	

Mission/Purpose

Harriet's House is a specialized transitional housing and support services program to assist women with children make a successful return to the community after incarceration.

The primary goals are:

- Reduce recidivism.
- Assist mothers in regaining custody and care of their children.
- Help women obtain and maintain permanent safe and affordable housing.
- Help women obtain and maintain (living wage) employment.
- Help women return to the community and adopt a positive and responsible lifestyle.

Program History

- Women in the faith community identified critical unmet needs in the Raleigh-Wake County community, home of two of the largest women's prisons in North Carolina – Raleigh Correctional Center for Women (minimum security), and Women's Prison (maximum security).
- The rising number of incarcerated women with limited options for them upon release results in high recidivism rates.
- Passage Home CDC was asked to help develop and manage this program for women with children.
- A small committee was formed that resulted in first year planning, request of the General Assembly for program funding.
- Approached the NC General Assembly. Initiated support by key legislators and Harriet's House bill was crafted.
- First full year of funding, 1996
- Purchased three duplexes in West Raleigh and established "clustered" living within residential neighborhood as "affordable housing" program.
- Established formalize program routines, guidelines and operating procedures; Implemented three-phase program including after care and parenting components.

Activities and Accomplishments Report

(as submitted 12.22.03)

Grantee Name:	Passage Home, Inc`
Program Name:	Harriet's House
Project/Activity Title:	Transitional Housing for Female Ex-offenders w/children
Period Covered:	6/02-7/1/03
Date of This Report:	December 22, 2003
Preparer of This Report:	Lisa Crosslin, Program Services Director and Jeanne Tedrow, Executive Director
In compliance with the requirements of G.S. 143-6.1, <i>Report on use of State funds by non-State entities</i> , the following is a description of activities and accomplishments undertaken by our organization using the provided State funding:	

What were the original goals and expectations for this activity supported by this grant? If applicable, how have these goals and expectations been revised or refined during the course of the project?

- To provide transitional housing and supportive services for 10-12 female ex-offenders per year for 24 months
- To reunite ex-offender mothers and their children
- To reduce recidivism rate among women w/children being released from prison
- To help women obtain and maintain safe and affordable permanent housing
- To help women obtain and maintain living wage employment
- To help women return to their communities or new communities and live a responsible lifestyle
- For women to live a clean and sober lifestyle.

Since the program started in 1996 with its first full year of funding, the program has grown to serve 12 to 15 fifteen families per year. In addition, Harriet's House offers a source of on-going support for women who have graduated from the program and who seek to offer support as mentors to women recently released from prison who have entered the program. This alumni group has formed with others graduating from Passage Home programs to develop a speakers' bureau, a mentor program and peer support programs to help women maintain their sobriety and civic responsibility.

Over all, the goals and expectations of the program have remained the same, though we have been able to quantify results to measure our objectives more carefully over time since this was a start up project with state funding. As a result, we project that this program will be, on average, successful in placing 80% of women into permanent housing, 80% of the women will be successful in securing full-time employment sufficient to care for themselves and their children in housing they can afford, 80% of the women will remain in permanent housing, 80% of the families will help the children meet End of Grade testing as a measure of their educational and family stability, 80% will not return to prison or be repeat offenders upon graduation (15% recidivism rate) and 6% of the women who graduate will become homeowners.

What has the activity accomplished with these grant funds? Please include factual information to support conclusions and judgments about the activity's impact.

Harriet's House has grown to meet and expand upon initial hopes and goals for this program since 1996. To date we have served 65 women and 105 children. Harriet's House, with the help of State funds, has been able to house, provide skills training and reunite families of ex-offenders for over 5 years with the following measured results:

OUTCOME MEASURES:

Family Stability

Re-unification occurs within stated time frame Between released mother and her children	80%
Children enrolled in school	80%

Mental Health - Substance Abuse

Maintain sobriety during program phases	80%
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Vocational/Employment

Increased income

(From Release at \$0 income to minimum wage or better)	90%
Maintain employment	
6 months	80%
12 months	90%

Children's Development

Children pass End of Grade (EOG) tests	80%
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<u>Family Secures Permanent Affordable Housing</u>	90%
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<u>Family Maintains Housing for at least one year</u>	85%
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Financial Stability

Reduce Debt	85%
Increase Savings (average \$1000 over 24months)	80%
Improve Credit	80%

<u>Recidivism (return to prison or re-arrest)</u>	<15%
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<u>Home Ownership Rate</u>	6%
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If the activity is a continuing one, briefly summarize future plans and funding prospects.

Harriet's House continues to provide a comprehensive "wrap around" case management, residential program for ex-offender mothers. Harriet's House future plans are to expand its services to ex-offender women who are single without children. In addition, we would like to model this program to expand to serve male ex-offenders.

Harriet's House has been nominated to the National Congress for Community Economic Development for its "Family Strengthening Award" co-sponsored by the Anne E. Casey Foundation. If Harriet's House wins this award, Passage Home will be given the opportunity to replicate the program at other sites across the country and be identified as a "best practice" in the Family Strengthening field. Harriet's House over the years has increased its sustainability by having a diversified funding base for the program. Harriet's House funding base consists of varied sources, including North Carolina DOC (through the NC legislature, HUD, FEMA, ESGP). After clients graduate, Federal funds are used to supplement state funds to provide after-care and housing location services to families placed in permanent housing. Passage Home also seeks support from individual donors, church contributions, corporate donations and foundations to strengthen this program's sustainability.

Harriet's House Program Components

- **Intake: (begins three months prior to release)**
- Program length 24 months.
- Women referred by prison Social Worker (must have custody of children and no child abuse charges).
- Intake and Assessment: Face-to-Face interview and psychological.
- Acceptance letter and release date: Case Manager or PPO (Parole/Probation Officer) will pick up at facility and bring to HH site.

Phase I: Supervised Living (first 6 months)

Based on a clustered community living approach women live together in shared, supervised living quarters.

Case Manager works on site.

Begin taking increased responsibility for their lives:

- Acquire employment
- Begin budgeting program that includes establishing a savings account, begin debt reduction and credit cleansing. (10% program fee, 30% savings)
- If required will complete a GED program and or acquire new skills through on the job training
- Or begin Vocational training program
- Participating in MH counseling, SA therapeutic sessions and Parenting groups.
- Random urine screens, curfew checks
- Begin weekend visits with child/children increasing to longer times of visit

Phase II: Transitional Living (6-12 months)

- Remain living in clustered community but in own unit with children under their supervision.
- Continue to participate in Phase I Case management activities.
- Achieved initial goals in each area as set forth in the Family Care Plan.
- Set new goals to be achieved in Phase II.
- Children have reunited with mothers and are participating in community activities, attending and thriving in school, attending any family and or individual counseling sessions as necessary.
- Housing analysis completed to determine the type of permanent housing they might be able to afford once in independent living.
- Monthly housing inspections

Phase III: Community Living (6 months)

- Permanent housing has been identified and women has moved in with family
- Either living on public housing, section 8 housing or own income.
- Continued following Phase I & II Case Management activities.
- Attending: SA meetings, parenting, MH individual and family counseling
- Paying rent and all bills in a timely manner

Phase IV: Aftercare (6 months)

- Clients will remain to be monitored in all areas of previous Phases.
- Clients in this stage should be managing all areas such as:
- Finances (paying rent in a timely manner, maintaining savings account)
- Parenting
- Staying clean and sober
- Maintain employment

Passage Home Overview

Meeting Community Need **Reducing Recidivism**

Program Development Goals to expand and strengthen overall program operations and target populations for Re-Entry Strategies:

- Secure funding to establish other “sites” in other communities – establish Harriet’s House as a program that can be replicated as needed across North Carolina.
- Work collaboratively with Passage Home CDC and the Raleigh Weed and Seed community to better understand and plan for ex-offenders released into this economically challenged community.
- Establish Re-entry program for men and single women in collaboration with the NC “Going Home” Initiative and the NC 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- Explore ways to use proven success model of Harriet’s House with community economic development strategies being developed to address community needs of offenders released into the “old” neighborhoods.
- Integrate support services to offenders being released into the communities we are serving through neighborhood revitalization efforts.
- Provide Case management coupled with community planning for offenders in areas of housing, employment, SA and mental health services as in the Project Safe Neighborhood Project, Dept. of Justice – Weed and Seed Initiative.