

PIKE COUNTY HANDS OF HOPE-FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
MARCH, 2017

Really, are there any homeless people in Pike County?

Yes-We received 317 client calls on our Hopeline in 2015-2017 year to date. Of these, 22% of callers stated they were homeless, 8% reported being homeless, but able to stay a short time with friends, and 18% reported being in a rental eviction process. That totals approximately 70 persons per year, counting only those who have contacted Pike County Hands of Hope.

Yes-during the one-day, across-the-nation Point in Time Counts in January 2015, 2016 and 2017 we have found between one and four unsheltered homeless persons here in Pike County.

Yes-In 2016 there were 184 rental evictions processed in Pike County courts. Some find other housing immediately; many are without a residence and cannot afford to get into a sustainable residence.

What is a homeless person?

A person who is living on the street, living in a car or abandoned building, a tent, a structure not intended for residential use, an off-season camper, or under a bridge are examples of unsheltered homeless persons.

People who are undergoing a legal eviction process are near-homeless.

People without a residence of their own who are “couch surfing” and relying on friends and relatives for overnight accommodations are imminently vulnerable to immediate homelessness.

Who are the homeless in Pike County?

Our callers are single men, single women, single parent families with children, spouses or significant others with children, single persons as young as 18 and as old as 80, and some veterans. Forty-one percent were un-employed when they contacted us, 29% had one or more parties in the household employed, we couldn't tell the status of the remaining 30 %.

Aren't there shelters in Pike County to care for homeless? Where do they go?

There are no temporary housing facilities for the financially poor homeless in Pike County. The Tri-States Warming Station operates in Port Jervis from December through March, and they will accept persons from Pike County. Otherwise, the nearest shelters, warming stations, or transitional housing units are in Monroe or Lackawanna County.

What is Pike County Hands of Hope?

Pike County Hands of Hope is an entity incorporated in Pennsylvania, and IRS 501c3 tax-exempt (not-for-profit) organization. It has operated since 2012; it is governed by a board

of local, concerned citizens, and has volunteer force of approximately 24 persons to provide leadership and services.

How can we contact Pike County Hands of Hope?

Call the Hopeline at 570 296 HOPE (4673), 885 296 HOPE (4673) or email at info@pikecountyhoh.org. Our website is www.PikeCountyHOH.org

What does PCHOH do?

It operates a Hopeline accessible 24 hours a day, provides emergency shelter in local motels, provides rental placement assistance to help persons get into affordable, sustainable rental units, and provides extensive referrals to regional agencies and organizations which can help persons with employment, rental assistance, utilities assistance, legal assistance, and multiple other personal needs. We also provide toiletries, linens, towels, blankets, baby items, and personal hygiene items to clients.

How much does it cost to operate PCHOH?

The annual expenditures of PCHOH have been approximately \$15,000 per year for the past three years. The direct client expenses are about \$75 per night for motel costs, and \$800 per rental for security deposits. We attempt to use no-cost shelters seasonally, where available. The telephone and internet services to support the Hopeline are about \$500 per year. There are no personnel costs, as we just have volunteer staff and leadership.

What can we donate to Pike County Hands of Hope?

PCHOH needs your talent, time and money.

We continually need volunteers to maintain our Hopeline services. A Hopeline volunteer may be on-call three or four times a month and may spend very little time or perhaps 2-4 hours during the day they cover the Hopeline, which they do from their own home. Our Hands-on volunteers are called on occasionally to take toiletries or other materials to clients. A significant need is for persons interested in the governance of the organization and to assist in fund-raising.

We are primarily funded through financial donations from individuals and groups. Donations of cash are greatly appreciated. Also, donations of gift cards for grocery stores, restaurants and gas stations are extremely useful.

We do not collect clothing or furniture as many other organizations do so quite well. We do have an annual drive in November to collect toiletries, personal hygiene items, baby supplies, blankets and linens.

What other groups does PCHOH work with?

We work directly with several churches on a case-by-case basis to assist with rental placement assistance to get people into sustainable living quarters. We actively refer people to food pantries and community meal programs for immediate nutrition relief. We refer to out-of-county warming stations and transitional housing organizations. We refer persons reporting abuse to Safe Haven or law enforcement agencies. We refer people to public agencies such as Pike County Human Development, Wayne-Pike Housing Authority, legal aid organizations, workforce development and employment offices, and public welfare offices. We are constantly seeking additional agencies that could potentially assist the homeless in Pike County.