

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 2006

*"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

Lisa Crosslin, Director, Program Services: 919.834.0666 X 226
Jeanne C. Tedrow, Executive Director: 919.834.0666 X 230

PASSAGE HOME Community Development Corporation
PO Box 10347
Raleigh, NC 27605

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	<p><u>The Harriet's House program operates in three phases:</u></p> <p><u>Phase I: Supervised Living</u> Residents live in 24 hour supervised housing upon leaving prison for at least their first 6 months.</p> <p><u>Phase II: 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.</p> <p><u>Phase III: 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.</p> <p><u>Aftercare:</u> Clients will be monitored for the last 6 months to make sure they are stable.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Successful clients will go through each of these phases although some will experience different lengths of time in each phase.</p>

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

YEAR TO DATE REPORT
February 2006

	07/01/2004 to 02/2006 DOC	07/01/2004 to 02/2006 GCC
	Families	Individuals
Total Families served to date: (since 1995-96)	95	
# Of families served fiscal year (7/04-2/06)	23	
# Of Single Women (7/4-2/06)		9
Total number served: (7/04-2/06)	23	9
Capacity:	13	4
Current Families	4	
Family applicants accepted waiting release	5	
# In Final Phase: (last 6 months of Aftercare)	1	
# Of Children when in custody with Mother	9	
Current Single women:		3
Single women accepted waiting release		1
Total Number of Women in Program		
Current Status:		
• # Working:	4	3
• # Meeting Parole Obligations:	2 of 2	
• # Active in AA/NA:	5	1
• # Reunited with their children:	2 of 4	
# In Educational/Vocational training: Certified Nurses Assistant, GED, Computer Literacy.	2	2
# Transitioned out of the Harriet's House Program: (04-06)	19	6
• Transitioned into community programs (Oxford House, New Bern House, etc.)	2	
• Transitioned to Supportive Housing (TANF Voucher)	0	
• Drug Relapse:	3	2
• Re-Arrest and Re-incarcerated	2	
• Independent Living (Permanent Housing)	16	5
• Other (marriage, voluntary leave, non-compliance)	2	
Overall Recidivism – since program inception 1996 (15/95 and 6/95 re-arrest only)	Re-incarcerated 15.8% Re-arrested 6%	
# Achieving Home Ownership to date	6 4	
Enrolled in Economic Literacy – Home Buyer Education	4	

Mission/Purpose

Harriet's House is a specialized transitional housing and support services program to ex-offenders (single women and 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
- Established "clustered" living within residential neighborhood for transitional and affordable housing program.
- Established formalize program routines, guidelines and operating procedures; Implemented three-phase program including after care and parenting components.
- Expanded to include single women leaving prison in partnership with the Presbyterian Church and through the Governor's Crime Commission. Established a "first step" house for women prior to reunification or living independently.

Activities and Accomplishments Report

Grantee Name:	Passage Home, Inc`
Program Name:	Harriet's House
Project/Activity Title:	Transitional Housing for Female Ex-offenders w/children
Period Covered:	7/01/04-2/31/2006
Date of This Report:	January 26, 2006
Preparer of This Report:	Lisa Crosslin, Program Services Director and Jeanne Tedrow, Executive Director

In compliance with the requirements of G.S. 143-6.2 revised, *Report on use of State funds by non-State entities*, 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.

This grant has allowed us to house women in transitional housing while working to meet above goals for themselves and their families. Since the program started in 1996, the program has grown to serve more than the expected 10 to 12 families per year. Harriet's House now serves about 15-20 women per year, not counting the women who have graduated and have formed their own group called "WOO" (Women Overcoming Obstacles). WOO serves as a mentoring program for current participants and their families. This alumni group (WOO: Women Over Coming Obstacles) was 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.

The goals and expectations have remained the same for our women in the Harriet's House program. The number of women we serve has grown and the program has expanded in order to serve the continuous number of women who apply to the Harriet's Program each year.

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 95 women and 167 children. During this reporting period Harriet's House served 32 ex-offenders (23 families, 9 single women and 53 children). During this reporting period 19 families and 6 single women transitioned out of the program. 84% of those who transitioned out have been placed into permanent housing. 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	65%
15/23	
School Aged Children enrolled in school	100%

Mental Health - Substance Abuse

Maintain sobriety during program phases	84%
-----------------------------------------	-----

Vocational/Employment

Increased income

(From Release at \$ 0 income to minimum wage or better)	100%
------------------------------------------------------------	------

Maintain employment	
Current +grads 6 months	84%
Grads 21/23 12 months	91%

Family Secures Permanent Affordable Housing 16/23	69.6%%
---------------------------------------------------	--------

Family Maintains Housing for at least one year 21/23	91%
------------------------------------------------------	-----

Financial Stability

Reduce Debt	100%
Increase Savings (average \$1000 over 24months)	74%
Improve Credit	100%

Recidivism (return to prison – since 1996)	15.8%
--------------------------------------------	-------

Home Ownership Rate	6%
---------------------	----

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 has expanded its services to serve a small number of single ex-offender women who are without children or have lost their parental right. In addition, we would like to model this program to expand to serve male ex-offenders.

Passage Home has incorporated into its Weed & Seed program services to include ex-offender men returning to the community. 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.