

Housing Panel Follow-Up Questions/Responses

Salvation Army – 19th Street: (Pauline Thacker)

Are there services for women? **Anyone is invited to our soup kitchen meals and we offer a homeless day service program that single homeless women are entitled to.**

Is there assistance transitioning to permanent housing? If so, are there funds available to help with move-in expenses (first month/security deposit)? **We conduct a VI-SPADT interview with anyone who isn't already referred to a housing program. Our area command social service office has a program to apply for rental assistance including first month rent and security deposits.**

Is there any flexibility with curfew once a participant becomes employed? **Our curfew is 9pm but will allow late entry to any man who has a work schedule that doesn't allow him to enter before curfew. We allow men who work overnight into shelter but don't have day shelter for sleeping. We start our nightly entry at 6pm. Overnight workers can enter at 6pm and leave when they need to get to work.**

Are there other ways to enter shelter besides contacting the Housing Crisis Hotline? Is there a waitlist once the allotted amount of beds are filled?

We don't have a wait list but we can assist men who enter for day service program by referring them to the hotline and helping them with that process.

Friends Faith House: (David Brady)

What are the shared expenses? (What is included?) **Shared expenses is what each of our members pay each week. We try not to call it rent.**

Peninsula Rescue Mission: (Alan Defriese)

What about housing for the women coming home? Do you have any available? Are there any restrictions on housing for women?

Great questions... currently we are only a men's shelter. In 2021, we determined that the Lord was leading us to open a women's shelter. We began the search for property/facilities in which to conduct this new ministry. We are currently under contract for a commercial property in NN that, by our design, would sleep 30 women. Our focus would be on serving unaccompanied women (single, with no dependent children) that are in non-domestic violence situations. Our research indicates that there are options for women with children and for women in domestic violence (DV) situations. But for unaccompanied women in non-DV situations there are very limited resources available. Sadly, we are months, possibly a year before this facility would open. We are praying that the city of NN will approve our conditional use permit to allow us to move forward.

What about the housing for the sex offenders?

Currently we do allow sex offenders to reside at our long-term program, and apply for our long-term B.R.I.D.G.E. program. While we have not written policies for our women's shelter at this point (see the question above), we plan to accept female sex offenders as well. However, this might change... we simply have not gotten that far yet.

What kind of ID do I need to gain access to Mission, what if I don't have any ID?

Some type of picture ID is preferred. Even expired state IDs will suffice as long as the picture is recognizable. If no picture ID is available, we can use several other identifying documents to cumulatively establish identity, such as social security card, birth certificate, prison release papers, bills, hospital paperwork, etc. If the man has absolutely nothing, we will take the name and SSN that he gives us and call the NNPD and do a warrant check. If that clears, and there are no other obvious red flags we will let the man check in.

How long can I stay?

Great question, and one of the most common. In 2021, the average stay was 16 nights. Here are a few more details... We have 40 beds available in our short-term, emergency shelter. We need 6 of those bunks empty each night to handle any newcomers. If we already have 6 empty beds on a particular morning, then no one has to leave. But, if we only have, for example, 4 empty beds, then the 2 men that have been at PRM the longest will have to leave to make room for newcomers. Many of our beds open up because men leave on their own before their time is up. Normally we don't know the reason that they leave... they just don't return the next evening. All of that working together creates an average stay of 16 nights per man.

What resources and services are available through the Peninsula Rescue Mission.

In house, we offer, of course, shelter which includes bed space (all linens provided), breakfast and supper each day, access to our bathroom & showers (towel, washcloth, and hygiene items are available). By the way, if a man doesn't keep himself clean while he's at PRM he will be dismissed. We provide 2 pair of new socks, underwear, and t-shirts to each man checking in. We do laundry for the men every other day so he will always have clean undergarments during his stay with us. We have a clothing center onsite as well for any men who need other clothing items. As a ministry we have a number of ministerial staff that conduct our daily chapel services and are always available to speak with men about anything that's on their mind. We are not clinically licensed counselors at all. Just men who deeply love Jesus, and whose lives have been changed by our personal relationships with the Lord. It is our foundational belief that a person will not know genuine peace and joy in life apart from a relationship with the One that created them. Not everyone believes this, but this is who we are. We don't discriminate against any guest who doesn't share that belief. We serve them just like everyone else. But, our chapel services are required for every resident.

We also offer the long-term B.R.I.D.G.E. program through PRM. It is a 6 month, residential program, intended for men who are serious about growing in their walk with the Lord. This program includes in house work therapy, Bible studies, and more involved oversight such as getting this group of men to

medical and legal appointments and acquiring credentials they may be lacking.... all with a view for preparing them to return to the outside world as self sufficient men.

Do I have to clean and dry (not using) to get in?

There is a zero tolerance for alcohol, marijuana, and all other illegal drugs. Every man that checks in is first breath-checked. If he blows any numbers at all, he is not allowed to check in that night. He can try again the next night. If a man is visibly under the influence of some other substance we reserve the right to turn him away. The legalization of marijuana has made our job much more difficult. There is not a test to prove if a man has been smoking marijuana in the last 12 hours, 24 hours, etc. If a man shows up reeking of marijuana his answer is always that he wasn't smoking it, but was around a bunch of people that were. We are considering a policy that would eliminate a man from checking in if he even smells of marijuana.

So, maybe the more clear answer is that a man may consume alcohol or use drugs occasionally or even regularly, but he is not allowed to do so on the day he is checking into PRM or at any time during his stay.

The Center (CSB): (Rafael Roman, Leanne Pelsner)

Can you offer any bed to bed services/admissions for homeless returning citizens being released from the Norfolk City Jail?

Unfortunately, at this time we cannot offer a bed to bed service/admission. While we do not wish to see anyone return to homelessness, we do not have the capacity to provide this type of service.

Do you have a policy for removal of disruptive residents?

Yes, there are rules to be followed while on site. If the person is a visiting for day services and become disruptive, they may be asked to leave for the day. If the person is an overnight guests, they may be may face a written reprimand or may face removal of the program dependent upon leadership review. In all situations, staff will work to de-escalate and attempt to address what is the cause of the disruptive behavior; staff will also seek additional services or assistance as required or deemed appropriate.

Can you offer a presentation on services offered for our program participants (Norfolk City Jail)?

What qualifies them for your services?

While we do not have a presentation on services offered, we do have the brochure, as well as a weekly Resource sheet, which highlights where an individual may find locations for meals, clothing etc. We encourage anyone seeking assistance to contact the Regional Housing Hotline (757-587-4202). Any adult can visit the Center for day services 7 days a week 8:00a-5:00p. To qualify for any housing assistance programs or to be eligible for the waitlist/overnight the person must be connected to Norfolk or eligible to receive Norfolk services/benefits (SNAP, SS, etc.).