



HOUSE OF HOPE

Presented by the Danville Regional Foundation

2025 B. R. Ashby, M.D. Award

In Recognition of Outstanding Community Service

ABOUT

House of Hope is a faith-based, emergency homeless shelter serving the City of Danville, Virginia and the surrounding area. For over 10 years, House of Hope has provided safe refuge to those who don't have a place to stay.

In a time of great need, the shelter provides guests with a comfortable place where they can lay their heads and be treated with dignity and respect. Besides food and shelter, staff seek to identify each guest's unique challenges so they can be connected to needed services. Anyone and everyone are welcome to stay at House of Hope, provided they meet a few requirements such as having an ID, having no active criminal warrant, and having no conviction for sexual misconduct.

Everybody's story is unique, and the goal of House of Hope is to approach each guest with that uniqueness in mind. This is only accomplished by being a part of a robust network of homeless services, so that people stuck in the homelessness cycle or overwhelmed by the complexity of the housing problems they face can have a clear and direct support system that can guide them on the path to recovery.

HOUSE OF HOPE CORE PROGRAMS



Emergency Shelter Program

In the past three years, this program has expanded to three sections to meet the unique needs of different populations. Phil and Fran's Place, the initial shelter, houses men, while Norma's Place serves women and their children. In the past year, the shelter opened two larger rooms downstairs in the Phil and Fran section to serve larger families – especially those with husbands, wives and children.



West Piedmont Housing Coalition

House of Hope became an active part of a larger housing coalition called "West Piedmont Better Housing Coalition" within the past year. The facility became a coordinated entry point for the Housing Coalition, referring guests to housing partners to help them secure stable, permanent shelter. These referrals include assessing level of need using a common "Vulnerability Index of Tool" to make sure that people with deeper, more complex needs, can be prioritized.

To help connect guests with other community resources, the House of Hope employed a Housing Advocate to meet with guests, help them assess their needs, and assist them in the development of plans for sustainable development. The Housing Advocate refers guests to community resources such as mental health resources, substance use counseling, health programs, supportive housing, and other programs and services they needed. The goal of this program is to address the underlying, complex issues that come along with or are intensified by experiencing homelessness and to help our guests secure stable housing.

HOW WILL HOUSE OF HOPE USE THE \$60,000 ASHBY AWARD?

With the expansion of the facility, the capacity has more than doubled. While House of Hope can serve more people, it also requires double the staff and has increased other ongoing costs (supplies, insurance, utilities, building maintenance, etc.). There are two priorities for the funds:

- 1** Increase the Executive Director salary to hire someone who can play a major role in establishing a collaborative network of services for homeless adults transitioning from the shelter into the community. The Executive Director will also lead fundraising activities and oversee the day-to-day operations of the facility.
- 2** To develop a community-based Day Program for homeless adults. The Day Program would serve shelter guests, other homeless people, and people unstably housed. The concept would involve a place where community organizations would provide representatives to meet with individuals and small groups to help them work through obstacles they are facing trying to transition back into the community. Among the services that are envisioned are housing counseling, financial planning/budgeting, workforce services, health services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, etc.

SHELTERING THE HOMELESS

WHAT TO EXPECT AT HOUSE OF HOPE

Once guests have settled in at House of Hope, they sit down and speak with the shelter manager so that whatever support services offered to them their background is taken into consideration. In addition, Shelter Policies and Procedures explicitly state that House of Hope serves people regardless of their gender, race, sexual orientation, faith, ethnicity, or political affiliation. This initial meeting orients people to the shelter and rules and allows them to vent to a guest supervisor trained to listen.

By design, the shelter is not a large dormitory. After meeting with the Guest Supervisor, guests are assigned to a room with up to four people. They are given personal hygiene kits they can use while at the shelter. They are given a warm supper, provided by generous donors – and seconds if wanted. There is a lounge and television along with books donated by the community. They are assigned jobs, so everyone helps keep the facility neat and clean. In the morning, they can choose among different items for breakfast. Sack lunches can also be made to take with them for the day.

Unless they have mobility issues or young children, they are expected to leave the shelter at 9:00 a.m. (unless the weather is bad), but if they let staff know they will return, their beds will be there for them upon return. The House of Hope shelter is as close to family living as it can be.

All guests are entered into a Homeless Management Information System that is a database used to determine which programs are successful and which are not. It also helps House of Hope conduct Exit Assessments to understand when guests leave the shelter; why they leave; where they go; if they are now enrolled in Medicaid; and if their situation is improving.

As with any shelter, House of Hope is often the end of the line for many people, meaning that if they are turned away due to the not meeting criteria, then there are probably not many others who can assist. Emergency supplies are available that can be provided such as sleeping bags, tents, food and utensils, hygiene items, etc. In addition, through community contacts, the team attempts to connect people with local housing, governmental, social service, and church-based resources in Danville to try and meet (at least) some of the immediate needs of individuals that cannot be served.



A SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS



FROM HOUSE OF HOPE CLIENTS

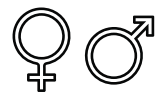
“I have lost a lot due to drinking - my job and my home. As soon as I gave House of Hope a call, with welcoming arms they were there for me and listened and were concerned about my life situation and let me stay. Since I’ve been here my health has increased – I’m gaining an appetite back and have stopped drinking. The staff are 100% there for my wellbeing.”
E.H.

“Coming to the shelter has given me hope and self-confidence when I was low in my spirit. Through the times staying there the staff helped me greatly by giving me direction and stability but being a single parent in that situation made me realize where I don’t want to be again and know within myself the steps I had to take. Being at the shelter, there were rules that needed to be followed, and I didn’t want to but I had to sacrifice because there was a goal at the end of the road to help me and my children. Hard work, dedication to my children, and being persistent are key goals and we all have them within us. I haven’t reached all my goals, but I’m moving towards them thanks to Norma’s Place at House of Hope. Hopefully my journey will be a testimony to other women out there on the same journey so they can make it too.”
I.C.

“From day one when I arrived here, they have shown nothing but compassion and understanding. Staff have helped in any way possible such as a ride to my doctor, online applications, getting in touch with the VA for veterans, making sure you have plenty to eat, clean clothes and if you don’t have clothes, they will help you get to Helping Hands to get clothes. When your time is up, they will help you find a place or give you an extension which is very helpful and good-hearted.”
J.D.



HOUSE OF HOPE BY THE NUMBERS



Year	Individuals Served	Total Nights	Gender
2022	219	3,966	158 Males 58 Females 3 Children
2023	387	7,210	231 Males 121 Females 32 Children
2024 (Thru 10/17)	358	6,188	196 Males 120 Females 42 Children

15 Employees (4 full-time; 11 part-time guest supervisors)
15 Regular Volunteers

ABOUT THE B. R. ASHBY, M.D. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The DRF Board of Directors established the B. R. Ashby, M. D. Award for Outstanding Community Service in recognition and appreciation of the exemplary service and selfless leadership of B.R. Ashby, M.D., a founding Board Member and first Chairman of DRF. The \$60,000 general operating grant award - which began in 2009 - honors outstanding community service in the Dan River Region by nonprofit organizations, based on their success in helping needy families and individuals overcome significant challenges.

Each year, the general public is invited to nominate regional nonprofits that demonstrate commitment to caring and generosity of spirit. The nominator cannot be a paid staff member at the organization under review. Board members, volunteers, and community members are eligible to make nominations.

Nominated organizations that meet the award criteria will be invited to submit a full application. Eligibility requirements include:

- The nominated organization must be at least five years old.
- The nominated organization must be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501 (c)(3) organization. This can include churches and religious organizations as defined by IRS Publication 1828.
- The organization must be located in the DRF service area (Danville and Pittsylvania County, VA and Caswell County, NC) and a majority of its clients and/or programs must be located in the service area.
- Grantees currently funded or having a commitment to receive funding by DRF at \$200,000 + annually are not eligible.
- Previous Ashby Award recipients are not eligible to receive the award again until after five years.

The award selection process is overseen by an Advisory Committee of four community members and a DRF Board representative.

PAST B. R. ASHBY, M.D. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE WINNERS

- Project Literacy - 2024
- County Outreach Ministry, Inc. - 2023
- Caswell Parish, Inc. - 2022
- Grace & Main Fellowship/Third Chance Ministries - 2021
- Just Kids Child Development Center, Inc. - 2020
- Danville Speech & Hearing Center - 2019
- Pittsylvania County Community Action - 2018
- Caswell Family Medical Center - 2017
- Danville Cancer Association - 2016
- God's Storehouse - 2015
- Northern Pittsylvania County Food Center - 2014
- Danville Life Saving Crew - 2013
- God's Pit Crew - 2012
- Danville Church-Based Tutorial Program - 2011
- Caswell Parish, Inc. - 2010



ABOUT DRF

The Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) focuses on transforming the regional economy and creating a prosperous culture to benefit all Dan River Region citizens. It does so by making long-term investments to improve education, economic vitality, community wellness, financial stability and civic capacity for citizens throughout the City of Danville, Virginia; Pittsylvania County, Virginia; and Caswell County, North Carolina.

The Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) envisions thriving Dan River Region communities where all residents are encouraged and equipped to build healthy and productive lives for themselves and their families.

DRF's mission is to be a catalyst for long-term transformation through the development, promotion and support of impactful activities and programs that address the health, education, and well-being of all the Dan River Region's residents. The Foundation is one part of a large collaborative network of partners from all sectors working together as agents for innovation promising a sustained positive impact on the entire region.

Since its establishment in 2005, DRF has committed more than \$180 million through more than 640 grants.



For more information on DRF, our programs, our partners and other grant making opportunities, please visit our website at www.drfonline.org.