



"A Bridge to Wholeness"

RECEIVED
York County

SEP 11 2019

Planning
Division

York County Building Regulation Division
PO Box Box 532
Yorktown, VA 23690-0532

RE: **Request to change NATASHA House Use Group**

Dear Building Regulation Division,

NATASHA House, Inc. remains committed to continue fulfilling our mission, "Empowering and Equipping" homeless female-headed families and at-risk youth with the skills need to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Since opening Labor Day 2010, we have Housed: **108 moms & 181 children** 87 % of our moms remained housed; 22% were from York County; .5% were from Poquoson and 77% were Veterans, and 10 former residents reside in York County:

Although we submitted a request to Codes to Amend our Special Use Occupancy Permit; after working with Architect Greg Brezinski, we change our request to the following:

1. **Change our Use Group from R-4 to R-2**
2. **Change our Occupancy from 16 to 40 because our Residents live at NATASHA House up to two years and we plan to expand up with the maximum amount of Adults to be 14 which includes adding an additional staircase.**
3. **It is also our intent to secure an agreement with Faith For Living Outreach Center for the additional parking required by the Code.**

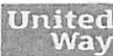
As of today, Sep 11, 2019, we have 12 moms with pending applications, 4 of which are York County Residents and 1 is a Veteran

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Brown

- Dr. Karyn Ward**
Board Chair
- Tonya Ford**
Asst. Board Chair
- Nickesha Lewis**
Secretary
- Tina Chase**
Treasurer
- Dr. Michelle Boone-Thornton**
Board Member
- Quinn Slade**
Board Member
- Debra Carroll**
Board Member
- Barbara Smith**
Board Member
- Shante' Bell**
Board Member
- Debra Carroll**
Board Member
- Karen Brown**
Executive Director



P.O. BOX 2392 . YORKTOWN, VA 23692-1869 . 757-898-1993

www.natashahouse.org Info@natashahouse.org CFC NO. 21293 . A registered 501(c)3 Non-profit organization



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Total residential occupancy – 40 persons
Total residential units – 14 (maximum of 14 adults, one adult per unit)
Total staff members – 5

Executive Director (full time, Mon-Fri, 8am – 5pm)
Administrative Assistant (part time, Tues & Thurs, 8am – 5pm)
Program Coordinator (part time, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 5pm – 11pm)
2 Overnight Resident Assistants (part time, 11pm – 7am daily)

Weekly sessions take place off-site and our Program Coordinator conducts the financial counseling during one of her shifts.

4 Social Work/Human Services Interns cover shifts from 7am-11pm on Sat & Sun

We are working with Faith For Living Church (the adjacent property owner) to secure an agreement to use their parking lot for overflow parking.

Mission

NATASHA House Inc. (NHI) is a transitional home for homeless female-headed families that equips and empowers them to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

NATASHA House which stands for a **New Alternative Towards A Secure Home Atmosphere**, intervenes in the homeless cycle of female-headed families and at-risk youth by providing transitional housing and outreach services that prepare them to become self-sufficient, civically engaged citizens. Our Supportive Services—HomeMakers Program (HMP) offers three segments—HMP for women, CHAMPS for the children, & the Seed 2 Table Enterprise (S2TE) a horticulture education and therapy project for career-readiness Certification & Ag-STEAM Program that

Promotes:

1) financial, health, & technology literacy; 2) career & lifework planning; 3) maintaining permanent housing and/or home ownership; 4) improving emotional, social, and physical well-being, and 5) civic engagement.

Program Description

NATASHA House delivers its services via a host of community partners committed to inspiring and equipping women with the career & life-skills to break their own homeless cycle and achieve and maintain permanent housing, even home ownership, using a proven systems approach that provides **128 hrs** of deliberately purposeful certification training.

HomeMakers Part I—"Bridge to Wholeness-New Beginnings"

Tackles the clients emotional, physical, and financial literacy needs and is delivered in training Modules—**CARP (Career Assessment Research Pursuit Training)**, **HEAL (Health Education & Awareness Literacy)**, **BRAVO (Behavior, Relationship, Attitude, Values, & Outcomes)**, and **FIT (Financial & Technology (IT) Literacy Training)**; so that within the **first 10 days** of acceptance in our program, clients establish their HomeMakers Empowerment LifeWork Plan (**HELP**) which includes short term & intermediate personal, family, financial, and career goals. In addition, clients are scheduled for weekly meetings with a Social Worker and monthly meetings with the Homemakers Coordinator to ensure client are held accountable and remain focus on their goals and **within the first 30 days** of acceptance clients are scheduled for a financial assessment & counseling session, they establish the financial and housing goals, they complete Personal Profile Forms, and are scheduled for weekly meetings with the financial counselor who provides, weekly budget/spending/savings accountability. Also provided are independent living skills including training in nutrition, health, social skills, career exploration, budgeting and financial management, tenant rights and responsibilities, civic engagement, and Lifework Planning.



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The agency maintains a large garden that provides fresh vegetables throughout the growing season for the families in the program. The garden offsets food costs and improves the nutritional habits of the families. It is a teaching tool for families who help maintain the project. During the peak of the growing season when there is an abundance of vegetables, they are sold to community members.

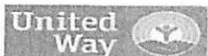
After the first 30 Days: Critical to self-sufficiency is a source of income. The women focus on becoming employed. Once employed, they are charged a reasonable program fee, which is their contribution toward their housing and childcare. The fee offsets some of the expenses of providing housing, but more importantly it helps families understand the responsibilities of living and self-sufficiency.

HomeMakers Part II—"Crossing the Bridge-HomeBound"

Addresses clients financial stability and housing needs via the training modules—FIT (Financial & Technology (IT) Literacy Training), CARP (Career Assessment Research Pursuit Training), and HIP (Homeowner Investment Preparation); so that clients continue to achieve short & intermediate goals, develop and begin implementing their "Crossing the Bridge"—transition plan" to permanent housing, attend monthly/quarterly Homeowners Club Meetings which include resident leadership training, pre-rental/purchase education, and when needed, lending, post purchase education, and foreclosure prevention.

Once the families "graduate" from the NATASHA House program and re-locate to permanent housing, the families are encouraged to participate in our FollowCare outreach program that helps ensure that they further their goals of becoming self-sufficient and maintaining their housing. The program staff and College Interns maintain contact to provide support in their efforts to break the cycle of homelessness and assess unaddressed needs that support self-sufficiency. The life-skills, educational, counseling and support Sessions are facilitated by Staff and/or Board members, college interns, community professionals and trained volunteers.

Families who contact NATASHA House for either residency or outreach services receive an initial SPDAT & Diversion assessments, a national background check, and a screening interview before signing a contract for participation in the HomeMakers program and transitional housing. NATASHA House will work to enhance the quality of life for both its residents and outreach clients by ensuring that at least 80% of its enrollees graduate the program.



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