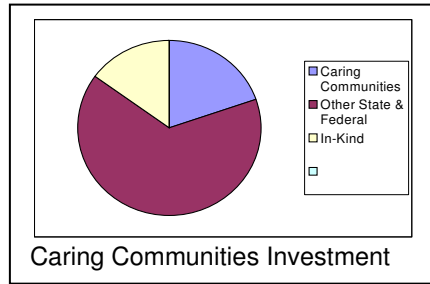


# Pettis County

## Caring Communities Partnership

**Core Result: Children and Families Safe**  
**Benchmark: Homeless Prevention**



September/2004

### \*Objective

To increase the number of families assisted with rental, mortgage, and utility assistance from zero in FY 2002-2003 to 50 families in FY 2003-2004.

### \*Strategies

It has been a tremendous task to account for the incidence of homelessness in Pettis County. At a gathering of community agencies in 2002 sponsored by Missouri Valley Community Action Agency, it was brought to light that homelessness is a real concern in Pettis County, but the general public seemed to be unaware of the problem. Most social service agencies in Pettis County can tell you stories of homeless families they deal with on a daily basis. Because of this group's work, a new organization, Putting Roofs Over People (PROP), meets monthly to discuss and implement strategies to prevent homelessness and to help the homeless.

PROP –Putting Roofs Over People approached Pettis County Community Partnership about becoming part of the partnership until they could secure funds to become their own 501 c 3 non profit organization. The PCCP board voted to include PROP as a program within Pettis County Community Partnership.

Missouri Housing Trust Fund –Through Pettis County Community Partnership, PROP applied for and received homeless prevention funds.

**Successes:** The original goal was to serve 50 households with the homeless prevention money from Missouri Housing Trust Fund in the twelve-month period April 2003 - March 2004 but when the year was complete, PROP served 145 separate households with an average payment of \$274. The grant money provided necessary funding to help families remain in their homes.

### Challenges:

In a rural Missouri, homeless people are not usually very visible so the general public has a tendency to think there is not a homeless problem in our county. Every social service agency in the county can dispel this myth.

The MHTF grant did not allow funds for the case manager we wrote into the grant which limited the ability to work more intensely with families to prevent recidivism.

Getting families to give accurate documentation for family unit size and income was challenging at times.

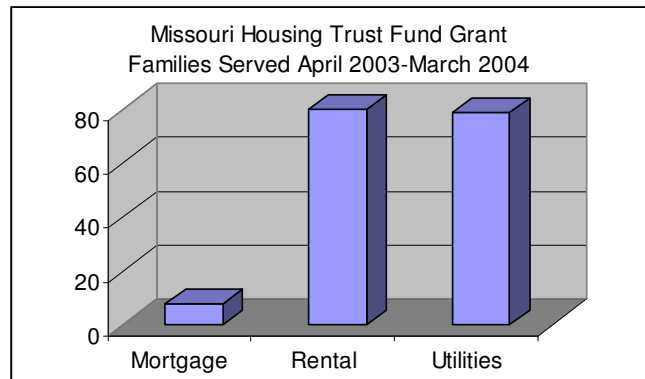
### \*Results

PROP assisted with 80 rental payments, 79 utility, 7 mortgage payments, and one minor repair. Of the 145 households served, 13 received assistance a second time, and four of the households received assistance a third time (for this reason the need for a case manager is evident).

The maximum payment amount per household was \$400 and the average payment was \$274.25.

Statistics from the distribution of the Missouri Housing Trust Fund Dollars:

- Single parent families represented 44% of the households served
- 124 children were from single parent households
- Of the 145 families served, a total of 244 children were additionally helped



### \*Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$ 15,200
Other State & Federal	\$ 50,000
In-Kind	\$ 11,388
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 76,588</b>

For every Caring Communities dollar we receive for the core result *Children and Families Safe* we are able to leverage \$4.04.

### \*Noteworthy

The Sedalia Jaycees held a homeless rally to raise the awareness of homelessness in Pettis County. They raised \$500 and donated it to Putting Roofs Over People.

