



## **2004 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc. is a statewide network committed to fostering strategic initiatives that build collaborative responses to the needs of homeless persons in Georgia.*

Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc.

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The Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc. (GCEH) is a 501(c)3 organization, incorporated in 1996. GCEH is comprised of twelve regions that include the 159 Georgia counties. GCEH is an organization with 116 members and 1041 participating organizations. GCEH partners include homeless service and prevention providers, governmental entities, homeless coalitions and task forces, formerly homeless persons, members of the business community, and individuals interested in homeless issues.

**During 2004, GCEH formalized partnerships with the following coordinating entities:** Homeless Resource Network, Augusta Task Force for the Homeless, Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center, Northeast Georgia Homeless Coalition, and Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. Partners reported monthly on their progress regarding Provider Enhancement Network (PEN) surveys in their area, clients served, coordinated case management, annual regional resource fairs, and Continuum of Care (CoC) planning. This annual report will highlight the work of GCEH's statewide efforts.

**GCEH accomplishes its mission by:**

- Identifying and advocating for immediate and long-term solutions to homelessness, effective housing production, and policy at the state, local, and national levels;
- Informing and raising the awareness of the public and policymakers about homelessness and Georgia's housing needs;
- Fostering communication, building local coalitions, and developing collaborative and inclusive partnerships among homeless service providers, housing providers, advocates for affordable and fair housing, tenants' rights advocates, low-income and homeless people, funding sources, and government officials; and
- Advocating for and identifying the availability of funding, training, and technical assistance.

As a supportive services organization, GCEH has been built on two core programs, the **Provider Enhancement Network (PEN)** and **Quality Enhancement Standards (QEST)**. **PEN** is a statistical and research database that houses organizational profiles of over 1000 homeless prevention and intervention organizations. This information is collected through a survey designed to allow GCEH to map resources available to homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless throughout Georgia. The **PEN** program provides a detailed picture of Georgia's homeless providers and prevention services organizations, and can serve as a tool for homeless services coordination all over Georgia.

**GCEH Quality Enhancement Standards (QEST)** is a process of accreditation for organizations that serve homeless persons. Voluntarily participating organizations begin the accreditation process by attending **QEST Orientation**, followed by organizational completion of a self assessment. Next, a peer review site visit and confidential client interviews are conducted, and finally **GCEH organizational reviews** are completed by the Program Director. When the organization meets 90% of the standards, a 3 year accreditation is granted with annual reviews. **QEST** helps homeless service providers build upon their organizational capacity and ultimately maximizes their clients' opportunities for self-sufficiency.

GCEH experts provided 14 statewide **technical assistance and training** sessions in 2004. Examples include:

- Presentations on Homeless Children to faith-based organizational volunteers (Urban Mission, Feb. 21, 2004), Regional Resource Fairs (Rome, GA, March 27), *Reaching the Heart of Humanity Outreach Conference* (Abundant Life Church, June 18 & 19, 2004), and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in Atlanta (May 25, 2004).
- Six learning institutes on domestic violence and homelessness.
- Five **QEST Orientation** training sessions for providers

During 2004 the *Metro Atlanta Community Foundation* granted *GCEH* technical assistance funding to support the organizational leadership's desire for an organizational assessment. Upon completion of *GCEH*'s organizational assessment, board consensus was to establish clear and measurable goals, and ultimately, an organizational strategic plan focused on the next 3-5 years.

Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc. is a member of the *Georgia State Homeless Interagency Council*, the *U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness*, the *State Homeless Policy Council*, and the *National Alliance to End Homelessness*.

*GCEH* partnered with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, eighteen additional homeless service providers, four corporate sponsors (Eli Lilly, Target, Wal-Mart, and Big Lots) in four *Homeless Stand Downs* in Atlanta. The Rock, Crossroads, Atlanta Women and Children's Shelter, and the Latin American Association served as host sites. Outreach was done to over 1,000 homeless individuals and veterans.

**2004 GCEH Client Needs Identified through Homeless Service Coordination:**

**2004 GCEH PEN Accomplishments:**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>NEW SURVEYS</b>
Region 1	24
Region 2	13
Region 3	62
Region 4	0
Region 5	21
Region 6	25
Region 7	20
Region 8	2
Region 9	85
Region 10	10
Region 11	32
Region 12	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>

<b>Need</b>	<b># of Requests</b>
Housing	79
Rental Assistance	26
Utility Assistance	1
Intervention	2
Children's Support Svcs.	4
Medical Assistance	5
Employment/Training	11
Legal Issues	4
Recovery	0
Domestic Violence	2
Disability	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>

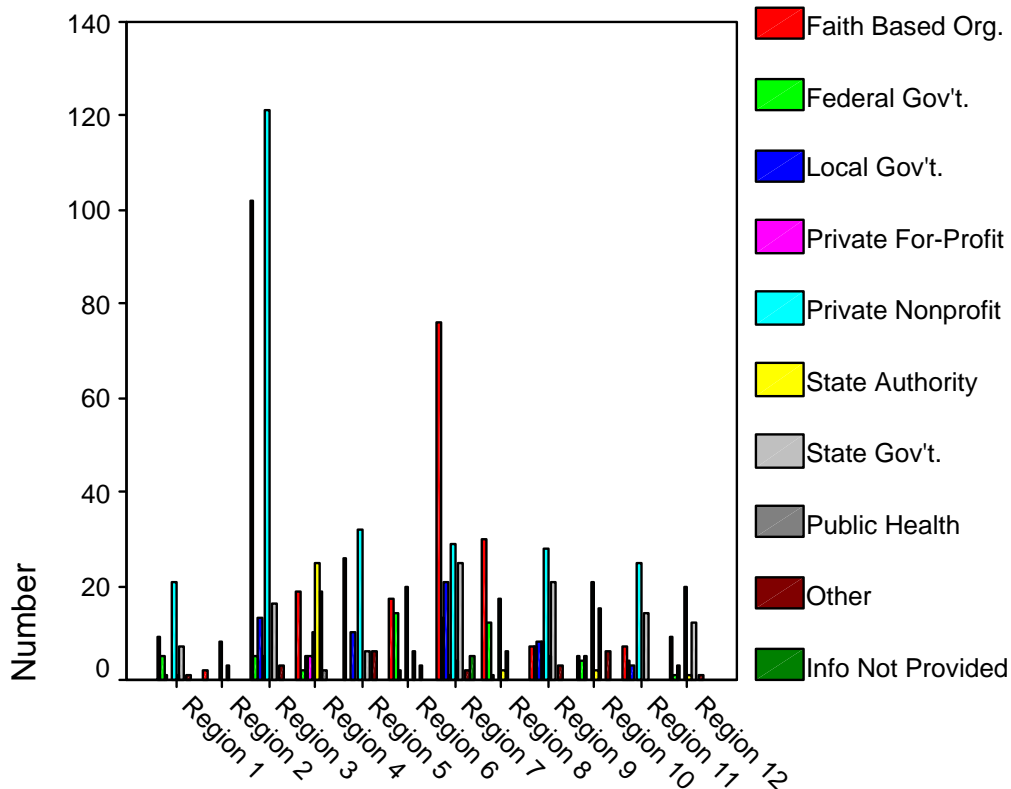
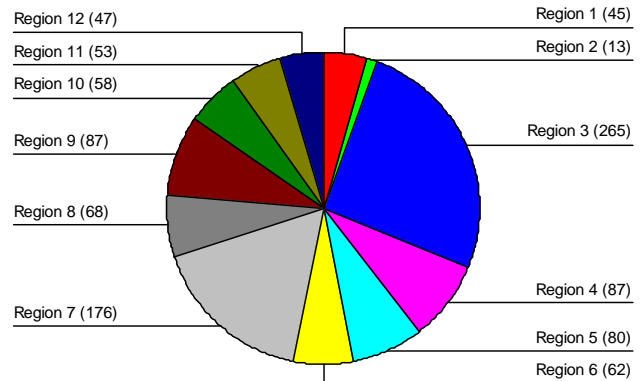
### Current PEN Breakdowns:

#### Populations Served by PEN Providers:

Population	# of Providers/ Participants
Grandparent with children	756
Single father with children	753
Single mother with children	828
Two parents with children	717
Youth 13-15	593
Youth 16-18	631
Children in State's Custody	492
Single Male Adults	767
Single Female Adults	790
Senior Females Over 60	727
Senior Males Over 60	715
Children 0-5	574
Children 6-12	582

#### PEN Participants By Region

\*#s in parentheses represent #s of GCEH participants in each region



Organizational Category by Region

### ***The Face of Homelessness in Georgia***

Families and individuals living below the poverty level is the single most significant indicator of homelessness. According to the **2003 U.S. Census Bureau**:

- 10.8% of families in Georgia live below the poverty level
- 13.4% of individuals in Georgia live below the poverty level
- National statistics show that 9.8% of families and 12.7% of individuals live below the poverty level.
- Approximately 68% of clients who exit the Georgia Continuum of Care shelter system exit to unknown places. Many of these persons will go to other shelters, unstable living conditions, the street, or to locations not suitable for human living.

According to the **2004 Gaps Analysis for the Continuum of Care for the Balance of the State reported by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)**, funding was provided for:

- 1,148 emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing beds/units for individuals. There was an *estimated need* for 3,811 beds/units leaving an alarming *unmet need/gap* of 2,663 beds/units.
- Funding was also *provided for* 853 emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing beds/units for persons in families with children. Again, there was an *estimated need* for 4,662 beds/units leaving another alarming *unmet need/gap* of 3,809 beds/units.
- Supportive services were provided to individuals with the *most funding going to* transportation, life skills training, and housing placement. The *largest unmet needs/gaps* were found in case management, homeless prevention, and substance abuse treatment services.
- The *largest numbers of subpopulations* for individuals served were veterans, victims of domestic violence, and persons with chronic substance abuse problems. However, these same subpopulations were also those with the *largest unmet needs/gaps*.
- Supportive services were provided to persons in families with children with the *most funding going to* child care, life skills training, and homeless prevention services. The *largest unmet needs/gaps* were found in case management, housing placement, and again, homeless prevention services.
- The *largest number of subpopulations* for persons in families with children were victims of domestic violence, veterans, and persons with chronic substance abuse problems. The *largest unmet needs/gaps* were found in serving persons with chronic substance abuse problems, victims of domestic violence, and persons with serious mental illness.

### ***Regional Profiles:***

The **Homeless Resource Network, Inc.**, the Region 8 partner and coordinating entity, served a total of 905 persons in 2004. 515 of these persons were males 18 years and older. 226 of them were females 18 years and older. 135 were single parent families headed by females. 18 were adult couples without children. The largest numbers of populations served were persons with a criminal history, those experiencing recurring homelessness, persons who are drug dependent, those who are chronically mentally ill, and veterans, respectively. Transportation and assistance in obtaining birth certificates were some of their most repeated services. 198 referrals for shelter, 48 referrals for bus tickets, 37 referrals for housing, and 28 referrals for clothing were made. Homeless Resource Network, Inc. made referrals most often to St. Luke's Outreach, Case Management Women, House of Mercy, Outpatient Clinic, New Horizons, and Valley Rescue Mission, respectively. Finally, the most referrals were received from Valley Rescue Mission, the streets, Showering Program, House of Mercy, and the Columbus Alliance for Battered Women, respectively.

The ***Augusta Task Force for the Homeless***, the Region 7 partner and coordinating entity, provided GCEH with 20 new PEN surveys as well as 44 updated PEN surveys during 2004. They served a total of 126 veterans and 20 persons with substance abuse problems. Services most often provided by the Augusta Task Force for the Homeless were assistance in obtaining state identification, shelter, food, clothing, housing, and bus tickets/transportation assistance. They also made a total of 74 referrals for legal services and counseling.

The ***Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center***, the Region 10 partner and coordinating entity, participated with GCEH by providing 10 new PEN surveys and 26 updated PEN surveys. In addition, they created the Southwest Georgia Homeless Resource Directory for 2005 in partnership with GCEH.

The ***Northeast Georgia Homeless Coalition***, the Region 5 partner and coordinating entity, provided GCEH with 21 new PEN surveys and one updated PEN survey. The largest number of persons served were males over the age of 19 with substance abuse problems, single mothers with children who were victims of domestic violence, females over the age of 19 with a mental health diagnosis, females over age 19 with substance abuse problems, males over age 19 with a mental health diagnosis, and females over age 19 who were victims of domestic violence, respectively.

Finally, the ***Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless***, the Region 12 partner and coordinating entity, served a total of 2,647 persons in 2004. 1,061 of these persons were Black/African American, 932 were White/Caucasian, 95 were Hispanic, and one was American Indian/Alaskan Native. The Outreach Team served an unduplicated total of 249 unsheltered clients. The Case Management Team served a total of 2398 unduplicated clients. 1821 persons participated in creating a personalized self-development plan with a case manager. 805 were enrolled in educational and/or job training programs. 72 persons who received street outreach services accepted referral and intake at emergency shelters. An impressive 1606 persons exited the shelter program and moved into transitional or permanent housing. 189 persons successfully stabilized their households within 12 months. Further, 175 persons completed Life Skills training and 75 persons were employed within one year of referral.

*Thank you for your continued support of Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc.  
Organizational membership can be obtained by visiting our website at [www.gahomeless.org](http://www.gahomeless.org)  
Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax-deductible.*