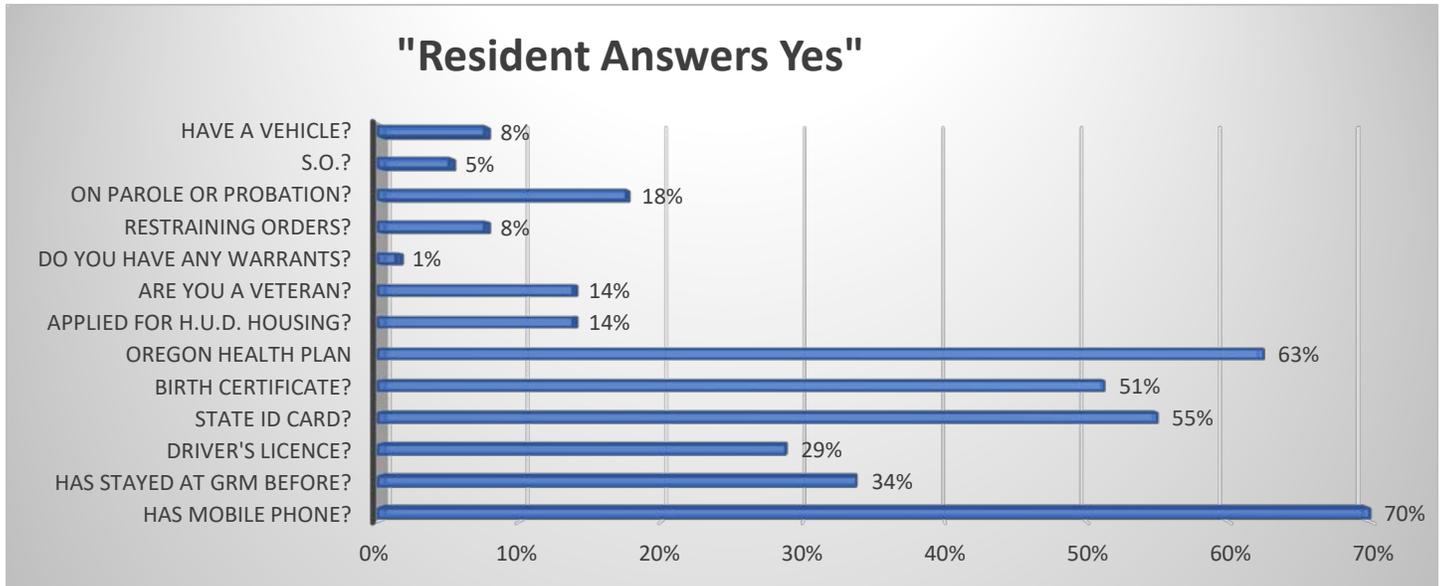


# Grants Pass Gospel Rescue Mission

## 2017, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Residency Report

### Men's Residence –

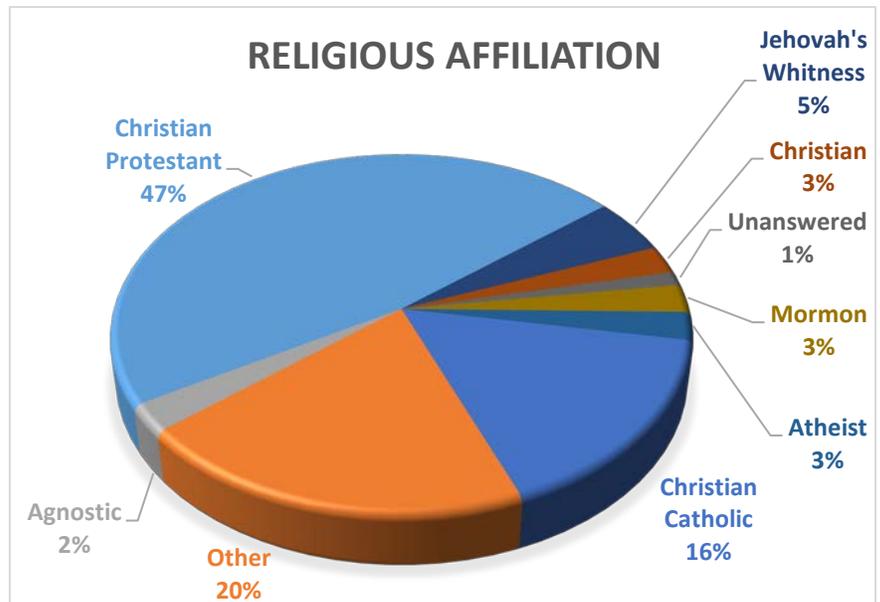
This quarter (July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>), our Men's facility housed **80 men** with an **average age of 40 years old**. Upon entry into our program residents are asked a number of introductory "yes/no" questions. The results are charted below.



### **Religious Affiliation**

We openly welcome and serve people from a broad variety of religious backgrounds.

Given the option of identifying with diverse selection of both religions and non-religious groups, most residents readily identify with some form of Christianity.



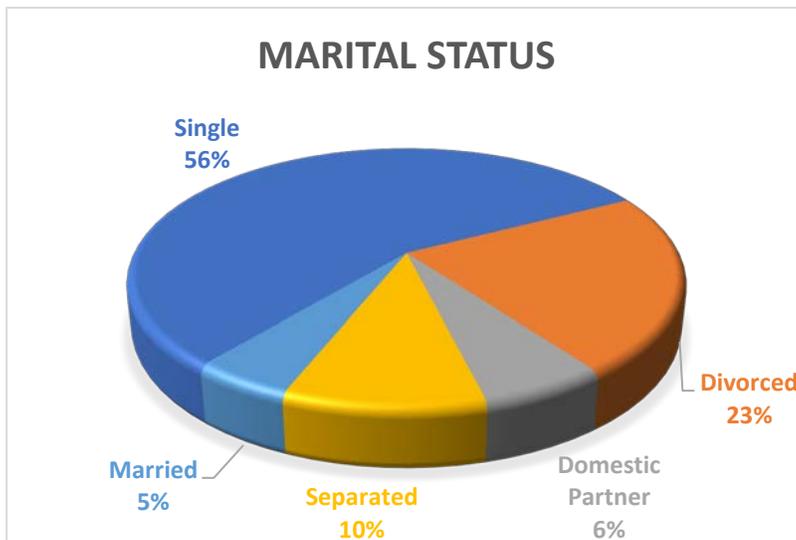
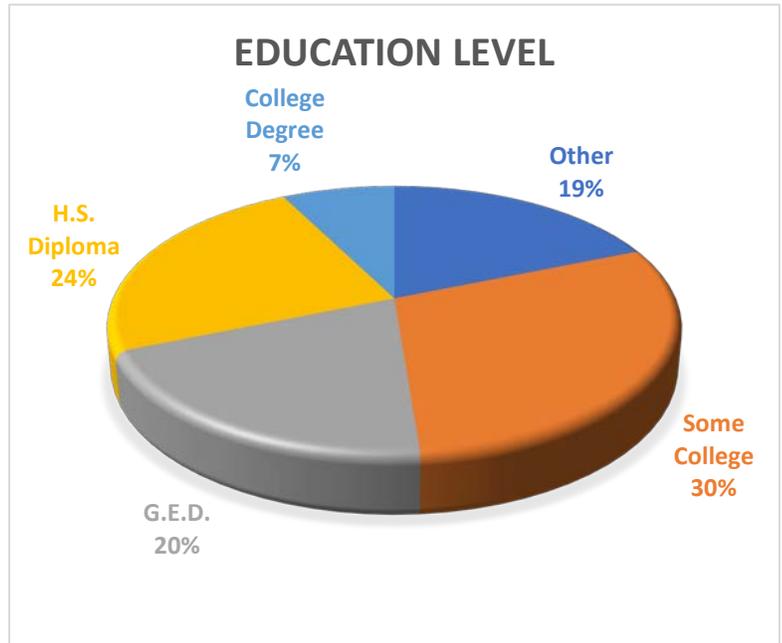
## Education –

The level of education of our resident population is generally diverse. Our categories in this field are defined as follows...

- College Degree (having achieved a minimum of an Associates Degree)
- Some College (at least some time invested in college or trade school, but no degree)
- H.S. Diploma (High School Graduate)
- G.E.D. (General Education Degree)
- Other (an education level less than an H.S. Diploma or G.E.D.)

For the majority of our adult residents, continuing education is far less practical towards the goal of independence than securing an income.

Consequently, our primary focus is towards helping residents develop an income.



## Marital Status –

Broken and struggling relationships are definitely one of the hallmarks of homelessness. Predictably, over half of our residents have never been married and over half of those who have ended in divorce.

Teaching practical relational skills in a safe and friendly environment is high on our priority list.

**“People don’t become homeless when they run out of money, at least not right away. They become homeless when they run out of relationships.”<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/ISR-Homeless-FINAL-01092017-web.pdf>

## Social Services –

New residents are often suffering from poor physical health and malnutrition from the moment they walk through our doors. Add to this the high risk of them returning to the streets before much long-term help can be addressed and we have a real problem.

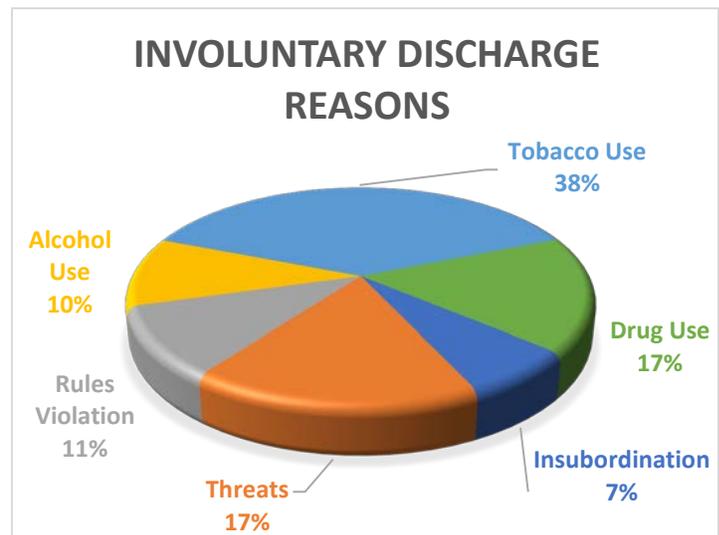
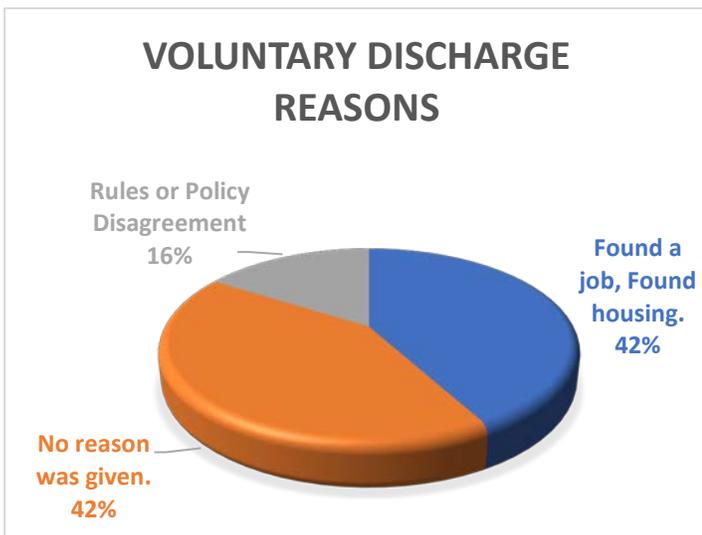
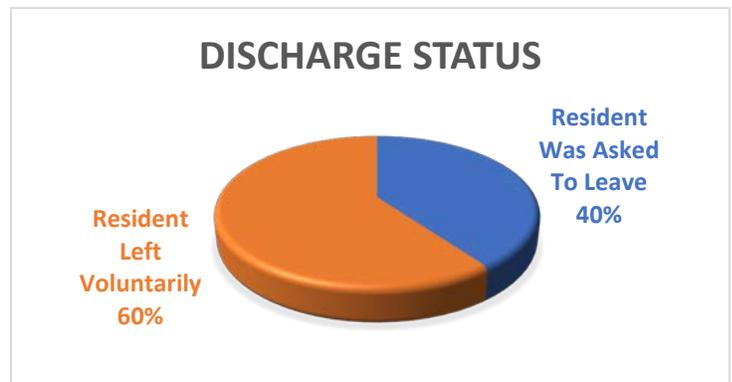
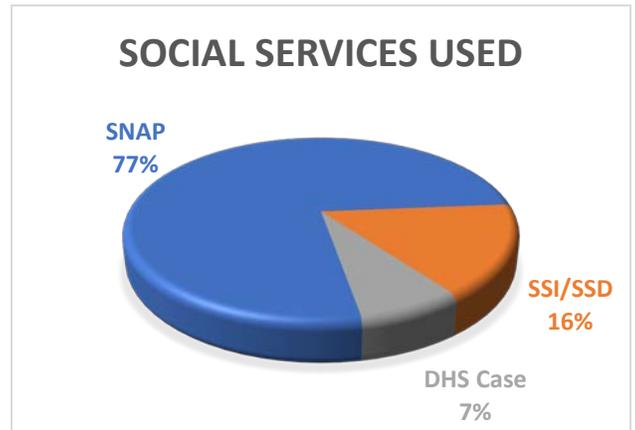
During the first couple weeks of residency, the Mission focuses on helping each individual take advantage of a whole host of social service programs that are available to them. This way, if they

leave our program prematurely, they will still have access to things like food, health care, and housing assistance.

As a resident’s stay progresses, not only do we help them become familiar with each of the social services that are available to them, but we also develop and work on a plan to become independent from those services. This provides a sense of accomplishment and pride as they now pay into the very system that once supported them, and now they are helping others.

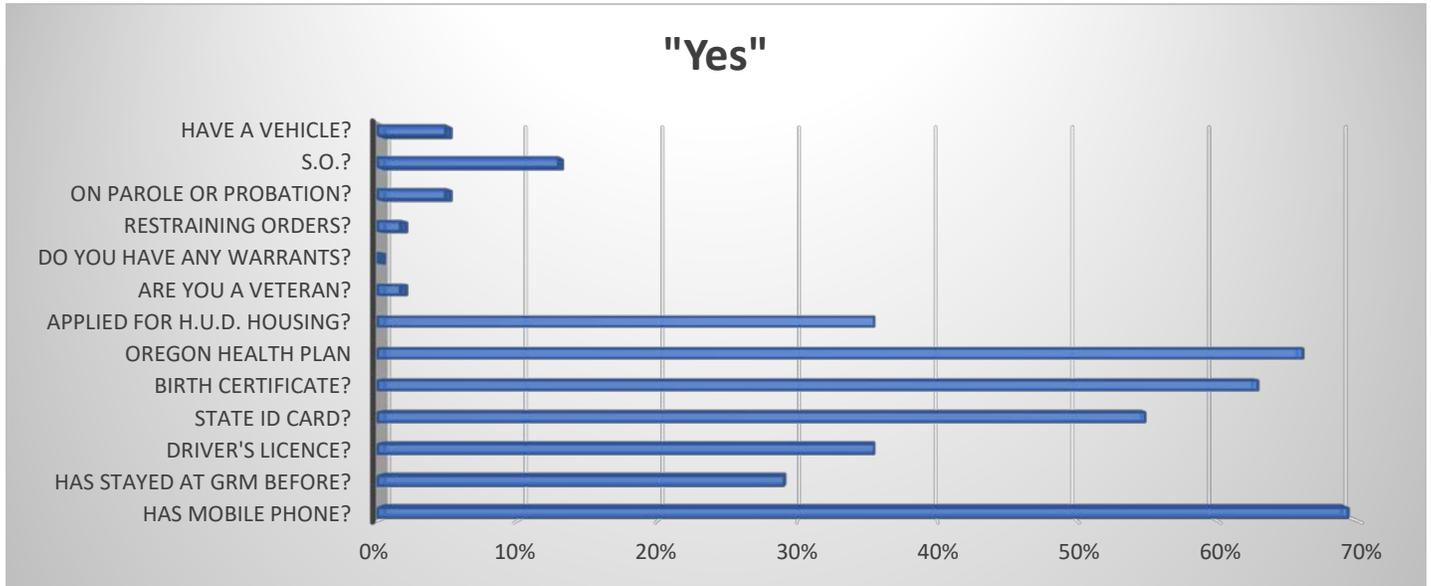
## Leaving the Mission –

Residents of the Mission leave for a variety of reasons, most often it’s of their own choosing. While many homeless shelters only focus on the basic material needs of a homeless individual, our program is specifically intended to make homelessness something to escape from entirely. The majority of our residents leave on their own terms, and a large percentage do so because they ready to re-enter society independently.



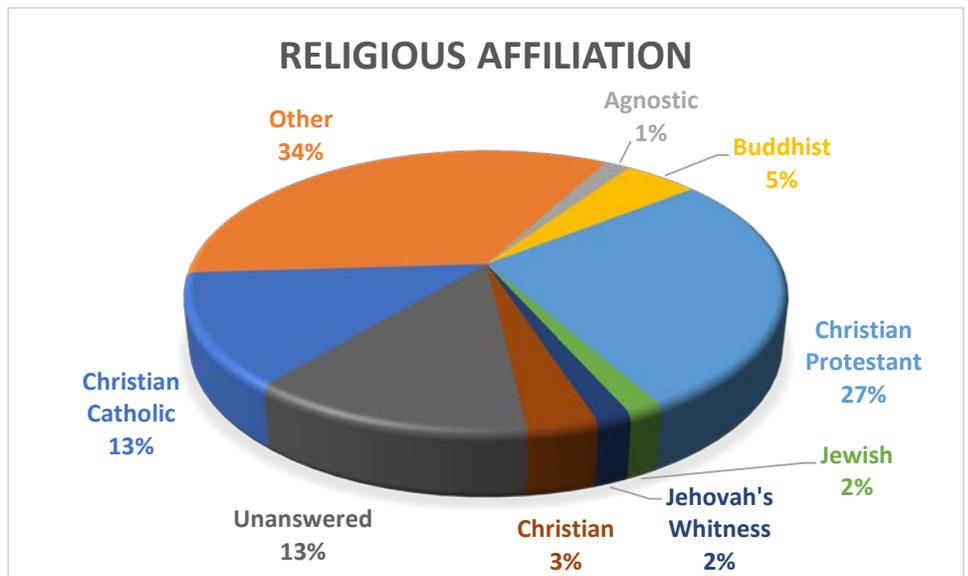
## Women & Children's Residence –

This quarter (July 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>), our Women & Children's facility housed **62 adult women** (children's statistics are not included in this report) **with an average age of 40 years old**. Upon entry into our residency program they are asked a series of "yes/no" question. The results are on the chart below.



## **Religious Affiliation –**

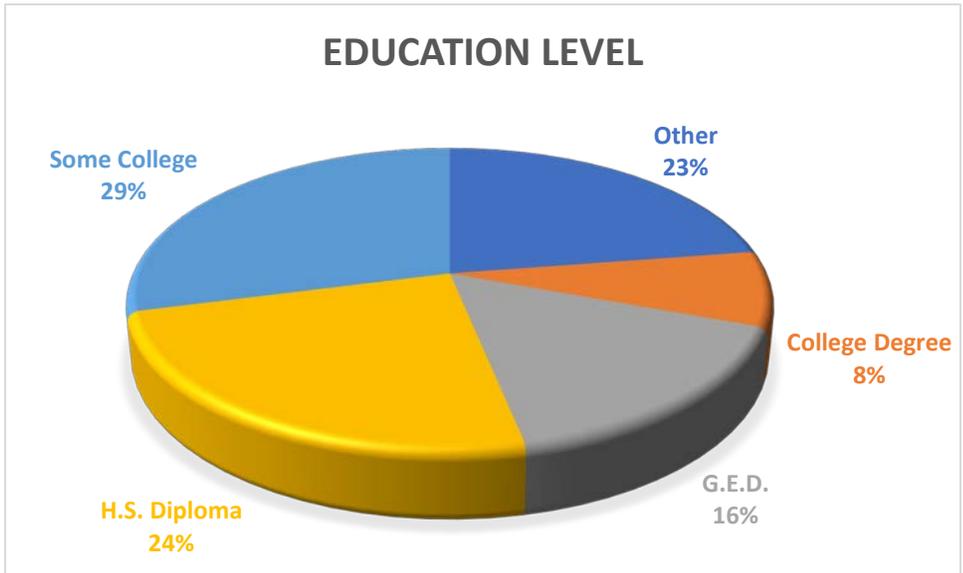
Much like the residents of our Men's facility, the majority of our female residents share a connection with some form of Christianity. This can be a difficult question for a resident to answer as they may either fear some kind of mistreatment if they don't "fit in", or they may not have a well-defined religious view at all. The goal of the Mission is to have multiple points of reference for conversation



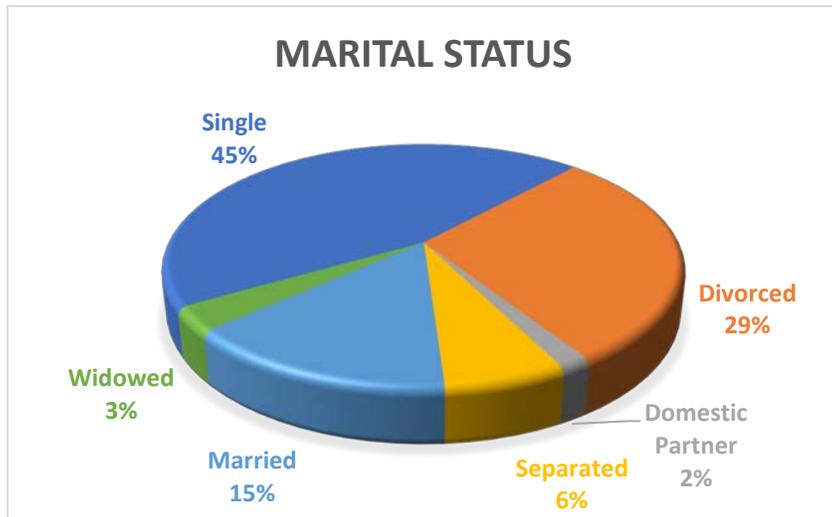
as we get to know and understand our residents and discover what motivates their life choices. We don't require or favor people from any particular religious affiliation, but we serve and welcome people of every walk of life.

## Education –

While at first glance, it may seem encouraging to see so many from both the male and female resident populations with at least some college experience, more often than not it gives staff insight into one of the first big challenges a resident will need to face. Women’s Coordinator, Farrah Guthrie explains, “What I have



**found is that most residents who have college or secondary education have not completed it (graduated) nor have they received a certificate. They also owe thousands of dollars for student loans. Some have two or three loans from two or three different colleges, none of which they have completed.”** With student loan debt being inescapable, a high priority for our residents is to at least begin the process of paying it off. Unfortunately, those with degrees often have them in fields for which they cannot find jobs. This makes the challenge of finding gainful employment and paying off debt such a critical part of the Mission process.



## Marital Status –

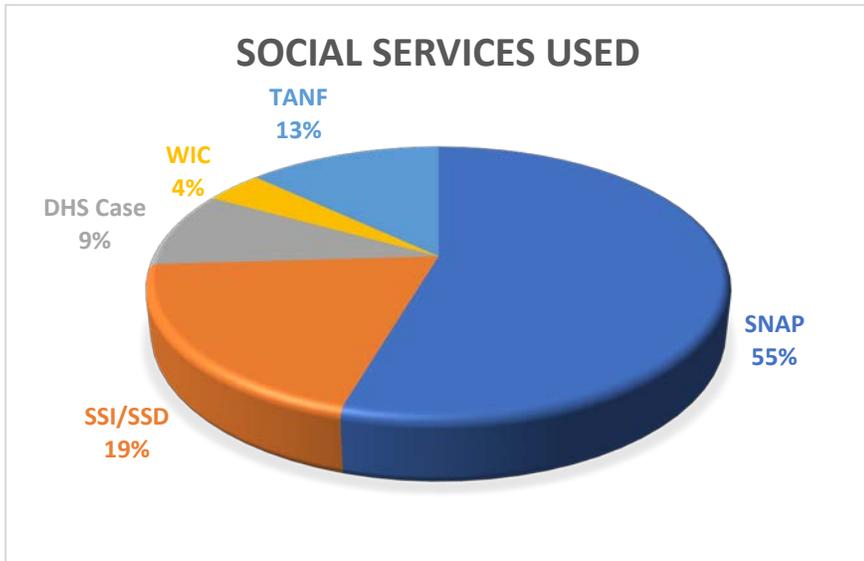
For most, broken or non-existent family relationships are the norm for Mission residents. While many don’t know their fathers, some have no relationship with either parent. Consequently, it follows naturally that residents, both men and women, have no real experience with healthy relationships. Serial cohabitation is the most common practice, if any, among the population we serve.

Relationships are generally seen as serving only the individual. “How you make me feel” is of the highest importance, rather than committing to server one another and considering our personal impact on others. This inward, self-focus leads only to relational despair and disfunction. Learning to live communally, working together, and sharing the same living space, is a great first step in challenging this deeply held worldview.

## Social Services –

Generally speaking, women with children qualify for more social services than the rest of our resident population. This is because there are more services available specifically to address the needs of children. Since the need is so great to insure our most vulnerable population has necessary things like adequate nutrition and proper hygiene, we work hard to quickly orient new residents with those available services.

Virtually every mother that comes to us has or will have an open DHS case, TANF, which



includes SNAP, and should be on the HUD waiting list. But having resources and knowing how to best use those resources are two very different things. Having experienced and knowledgeable staff and volunteers available to help negotiate the complexities of the social service system is so critical to the success of each resident.

## Leaving the Mission –

Residency at the Mission is based in part on an individual’s commitment to stay true to the contract they sign upon entry in our program. This contract includes no longer using alcohol, drugs, or nicotine, no threatening behavior or violence, and being willing to follow the daily rules that make group living a positive experience for everyone. So, in a way, all residents who leave, including those who are asked to leave, do so because they have *voluntarily* decided to break this contract. However, our statistical model is designed to demonstrate that the percentage of those that actually have to be asked to leave is much smaller than one might imagine.

