Above: Scenes from the many programs and activities in Northeast LA that help to bring our region’s many homeless persons and families home -- into permanent housing with the skills to maintain it! Listing inside!

Northeast Louisiana's Continuum of Care of Housing and Services to end Homelessness!

HOME Coalition

Full Listing of Region's Housing and Services Inside!

Annual Report 2014

1515 Jackson Street · Monroe LA 71202 · www.aroofovermyhead.net · (318) 807-6200
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2013-2014

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Dennis Wall, Monroe Police Dept. Bizwatch

OUR VISION:
Building a community
that is free of homelessness where all people
feel safe and valued!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit: 1515 Jackson Street Monroe LA 71202
Phone: (318) 651-9314  Fax: (318) 651-9320
Online: www.aroofovermyhead.net

HOME
Housing Options Meant for Everyone

COALITION
NELA Housing & Supportive Services Corp.

Annual Report
July 1 2013—June 30, 2014

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to Serve Homeless Persons in NELA
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Who’s Homeless in NELA?
Join Us!

The Northeast Louisiana Housing and Supportive Services Corp. (known locally as the HOME Coalition of Northeast LA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is a coalition of nonprofits, government agencies, faith-based groups, businesses, individuals, and others concerned with homelessness in NELA Group members, from the 12 parishes of NELA, coordinate our area’s response to homelessness by providing a system of housing and supportive services for those who are homeless. The group also represents our area’s needs on a statewide and national basis, bringing attention and funding toward our ultimate vision: a NELA free of homelessness where all people feel safe and valued.
**Regional Report 2013-2014**

**Coalition Milestones July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014**

- HOME Coalition-funded agencies and other homeless service providers in the region provided housing (emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing) or Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing services to approximately 3,000 persons throughout the 12 Northeast Louisiana parishes who were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness (i.e., losing their housing in 14 days or less). In addition, United Way’s 2-1-1 resource lines fielded nearly 1,202 crisis calls for persons facing homelessness.

- Secured substantial national funding to serve the homeless in NELA including over $1.5 million in Federal funding from U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. The continuation of this funding indicates that Northeast LA is considered among the nation’s most successful regions at implementing national best practices to help prevent homelessness, to quickly and effectively serve those who become homeless, and to do both cost effectively and collaboratively.

- Represented NELA on the state and national levels by:
  - Providing members to state homeless policy and services coordinating bodies including the Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Louisiana Housing Alliance (year-round)
  - Providing representatives to the LA Services Network Data Consortium, Inc., a nonprofit group that has created a statewide database to better match homeless services with the persons who need them (year-round)
  - Providing representatives to the National Conference on Homelessness (July 2013), the National Conference on Family Homelessness (Feb. 2014), and more!

- Compiled or contributed to important regional planning data by:
  - Conducting our region’s annual Point in Time count of the homeless including increased outreach to count the street homeless in our region, revealing 220 persons homeless in one 24-hour period in Jan. 2014 (see Who is Homeless in NELA, p. 10, for the results).
  - Preparing our region’s annual Report on Homelessness (Feb. 2014) that presents an in depth analysis of homelessness in NELA: how many persons are homeless, what are their needs, what facilities and services are available for them, what gaps exist, and what our area is doing to address them; this report is available online at www.aroofovermyhead.net.

- Brought best practices in serving the homeless here to NELA by:
  - Staying abreast of the latest, nationally recognized best practices (evidence based, proven methods and processes) in serving the homeless. Examples are implementation in the region of a Coordinated Assessment system to more seamlessly engage and serve the homeless as well as a more detailed Monitoring process to support area homeless service providers to identify ways to serve more persons more cost effectively and to get the info and tools to act to increase their impact.

---

**HOME COALITION AND NORTHEAST LA AGAIN EXCEED NATIONAL BENCHMARKS**

The Coalition met or made meaningful progress during 2013 – 2014 toward national goals on all measures of effectiveness for communities addressing homelessness:

- 80% who sought services for homelessness who remained in permanent housing or successfully moved from temporary to permanent housing (national goal is 80%)
- 27% of homeless persons served became or stayed employed (national goal 20%)
- Increased the number of permanent supportive housing beds funded for the chronically homeless from 42 as of July 1, 2013 to 68 by June 30, 2014 (Coalition goal for 2013 was 59)
- 71% of beds to house the homeless in NELA are included in database of services for the homeless, making them more cost effective and accessible (natl. goal over 86%; natl. min. 64%)

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---

Above: Clients of LA Baptist Children’s Home’s HomePlace transitional housing program for homeless moms with children take part in a team building exercise. According to the 2014 Point in Time count of the homeless, in our region 54.1% of the homeless are families with children compared to 36% nationally (AHAR 2013)

Above: United Way of NELA’s 2-1-1 service provides free 24/7 community information by phone for all 12 NELA parishes.
Coalition Milestones for 2013/2014 (continued)

- Expanded our area’s tremendous stock of facilities and programs to serve the homeless through the work of our member agencies including 111 emergency shelter beds, 134 Rapid Rehousing beds, 160 transitional housing beds, 98 permanent housing beds, 12 safe haven beds, and a wide array of supportive services to help formerly homeless persons regain housing and move to independence. This represents an increase of 20.6% over last year (427 in 2013 vs 515 in 2014).

- Worked to expand our area’s ability to match the needs of the homeless with area services by maintaining the area’s Homeless Management Information System database which helps better track homeless services, facilities, and persons served. The Wellspring again served as lead agency to maintain and provide technical assistance to agencies using this system.

- Conducted homeless awareness activities during National Homeless Awareness Month (November) as well as year round (see photos on this page).

- Reached out to engage unsheltered homeless — with special focus on homeless Veterans — in the community by hosting an Operation Stand Down (photos below) regional homeless outreach and services fair. (Nov. 2013) Community volunteers served 178 homeless persons (nearly double last year’s total of 90) including 44 Veterans who could sign up for Veterans’ and community benefits, receive a free health and dental check (including emergency medical intervention if warranted), get a goodie bag of toiletries and supplies, and even grab a free breakfast or lunch and get a free hair-cut (a VERY popular service!)

- Engaged the community in serving the homeless by collecting and sharing donations and providing training and leadership around the root causes of homelessness (see photos at left and below left).

- Documented a continued unmet need for housing for homeless persons in an April 2014 provider survey, identifying a need for 21 more emergency shelter beds, 18 more transitional housing beds, 10 more safe haven beds, and 12 more permanent housing beds. Plans are underway to find funding to add this needed capacity.

SUCCESS STORY

The Wellspring Domestic Violence Program

Jane was referred to the Wellspring by her professor. Jane came to The Wellspring in quest of a safe place for herself and her daughter. When she arrived, she was very troubled and broken because she did not know if she was going to make it through her circumstances. She was determined that regardless of what happened she would not return to the abusive relationship. Staff encouraged Jane to take advantage of counseling services and to attend weekly group sessions. While at the Wellspring, she was also enrolled in school to pursue her goals of becoming a Plebotomist and EKG technician. Due to the distraction of the abusive relationship and desiring to stay safe, Jane missed a week of class. When she returned to class the following week, Jane still managed to pass all of her tests with scores of 100. She remained determined and eager to complete the program. As she began to perceive her own progress, she was no longer spending her days weeping. Jane shifted her emotions and pushed herself to find and establishing housing before leaving the Safe Haven. She set her own goals to find housing, employment, and finish school. Once her goals begin to be achieved, Wellspring provided rental and utility assistance to re-establishing a safe home. She currently remains free from her abuser. Jane has graduated and is now re-enrolled in school to become a Registered Nurse. Jane remains in touch with Wellspring and she gives back by making home-made jewelry for present for the survivors at Safe Haven.

Story reproduced with permission from The Wellspring 2013 Annual Report
In the 12 parishes of Northeast Louisiana, several thousand persons face homelessness each year. About half are families with children under 18 with them.

Today services for the homeless are more coordinated than ever before. Agencies serving the homeless make up a Continuum of Care — a coherent system of housing and supportive services that help connect with homeless on the streets and elsewhere, engage them in the appropriate housing and services for their needs, and work with them to identify and address barriers to getting and keeping permanent housing. The goal is to help persons secure permanent housing they can maintain after assistance ends.

Inside is a summary of the various types of housing that are available in the 12-parish region to serve the homeless. Some housing is provided in facilities, some by rotating among host churches, some in apartment units that are leased in the name of the resident. There is a wide variety of housing as there is a wide variety of needs among homeless persons. On the back page is a very brief listing of different types of supportive services available in our area to help homeless persons get and keep permanent housing.

More information, please call United Way of Northeast Louisiana 211 (dial 2-1-1).

“Homeless” means (for purposes of this publication) individuals or families who:

• lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or
• who are exiting an institution (jail, hospital, etc.) where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution, or
• Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, or
• Families with children under 18 with a history of being unstably housed, or
• Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence.

“Supportive Services” refers to any of a wide array of services that are needed to help the homeless get and maintain housing. This can vary widely, based on the needs of the population being served and the mission of the service provider organization. Examples of services (ALL SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL PROVIDERS) include basic needs, case management, counseling, referrals, life skills classes, and job search and training.

Eligibility rules apply. Programs listed serve all of NELA unless otherwise indicated.
EMERGENCY SHELTER

For persons newly homeless housed short-term (typically up to six weeks, depending on participant need) until longer-term housing options are identified.

For those fleeing Domestic Violence
DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) confidential shelter and supportive services. Serving the Northeast LA parishes of Lincoln, Union, Jackson as well as Winn, Bienville, and Grant. Contact: (318) 513-9373 or (318) 251-2255.
The Wellspring confidential shelter and supportive services. Serving nine Northeast LA parishes of Tensas, Caldwell, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Tensas as well as Catahoula, Concordia and LaSalle Parishes. Contact: (318) 323-1505 or www.wellspringalliance.org

For those dealing with Severe Mental Illnesses
Easter Seals Safe, affordable housing and supportive services. Contact (318) 888-0293 | Fax: (318)388-0267 or www.easterseals.com/louisiana/
Monroe Area Guidance Center Shelter and supportive services. Contact (318) 410-1751 or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Monroe-Area-Guidance-Center/156350637738288

For persons and families with children
Family Promise of Ouachita Shelter, day center, and supportive services. Contact (318) 654-4101 or www.familypromiseofouachita.com.

For youth (individuals and families) ages 11 to 17
Our House Shelter and supportive services. Contact (318) 345-5556 or (318) 343 TEEN or www.teen-help.com

For all individuals and families with children
Salvation Army Shelter up to 14 days and supportive services. Contact (318) 325-1755 or https://www.facebook.com/MonroeSalvationArmy

RAPID REHOUSING

Financial assistance and services to quickly rehouse homeless persons or families in an apartment, house, or other permanent type of housing they can stay in after help ends, then receive supportive services to maintain housing themselves. Services usually last three to 18 months, depending on participant need.

For youth (individuals and families) below age 25
Our House. See service area and contact area in Emergency Shelter, above.
For those fleeing Domestic Violence
DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) See service area and contact area in Emergency Shelter, above.
The Wellspring See service area and contact area in Emergency Shelter, above.

For Veterans/Veteran families
The Wellspring Serving nine Northeast LA parishes of Tensas, Caldwell, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Tensas as well as Catahoula, Concordia and LaSalle Parishes. Contact: (318) 807-6200 or www.wellspringalliance.org

Below: Kelsey was referred to Our House by United Way 211 for Transitional Living Program services. He did not have a high school diploma or GED when he entered the program and had not attended school in over 3 years. After only 3 short months, Kelsey passed the HiSet exam and graduated with his diploma. He will be entering the Army Reserves and is scheduled to leave for basic training in October.

(Lef: In a scene from a TV ad, Wellspring street outreach staff (right) engages homeless Vets)
**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**
Temporary housing with supportive services up to two years (depending on participant need) to allow residents additional supportive services to live independently after help ends

*For those fleeing Domestic Violence*
**DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team)** Housing and supportive services. Serving the Northeast LA parishes of Lincoln, Union, Jackson as well as Winn, Bienville, and Grant Parishes. **Contact:** (318) 513-9373 or (318) 251-2255.
**The Wellspring** Housing and supportive services. Serving nine Northeast LA parishes of Tensas, Caldwell, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Tensas as well as Catahoula, Concordia and LaSalle Parishes. **Contact:** (318) 323-1505 or www.wellspringalliance.org

*For those dealing with Chronic Mental Illnesses*
**Easter Seals** Safe, affordable housing and supportive services. **Contact** (318) 888-0293 | Fax: (318)388-0267 or www.easterseals.com/louisiana/

*For persons and families with children*
**Family Promise of Ouachita** Housing, day center, and supportive services. Contact (318) 654-4101 or www.familypromiseofouachita.com.
**HomePlace at Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home** Housing and supportive services for homeless children (up to age 12) and their parent(s). **Contact** (318) 343-2244 or www.lbch.org/a13_ResidentialFamilyCare.html

*For youth (individuals and families) ages 17 (if emancipated) to 21*
**Our House** Housing and supportive services. **Contact** (318) 345-5556 or (318) 343 TEEN or www.teen-help.com

*For Veterans/Veteran families*
**The Wellspring** Serving nine Northeast LA parishes of Tensas, Caldwell, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Tensas. **Contact:** (318) 807-6200 or www.wellspringalliance.org

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**
Permanent housing plus supportive services for persons who have had continuing bouts of homelessness and who need ongoing supportive services to stay housed. No limit on length of stay.

**Elisha Ministries** Serving individuals (no families) primarily in Lincoln, Union, and Jackson Parishes. **Contact** (318) 251-1233 or www.elishaministriesnela.org.

*For individuals and families with children*
**Monroe Area Guidance Jackson House** Serving those dealing with severe mental illness and/or substance abuse. **Contact:** (318) 410-1751 or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Monroe-Area-Guidance-Center/156350637738288
**Monroe Housing Authority** Providing affordable housing in Monroe LA. **Contact:** (318) 388-1500 or www.monroehousing.com.
**Rays of Sonshine** Serving those recovering from substance abuse. Offers permanent supportive housing and safe haven facilities. **Contact:** (318) 323-0502 or www.raysofsonshine.org.
**The Wellspring** Serving nine Northeast LA parishes of Tensas, Caldwell, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland. **Contact:** (318) 807-6200 or www.wellspringalliance.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOMELESS SERVICES</th>
<th>PREVENTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(for persons currently homeless)</td>
<td>(for those at risk of homelessness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Adult Education</td>
<td>Rental Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Counseling and Direct Transportation</td>
<td>DART, Food Bank of NELA, LA Dept. of Children &amp; Family Services Parish Offices, )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Training and Em-Job Search Assistance</td>
<td>1st Baptist Church Tallulah, Wellspring, Christian Community Action (Ruston, 1st Baptist Church Tallulah, Wellspring,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Adult Education</td>
<td>New Orleans, Tennessee, West Ouachita Senior Citizens, West Ouachita Senior Citizen Center,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Counseling and Direct Transportation</td>
<td>DART (Ruston), Food Bank of NELA, LA Dept. of Children &amp; Family Services Parish Offices, ETP, Louisiana, Multiservice</td>
</tr>
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### Unaudited Financial Statement

**HOME Coalition of NELA**  
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Beginning Balance 7-1-13</td>
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<td><strong>Income:</strong></td>
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<td>Grants:</td>
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<td>Federal Home Loan Bank</td>
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<td>Contract services</td>
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<td>Postage &amp; Printing</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ending Balance 6-30-14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income or (Loss)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2013-2014 HOME Coalition Member Agencies

- Individual and Agency Members (Organizations and individuals interested in or providing services for homelessness, housing, or supportive services):
  - DART (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team)
  - Elisha Ministries
  - Extra Mile
  - Kim Golden
  - Homeless or formerly homeless persons
  - Sarah B. Johnson
  - LA Baptist Children’s Home
  - Mt. Pleasant Community Dev. Corp
  - Our House
  - Rays of Sonshine
  - United Way of NELA/211
  - Wellspring Alliance for Families
  - Woods Watson

- Collaborative Members (Organizations that provide funding, make or receive referrals, or otherwise collaborate with HOME Coalition member agencies in their work):
  - 4th JDC District Attorney’s Office and Courts/Probation Office
  - 5th JDC District Attorney’s Office and Courts
  - 37th JDC District Attorney’s Office
  - Bastrop Police Dept.
  - Bridges of Ouachita/Ouachita Parish School System
  - Caldwell Ph. Health Unit
  - Caldwell Ph. Housing Authority
  - Caldwell Ph. Sheriff’s Office
  - Caldwell Ph. Workforce Investment Bd.
  - Children’s Coalition of NELA
  - Collaborative Board Members
  - Columbia Police Dept.
  - Community Trust Bank
  - Easter Seals
  - Family Justice Center of Ou.
  - Family Promise of Ou.
  - First Assembly of Mangham
  - First Baptist Church of West Monroe
  - Foundations throughout NELA
  - through support of Coalition members
  - Franklin Health Care
  - Franklin Ph. Council on Aging
  - Franklin Ph. Dept. of Health and Hospitals
  - Franklin Ph. Health Unit
  - Franklin Ph. Sheriff’s Office
  - Franklin Ph. Workforce Investment Bd.
  - GO CARE (Greater Ouachita Coalition Providing AIDS Re-search & Education)
  - Goodwill
  - Grace Place Ministries/Rhonda Grace
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - LA Region 8 Dept. of Children and Family Services
  - LA Region 8 Office of Behavioral Health
  - Legal Services of North LA
  - LSU Health Sciences Ctr/Monroe
  - Monroe Area Guidance
  - City of Monroe
  - Monroe City School System
  - Monroe Community Development
  - Monroe Housing Authority
  - Monroe Police Dept.
  - Morehouse District Missionary Baptist Association
  - Morehouse Gen. Hospital
  - Morehouse Parish School System
  - Morehouse Parish Sheriff’s Office
  - Oak Grove Church of God
  - Oak Grove Police Dept.
  - Ou. Parish Police Jury
  - Ou. Parish Sheriff’s Office
  - Ou. Ph. Veterans Administration
  - Primary Health Service Center
  - Rayville Council on Aging
  - Rayville Housing Authority
  - Rayville Police Dept.
  - Richardson Medical Center
  - Richland Ph. Health Unit
  - Richland Ph. Police Jury
  - Richland Ph. School System
  - Richland Ph. Sheriff’s Office
  - River of Life Church
  - Salvation Army
  - Seeker Springs
  - Simple Project
  - St. Francis Medical Center
  - Univ. of LA/Monroe
  - West Carroll Ph. Sheriff’s Dept.
  - Winnsboro Chamber of Commerce
  - Winnsboro Mayor’s Office
  - Winnsboro Police Dept.

### Community Trust Bank

**THANKS PARTNER!**

**THANKS TO OUR CONTINUING PARTNER COMMUNITY TRUST BANK FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SPONSORSHIP OF HOME COALITION’S WORK WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES!**

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**Right: SAFER Rural Domestic Violence Task Force provides training to law enforcement officers to help better coordinate services to victims throughout the region, many of whom are homeless due to fleeing abuse. According to the 2014 Point in Time Survey, 29.5% of homelessness in the region is due to domestic violence.**
How many people are homeless in Northeast LA 2014?

Results of the Jan. 2014 point in time (one-day) count of the homeless in the 12 Northeastern LA Parishes

Numbers shown for Ouachita Parish are estimates; final tally still being developed

Total number of persons homeless on Jan.27: 220 (167 in Ouachita Parish, others in rural parishes)
Number of homeless individuals: 101
Number of homeless families (groups including children under 18): 45 families that included 118 individuals
Number of homeless youth without an adult with them: 1
Number living in temporary housing: 183 (134 in Ouachita Parish, others in rural parishes)
Number living on streets: 37 (33 in Ouachita, others in rural parishes)
Number of homeless Veterans: 18 (12 in temporary housing, 6 unsheltered) - 8.2% of total homeless population

Number persons homeless in the 12-parish region because of: Domestic violence: 65 (29.5%)
Chronic substance abuse: 23 (10.5%)
Severe mental illness 34 (15.5%)
Other 98 (44.5%)

How many of our homeless are:
Veterans: 18 or 8.2% of total homeless
Children under 18: 75 or 34.1% of total homeless
Families with children under 18: 46 families with 119 persons or 54.1% of total homeless

What does this mean about number of homeless each year: Based on research, a local rule of thumb is used of ten times the number of point in time homeless are homeless each year = 2,200

Join Us!
The HOME Coalition invites you to join us for the coming year in the fight to end homelessness! For upcoming meetings and information, please also check out our website at www.aroofovermyhead.net and find us on FaceBook!

Northeast Louisiana Housing & Services Corporation 2014-2015 Membership Application
Annual Dues - $25.00. Make checks payable to: NELA Housing & Services Corporation. Please mail check and completed form to HOME Coalition Attn: Memberships, 1515 Jackson Street, Monroe, LA 71202. For more information or questions, call (318) 807-6200 or email homecoalition@gmail.com.

Membership Level: □ Individual □ Agency (Homeless Housing and Services Provider)
□ Collaborative (Other Organizations)

Agency Name: _______________________________________________________________
Contact Person: ______________________________________________________________
Agency Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: ________________________ Phone Number:______________________
Visit us at www.aroofovermyhead.net OR
Find us on FaceBook at
https://www.facebook.com/pages/HOME-Coalition/279668635530581
Our Mission
To provide safe, decent, affordable housing and supportive services to the very low, low and moderate-income residents of Northeast Louisiana by alleviating the causes and effects of homelessness and by serving as advocates for the homeless.

Our Values
△ We believe that all people have the right to safe, appropriate and affordable housing. We believe that all homeless individuals and families should have access to supportive services, which enable them to establish self-sufficiency and independence.
△ We believe in inclusiveness and value diversity, individuality and different perspectives.
△ We believe in the infinite worth and strengths of every person.
△ We believe in partnering with others in the community to provide effective and efficient services, strong advocacy and leadership for community development.

Services for the Homeless or Those Near Homelessness: Basic needs (food, clothing) ◊ Financial help ◊ Mental health counseling ◊ Legal help ◊ Medical care ◊ Medicine ◊ Help accessing services or solving problems that lead to homelessness ◊ Life skills classes ◊ Substance abuse treatment ◊ HIV/Aids treatment ◊ Education ◊ Job training or assistance ◊ Child care ◊ Transportation

More info: www.aroofovermyhead.net