The Stewart McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 defines a homeless person as any individual who lacks housing, including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations or an individual who is a resident in transitional housing. The amount of homeless people in the United States is constantly rising. Most homeless people lead a nomadic lifestyle and focus on surviving daily. In a given year, approximately 3.5 million people can experience homelessness with 1.35 million of those people being children. As these numbers keep growing, efforts to try to cease growth must be made. The chart below shows the percentages of the different groups of homeless people. (1)



Carlisle Combined Area Resource for Emergency Shelter (Carlisle C.A.R.E.S) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to provide shelter to homeless individuals and families when no other shelter can be found. They house adults ages 17 and older when the other surrounding shelters are packed to capacity. (2)

 Carlisle C.A.R.E.S began as a ministry of the Grace United Methodist Church in 2004. Staff members of the church found two men sleeping in the church’s courtyard. The men had nowhere else to go. The members of the church realized quickly that the Carlisle area was in need of a homeless shelter. The idea of the collaboration of the Carlisle area churches was based off the same idea from what Harrisburg churches have done. The Grace United Methodist Church first opened its doors as a shelter in November of 2004. It would provide shelter every night from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. for one month. After that first month, other churches joined the Grace UMC on a rotational-monthly basis. In the organization’s first year of service, 45 guests were provided for. In 2009, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S gained independence from the Grace United Methodist Church. Carlisle C.A.R.E.S became its own 501c3 nonprofit agency. A resource center was opened in January 2010 to be used as a day program to help people transition from being homeless to finding permanent, stable housing. Since opening its doors, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S has provided shelter for over 1,000 guests. (2)

 Carlisle C.A.R.E.S is ran by a small staff and also relies heavily on volunteers. The executive director is Shari Bellish and Sheila Thesen is the executive assistant. Thesen is also the shelter manager. Peggy Nestler is the case manager and Heather Van Dyne is the receptionist. Reina Newkirk is the manager of the resource center and she is also the volunteer coordinator. Every night, there are volunteers that the shelter needs to be able to function. Carlisle C.A.R.E.S uses a male volunteer and a female volunteer every night from 8:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. Training is provided for the volunteers and they are allowed to sleep while at the shelter. A professional volunteer is needed to do intake evaluations with each guest. The professional volunteer is needed from 8:30 until 10:00 p.m. This person must work professionally in the social service field or have experience with homeless shelters. In addition to these necessary volunteers, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S also needs a host volunteer, which would be a member of the hosting church. This person unlocks the doors and provides volunteers with any necessary information about the church. Volunteer transportation drivers are needed on nights and mornings when the host church is on the outskirts of town. The drivers would drive people to and from the church. Volunteers can help out in the resource center and the office as well. Lastly, the volunteering of people who are specialized in things such as resume writing, public relations efforts, etc. are always needed. (2)

 In addition to the staff and volunteers, other organizations join together to help support Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. Supporting agencies include the YMCA, American Red Cross, Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce, Bosler Memorial Library and Christian Services Counseling. An important partner is United Way. United Way’s mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. United Way began in 1887 in Denver, Colorado when a need for cooperative action was recognized to address the city’s welfare problems. Money was raised to benefit health and welfare agencies. This became a movement throughout the country and United Way is still focused on mobilizing the caring power of communities and making a difference in people’s lives. Being a partner with United Way shows that Carlisle C.A.R.E.S is a very effective organization. It also shows that they are open and dedicated to improving the lives of those in need. The high standards of being a United Way Partner prove that Carlisle C.A.R.E.S is a very hard working agency. (2, 3)

 In order to afford all expenses, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S holds fundraisers to raise money. Every month, there is a BINGO night that has all proceeds benefiting Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. Bingo is held the second Friday of every month at the Carlisle Elks. For $20, a person receives 20 tickets for bingo games and a chance at cash prizes. Also, the first Thursday of every month there is an afternoon of bingo at the same place. The cost is $15 for 15 games. On May 14th, 2011, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S will be participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. All money raised by those from Carlisle C.A.R.E.S will go directly to the organization. A Benefit Concert for Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. will be presented by the Mendelssohn Piano Trio at First Lutheran Church in Carlisle on May 22 at 3:00 p.m. The trio includes a cellist, pianist and violinist. On June 24th, 2011, the Fourth Annual First Lutheran Gold Outing to Benefit Carlisle C.A.R.E.S will be held. In addition to these fundraisers, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S also has donation jars around town. (2)

 Carlisle C.A.R.E.S primarily uses the Carlisle C.A.R.E.S website for the primary tool of communication. On the website [www.carlislecares.org](http://www.carlislecares.org) there are many informative tools for people to use. There are descriptions of many aspects of the organization such as the mission, the different shelters and the resource center. It shows a list of volunteers and the volunteer schedule. The website also gives dates and times of events going on to benefit Carlisle C.A.R.E.S and events for the people who go there. On the website, photos are posted and there is a place where people are able to donate right to Carlisle C.A.R.E.S through PayPal. Although the website is a little outdated and has some errors, it is a pretty informative website. (2)

 The newspaper **The Sentinel** covers newsworthy events dealing with Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. Although most articles are rather short and brief, they all get the point across of whatever is going on. The Sentinel has published articles about the “Hungry and Homeless” project, which was an effort to collect food donations for homeless people. Articles have also been published about benefits that Carlisle C.A.R.E.S has held and how much money has been raised. Also, articles have been published about things that the shelter needs and/or could use help with. All articles seem to have the objective to inform the public about the things that Carlisle C.A.R.E.S is doing and just to keep the public updated on things that they already know is going on.

 In addition to Carlisle C.A.R.E.S, there are other organizations in Carlisle that serve the homeless. Safe Harbour is a non -profit organization that provides a continuum of housing services for the homeless of Cumberland County, which is also a partner of United Way. The services of Safe Harbour include operating an emergency shelter for families and females who are in need of somewhere to live and a place to start to get their lives under control. The bridge housing program helps people in need of longer-term assistance continue to learn the skills necessary for independent and productive living. People in need of additional “life support”, but are ready to live on their own, may be offered the chance to reside in one of the single-room-occupancy permanent housing facilities. Also, there is a food bank that allows those in need to receive food. Project Share of Carlisle is an interfaith, non-profit effort created to meet the needs of the hungry by providing food monthly. This project began in January of 1985 and serve between 900 and 1,100 families each month. In addition to these efforts to help the homeless, there are many efforts happening close by in Harrisburg.

**April 2011**

- Call Knutes, Pizza Man and Gorilla Tattoo to set up a date for fundraisers

- Volunteers can start working on a design for upcoming flyers for the fundraisers

- Send it to the head of Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.

- Make and work on minor changes, so that it can be ready to go in May

**May 2011**

- Start designing flyers and get them done by at least the second week in May

- Send design to FedEx Office (pick up flyers sometime that day or next)

- Hand out flyers for first event in June

-Pick date for auction in July

-Make flyer design for auction in July

- Call Giant to see if they are willing to donate finger foods and drinks for the auction in July

**June 2011**

- Send off flyer to FedEx Office for auction

- Get ready to hand them out

- Start finding 10 volunteers (adult men and women - 21 and older) for Bachelor/Bacherlorette auction in July

 Call different restaurants to ask if they are willing to donate gift cards for a dinner date for two

- Look for other places (i.e. fun centers, movie theaters, skating, bowling, ice cream, lazer tag, go carts, mini golf, etc.) for other gift card for auction dates

- Call Knutes, Gorilla Tattoos and Pizza Man to finalize the fundraising dates

- Events take place during any dates you choose

-Collect money from Knutes, Gorilla Tattoos and Pizza Man next week after the event

- Send card for kindness and appreciation

- Find volunteers willing to tailgate in Carlisle for a weekend in July

- Make slips for 5K Walk in September and hand them out

**July 2011**

- Find volunteers willing to bake things for the bake sale

- Getting ready for auction

- Making last minute changes to different things that perhaps you don't like

- Call Giant to make sure they are still willing to donate the finger foods and drinks on the date you choose

- Set a tailgating weekend

- Host auction

- Make a date for the car wash and bake sale at the end of August

- Collecting money for walkers for the 5K Walk in September

**August 2011**

- Pick date for car wash and bake sale

- Have event

- Getting ready for the walk

- Ask Giant to donate bottles of water for walkers

- Call Walmart to see if they can donate a TV for charity or other places you may know off

**September 2011**

- Getting ready for the walk for a day in September

- Get raffle tickets

**October 2011**

- Get ready for final event

- Pick a day to have the raffle, draw names and phone the winner

Evaluation

The goals, objectives and tactics are going to be evaluated in several different ways. First, we want to make sure that each goal was met at the end of each event. So, therefore counting the money after each event will be the best way to do that. Plus, we could have volunteers ask the people after each event how their experience was. Also, we want to have a poll posted on the website. It could ask a question like, "How did you enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." Perhaps, the resource center at the shelter could help put that together, along with a few volunteers. I think these tactics will work, because they are simple and feasible for the shelter to accomplish. They don't require that much work and it is saving money, since we aren't using paper surveys at the end of every event.