

Joseph's Center has been in operation for over two years and in 2016, we served 1005 individuals who were homeless or the working poor. We have learned much about homelessness and poverty. :

- About a third of our guests have mental or physical issues that prevent them from working. These include bi-polar condition, schizophrenia, PTSD, anger management, shoulder injuries and strokes.
- Some of the guests are convicted felons who have served their time, but cannot get a job or housing because of their past record.
- Over half of our guests had experiences that caused them to end up homeless: A stroke that resulted in a year of rehab and the loss of a profitable business. A landlord defaulted on mortgage and they had to vacate their apartment. Ex-husband sued for custody of child and guest took all her money to hire a lawyer.
- Around 20% of the population are substance abuse users who do not wish to change their lives. • ALL ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND SEEK LOVE, DIGNITY AND CARING. Have our hearts been broken? Oh, yes. Many times.
- Kerri changed her mind the night before she was to go to rehab. She's now back on the streets, doing drugs with the same old crowd. We pray she will make it the next time.
- Sandy quit her job in retail, went back to her abusive boyfriend who later threw her through a plate glass window. She filed a police report and he was arrested. What does she do now? Where has God led us through all of this?
- We have relationships with our guests who taught us so much about poverty, homelessness and the challenges they face. They know we care and thank us often for being there.
- We have partnered with The Free Clinics, People Being Jesus/New Creations Church, and various churches in our community including First United Methodist, Providence Baptist, First Congregational, Grace Lutheran, Balfour Methodist, Grace Blue Ridge Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal and Biltmore. These groups provide money, in kind donations and volunteers.
- We now have two corporate sponsors, The Fresh Market and Park Ridge Health.
- We have joined the coalition with HopeRx. This group includes Pardee UNC Healthcare, Park Ridge Health, The Free Clinics, Blue Ridge Health Services, Henderson County Schools, Henderson County Sheriff's office, Wingate University, SafeLight, The Community Foundation, Blue Ridge Community College, and Anna's Hope. HopeRx plans to address substance abuse prevention and recovery to provide support groups and routine contact the population we serve.
- Our Center guests volunteer to help with fund raising and Center maintenance and cleaning. They can be Peer Support Specialists and get paid to help HopeRx with recovery support services. It is time for Joseph's Center to move into a new area with new partners who can help to bring more hope and help to our guests. Our landlord is not renewing our lease on the property on 7th Avenue. We are partnering with PBJ and HopeRx to share new space. City officials are supportive of this move and we are working with them to find the best location. We see God's hand in all of this. The doors he is opening are simply amazing! Pray for Joseph's Center.