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**Men's Shelter of
Charlotte**



Press Release

Men's Shelter of Charlotte Announces Diversion Launch

Best Practice Approach to Ending Homelessness

Charlotte, NC, March 9, 2015: Men's Shelter of Charlotte (MSC) will launch a **Diversion** component by the end of March, 2015. Diversion is promoted as a best practice by the National Alliance to End Homelessness because *it is a strategy that [ends] homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.* MSC anticipates long-term results of reducing the number of men sleeping in its emergency shelters by up to 20% per year. As part of MSC's mission to *provide safe emergency shelter while working to end homelessness for each man,* diversion will compliment MSC's scattered sites housing and family reunification initiatives, bringing the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community one-step further to solving homelessness.

Important information regarding Men's Shelter of Charlotte's Diversion initiative:

- MSC's diversion initiative is for men currently experiencing homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County and seeking shelter at MSC.
- MSC's diversion initiative is not designed as a homelessness prevention project, a housing program, or an immediate alternative for people in the process of being evicted.
- Men experiencing homelessness and seeking shelter at MSC will be screened first through Coordinated Assessment and then by MSC's Diversion Specialists to determine if diversion services are appropriate.
- MSC's diversion initiative is designed to assist men experiencing homelessness and seeking shelter at MSC to identify and access resources within their personal support networks to avoid the need for emergency shelter. Emergency shelter should be used as a last resort.
- MSC's Diversion Initiative will be staffed 7 days per week at MSC's Tryon Street Campus location (1210 N. Tryon St.):
 - Monday-Friday 3:00pm-9:00pm
 - Saturday-Sunday 1:00pm-7:00pm
- MSC **will not** accept referrals from outside agencies or individuals for diversion assistance. Men experiencing homelessness and in need of shelter will have to present themselves at MSC's Tryon Street Campus for screening.

More information about Men's Shelter of Charlotte can be accessed at www.MensShelterofCharlotte.org.

For Immediate Release