

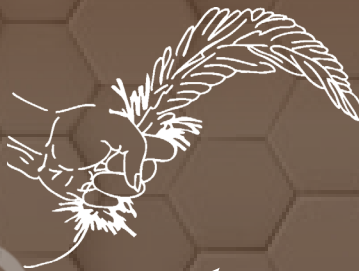


# *Featherfist*

Annual Report

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2016



*power and purpose*



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At Featherfist, it is our mission to give “power and purpose” to those in the homeless community by assisting them in their advancement toward self-sufficiency.

Since we realize shelter is not enough, we expand our services to include a full range of social service networks to meet the myriad demands of retraining, rehabilitating and re-entry into the mainstream.

We believe that those persons requiring assistance to be self-reliant, whether mentally or physically exceptional, should have the opportunities that will allow them to function as independent and productive members of society.

It is OUR mission to eliminate homelessness!



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at Featherfist, I am pleased to present our 2016 annual report.

While the external environment for nonprofit organizations remains a very challenging one, I have seen our community come together and show resilience, determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as a unified voice for change. We continued our mission to give

“power and purpose” to those in the homeless community by assisting them in their advancement toward self-sufficiency.

With “Power and Purpose” as its mission, Featherfist continues to implement model programs that successfully address the underlying causes of homelessness for individual clients and the homeless population as a whole.

Reflecting upon all that we accomplished in 2016, I am inspired by the tremendous commitment demonstrated by the employees that make Featherfist a beacon of light for the homeless community across the City of Chicago and its surrounding areas. In 2016, Featherfist served over 4,100 clients. Our strong commitment to house veterans and homeless families across the Chicagoland area resulted in Featherfist providing both transitional and permanent housing and/or referrals for services for all our clients.

As our agency enters its 33rd year of service, we continue to develop innovative programs and best practices that help stabilize families and return them to productive lives. I am proud that our commitment to adhering to best practice standards resulted in Featherfist receiving accreditation from the Council on Accreditation on August 31, 2016.

As we move forward, I am more passionate than ever about Featherfist’s mission to eliminate homelessness. There remains a lot of incredibly hard work to do, but I have never felt more confident in our agency’s ability to continue to give “power and purpose” to those in the homeless community.

I am humbled by and grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Anewishki

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JANET K BELL

TESA DAVIS

ROLEAN DUNCAN

VIRGINIA MITCHELL

MICHELLE POSEY

JEROME SIMMONS

CHANDRA SMITH

KIRKLAND TOWNSEND

TYWAYNE WILSON



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

## THE FEATHERFIST PHILOSOPHY

**Self  
Sufficiency**

Client commitment  
to program success

Requires opportunity  
and commitment

Aggressive  
Mobile  
Outreach  
24/hr on-call 24/hr  
awareness

Client trust and  
respect

Other  
supportive  
services

Supportive  
housing to  
develop  
independent living  
skills

Comprehensive  
case  
management

**Skill  
Development**

Job - based  
training and  
employment  
referrals

*With six satellite offices, Featherfist has four main areas of focus for service delivery. Highlights for these areas of focus in 2016 include:*

**\* Outreach & Engagement** - Featherfist continues to be the premier agency in the City for outreach to the homeless city-wide on the streets and in shelters. We recognize that outreach & engagement is the linchpin to developing the relationship between client and case management. Featherfist maintains a fleet of vehicles available for outreach and engagement, and to transport clients to essential services.

**\* Comprehensive Case Management** - The results of our comprehensive assessment enable our case manager(s) to begin the development of a service plan and refer family members for appropriate services. Across all Featherfist programs, case managers held over 11,000 case management sessions to ensure our clients address any barriers they may have and prepare the family for moving into their own permanent housing.

**\* Housing** - Featherfist's Housing Department has a reputation for locating safe, secure and affordable housing in every neighborhood across the city. In 2016, our Housing Department located housing for over 700 Featherfist individuals.

**\* Veterans' Services** - Featherfist continues to expand its Veterans' Services programs. During 2016, Featherfist assisted over 917 veterans in either locating housing or other needed services. Featherfist SSVF program continues to set the pace for the number of homeless veterans housed weekly in the City of Chicago.

### AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

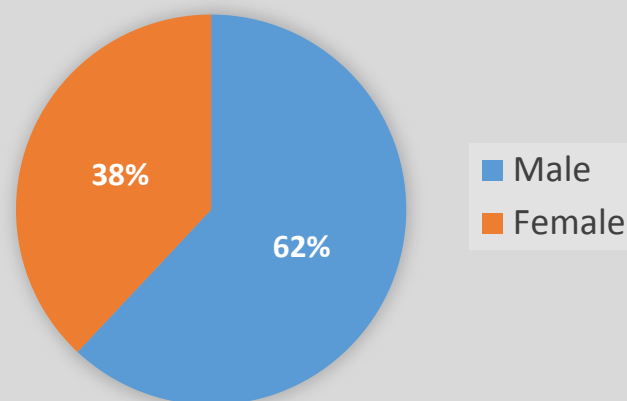
- \*\* Accredited by COA through August 31, 2020.
- \*\* Since obtaining the State of Illinois Colbert Consent Decree, Featherfist has located housing for 326 consent decree class members.
- \*\* Featherfist provides supportive services to a 54-unit permanent supportive housing facility for male and female veterans; and senior citizens residing in senior living residences in Oswego, IL. Together, we provide supportive services to over 180 residents of both developments.
- \*\* Through our FEAT program (Featherfist Education and Technology), we offer clients a 12-week comprehensive computer training class. In 2016, FEAT provided services to over 300 clients and community members.
- \*\* Featherfist FORT III Facility Director, Tim Zenner, was voted in as facilitator of the community System Integration Team (SIT) which brings together DFSS, HUD, VA Medical Center and other community stakeholders.
- \*\* Featherfist SSVF Program Coordinator, Abraham House El, appointed member of the Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) and spokesperson for Chicago SSVF grantees.
- \*\* Featherfist FORT II Facility Director, Isiah Norris, was appointed Community Team Chairperson for the Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative (EVHI).



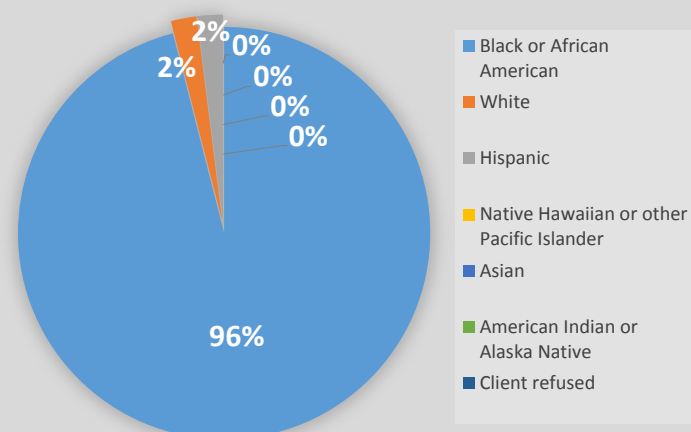
# WHO WE SERVE

Program	# of Households	# of CM sessions	Household Composition
Aggressive Mobile Outreach (AMO)	399	2,116	Singles/Families
Featherfist Apartments	60	1,284	Singles
Featherfist Employment and Training (FEAT)	307	N/A	Adults (18+ yrs)
The FORT (FORT I)	67	273	Singles
FORT II	183	433	Singles
FORT III	146	1,132	Singles
Foundations	45	160	Families
Hope Village	51	182	Families
LIHTF	7	115	Singles/Families
Featherfist Chronic Homeless Initiative-CLHTF	23	86	Singles/Families
Rapid Re-Housing Expansion	22	442 Service Transactions	Singles/Families
SHP 1	13	182	Singles/Families
SHP 2	35	631	Singles/Families
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	216	3,741 Service Transactions	Singles/Families
Transition in Place (TIP)	45	449	Singles/Families
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,619</b>	<b>11,226</b>	

**Featherfist 2016 Gender Demographic (915 Clients)**



**Featherfist 2016 Race Demographics**

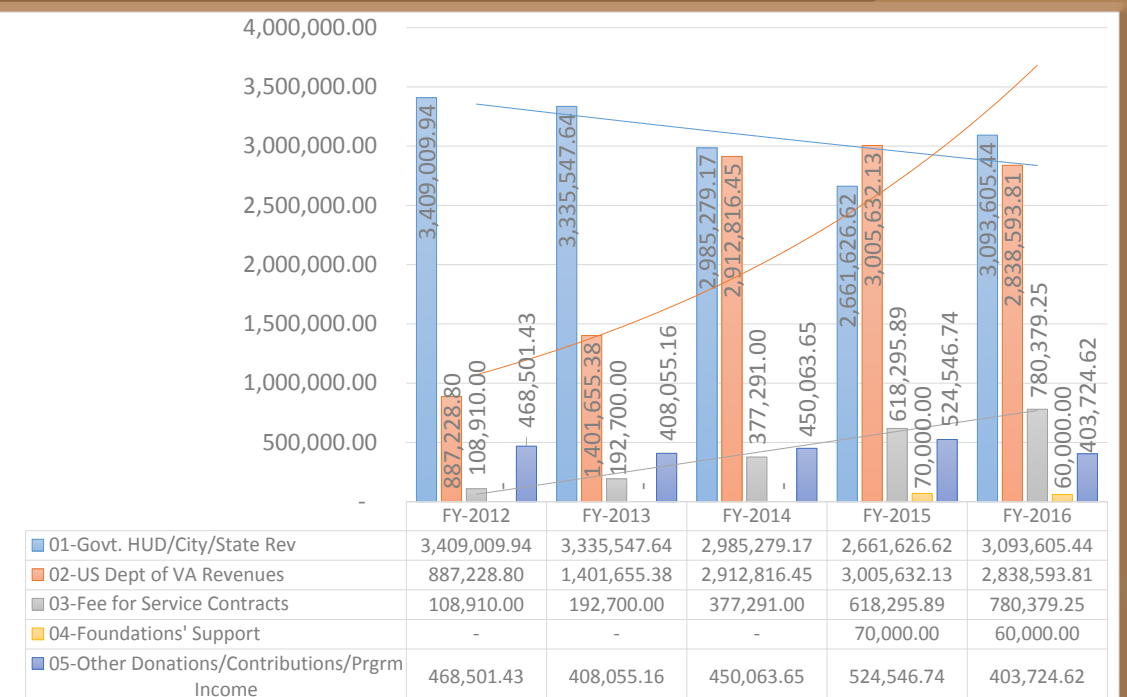


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Featherfist maintained a steady growth rate in FY 2016. Revenues increased by 4.30% over FY 2015. We achieved our goals, including an increase in unrestricted funding, and a bigger outlay in client rents and client assistance whereas operating expenses have been almost flat.

Our associations with real estate developers, The University of Chicago, as well as, Chicago Community Trust are thriving and continue to grow. Featherfist expects continued growth in our partnerships with real estate developers in senior housing developments, veterans' services and fee for services areas of the agency.

Our financial relationships with US Bank, Bridgeview Bank, First American Bank, MB Financial and other parties remain very strong. Our statutory audit and funders' monitoring remain un-qualified. Featherfist enjoyed stress free cash-flow in FY 2016 and all of our obligations have been fulfilled. Our FY 2017 financial goals are to maintain all of our programs and increase unrestricted income.







Featherfist Staff



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