**Street Outreach**

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**Street outreach is a process of initial and ongoing engagement and interaction with persons who are literally homeless. We go on outreach all year long, and we go anyplace homeless individuals are living outdoors (such as streets, alleys, bridges, cars, or camps). We find and engage with them to help them obtain services such as healthcare, mainstream benefits, and housing (just to name a few). The MACCH street outreach team works together with many agencies to provide the most services to clients. Street outreach is perfect for reaching homeless people who otherwise would be lost to long term care because outreach teams GO TO those in need. We meet them where they are.**

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**Street outreach workers need to love what they do!! Street outreach workers are:**

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**Resourceful**

**Non-judgmental**

**Respectful**

**People Centered and Trauma Informed**

**Independent AND strong team players**

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**Street outreach teams also help link clients up with the services they need, but are otherwise unable to access on their own. We are able to provide referrals to various local agencies with whom we collaborate. We work with the Veteran’s Administration (VA), Charles Drew Medical Services, Heartland Family Service, Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP), Youth Emergency Services (YES), Community Alliance, Mohm’s Place, Integrated Health, Salvation Army Emergency Community Support, and the Council Bluffs Police Department.**

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**The overall impact MACCH Street Outreach has had on our community is huge; it is a vital aspect of our community’s Continuum of services. Research shows that outreach initiatives such as ours will, in time:**

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**Decrease number of homeless days**

**Improve housing status**

**Decrease psychiatric hospitalizations**

**Reduce drug use**

**Improve health and mental health**

**The team in 2014 served and engaged with over 122 clients and provided over 1600 services (and we know we will have higher numbers this year as we are having more of a presence in the community)**

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**The best part of street outreach--what I love the most--is knowing our work has impacted many people in our community by helping them obtain safe housing, healthcare, and hope for their future. There is no other better feeling than knowing are we profoundly changing lives on a daily basis.**

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