



**Winter Night Shelter
Report 2015**



Our thanks to all who have supported FirmFoundation's Winter Night Shelter

Trinity Church Harrow	London Catalyst
All Churches Trust Ltd	Leathersellers Company
Pinner Methodist Church	Elmfield Church
Harrow International Christian Centre	St Paul's PCC
The Hilden Charitable Fund	St Michael's & All Angels PCC Harrow Weald
Wealdstone Methodist Church	Waitrose Ltd
Beatrice Laing Trust	The Star – South Harrow
The Albert Hunt Trust	Belmont School Staff
Harrow Quaker Meeting	New Life Bible Church
Marsh Christian Trust	Lion Club Wembley
All Saint's Church Harrow Weald	King's Church Harrow
Rotary Club of Northwick Park	St Luke's 200 Club
The Pinner Association of Churches	Agape Prayer Fellowship
Six Crown Street	
Pinner Free church (Baptist)	To those individuals who have given so generously
Hatch End Free Church (Baptist)	
Headcount FM	
South Harrow Baptist Church	



FirmFoundation

Winter Night Shelter 2015 Report

FirmFoundation have been pleased to appoint a full-time 'Night Shelter Manager' for this twelve week project. This year the charities manager worked for the Night Shelter providing the extra support work needed for those guests accessing this service.

The appointment of the Night Shelter Manager was to ensure the smooth running of the shelter, high quality support work and to encourage volunteer engagement across the twelve weeks.

FirmFoundation's Winter Night Shelter opened its doors for the fifth consecutive year on Monday 5th of January 2015. The all-male shelter ran at the same venue as the previous years at the Weldon Centre for seven nights per week until and including the 29th of March 2015. Harrow International Christian Centre (HICC) once again offered the use of their magnificent building to help us overcome the difficulty of the unavailability of the Weldon Centre site until after 9:30pm on Mondays.



The aim for the shelter is to provide a warm and friendly atmosphere and a safe dormitory style overnight accommodation for up to 10 male guests per night. We were also able to offer extended Support Worker engagement to assist with guests accessing relevant services. The shelter was also made possible by the help of the volunteers who gave time, energy and skills and made sure that the guests were well fed and well looked after. In all volunteers contributed 1,913 hours to the Night Shelter, their commitment has positively affected guest's lives and outlooks. They offered sumptuous meals every evening which left the guests feeling loved and cared for. A cooked breakfast was also provided Monday to Friday at Trinity Church Hinds Road which is located close by. The guest had their Saturday and Sunday breakfast at the shelter.

Hot shower facilities and necessary toiletries were also available on site.



Referral's to the Night Shelter

The wider work of FirmFoundation and the referral routes into the Night Shelter worked well, receiving referral's from a wide range of agencies.

The guests were referred to us by the Harrow Street Pastors (HSP), Harrow Council (Housing Advice Team), Victoria Hall Single Homeless Drop-in, St Paul's South Harrow, HAGAM, Citizens Advice Bureau, Shelter and other services.

The shelter received 47 referrals this year, of which the Night Shelter offered bed spaces to 20 males. Twelve of the shelter's guests had a Harrow connection, one with no connection to any borough, one to another London Borough, one from Hillingdon and five from out of London.

Only one guest this year was asked to leave the Night Shelter due to behavioural issues, however, FirmFoundation continued to work with him outside of the shelter.

Case Study:

We were pleased to be able to offer a bed space and case work to a male guest assessing Compass, a local drug and alcohol service, as well as Look Ahead (floating support). This guest could not enter the Private Rented Sector as his support needs were too great and was placed on a waiting list for supported accommodation. He was second on the waiting list, FirmFoundation had also seen the gentleman placed first who had lower support needs. FirmFoundation advocated for this gentleman and with the help of Harrow Council's Housing Needs Team located suitable accommodation for him. At the end of the shelter our guest was placed in temporary accommodation through Harrow Council while the supported accommodation was being made ready.

With the addition of the Shelter manager and the Charity manager providing support, guests could be offered further assistance. Strong links with Harrow's Council's Housing Needs Team were strengthened further this year as some of FirmFoundation's guests were made appointments and some attending accommodation viewings via the Council to the Private Rented Sector.

We are delighted that eight guests gained accommodation. FirmFoundation also provided starter packs for guests who required basic items.

2015 Shelter



Julian Saunders (Charity Manager) 1st from the right, Bob Blackman MP (Harrow East) 5th from the right and Errol Breda (Shelter Manager) 2nd from the right with guests and volunteers

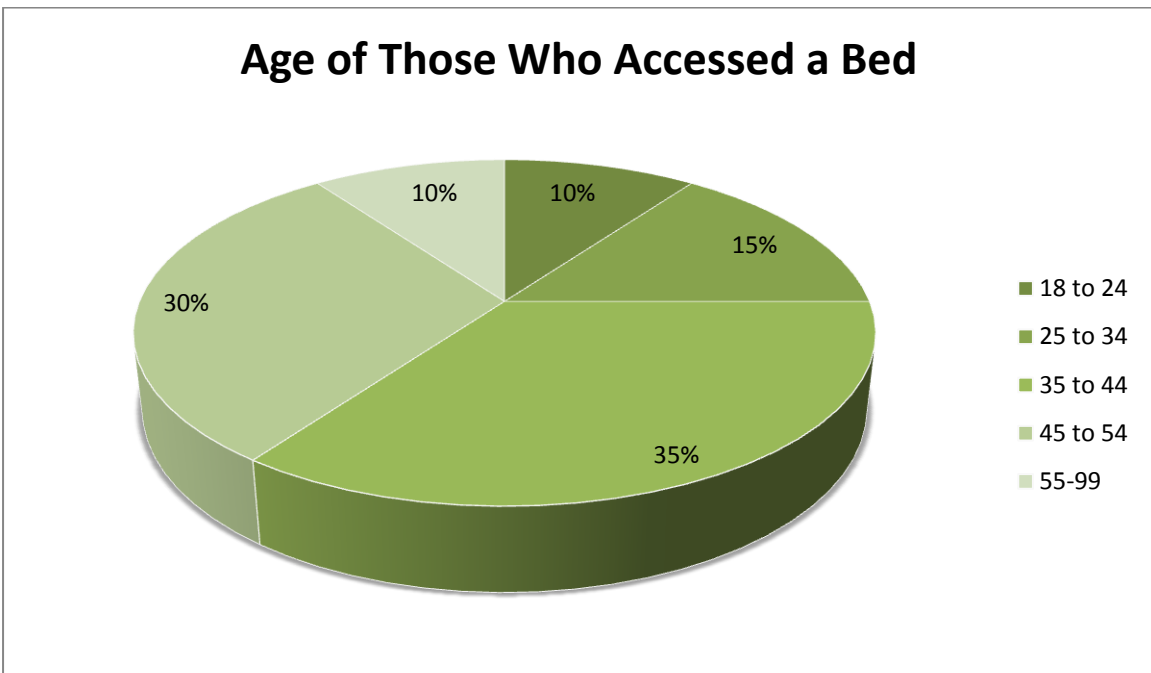
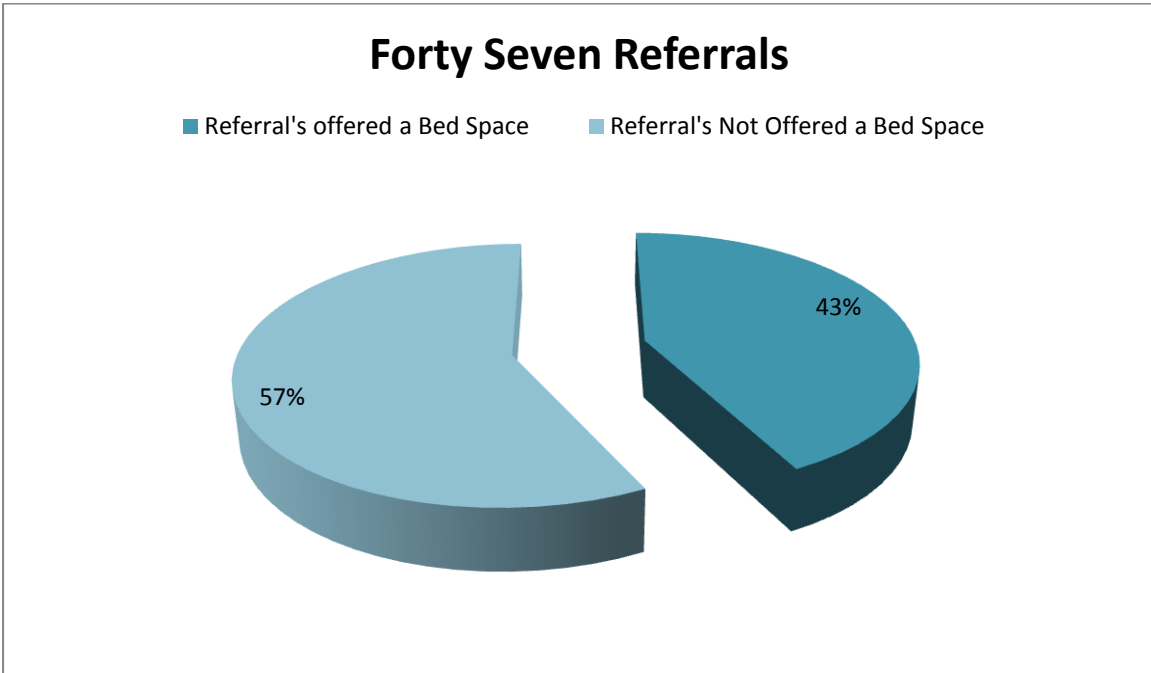
Feedback

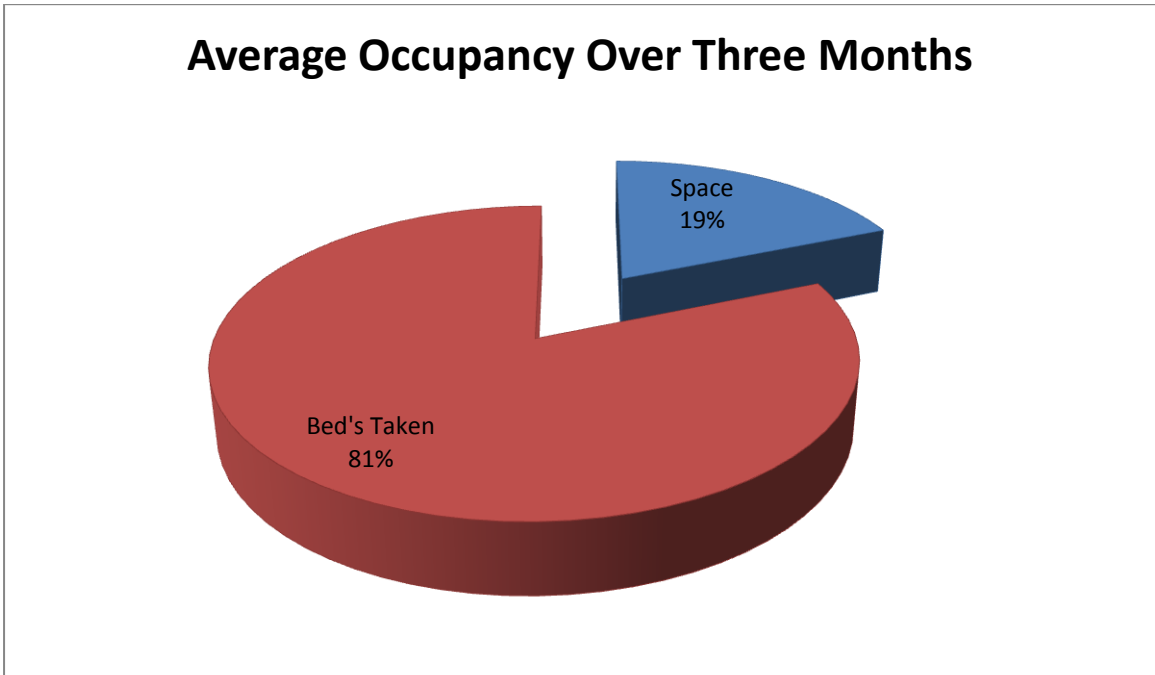
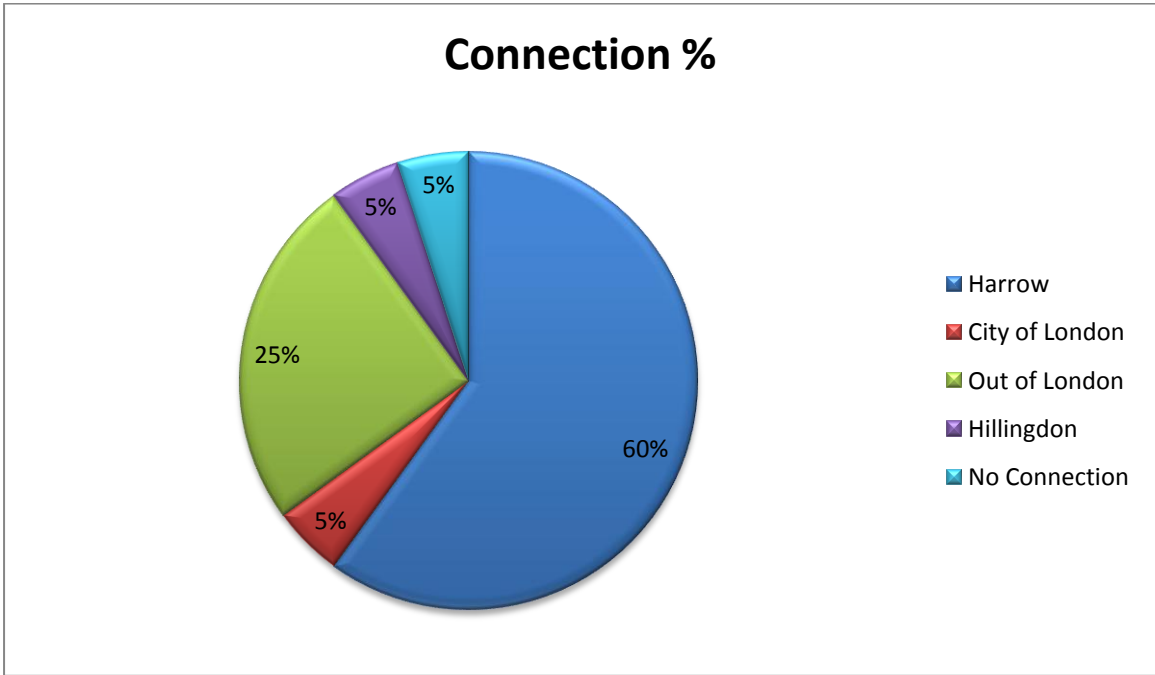
'I don't know what I would have done without the shelter. The volunteers have been really kind' Colin' (Guest)

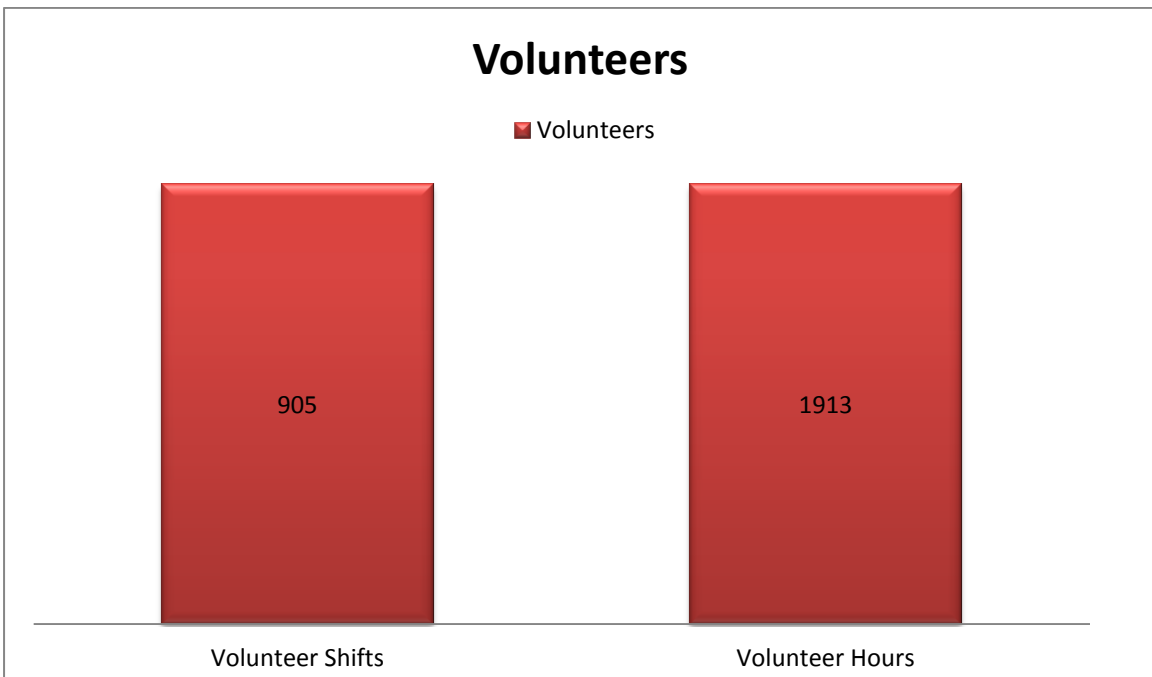
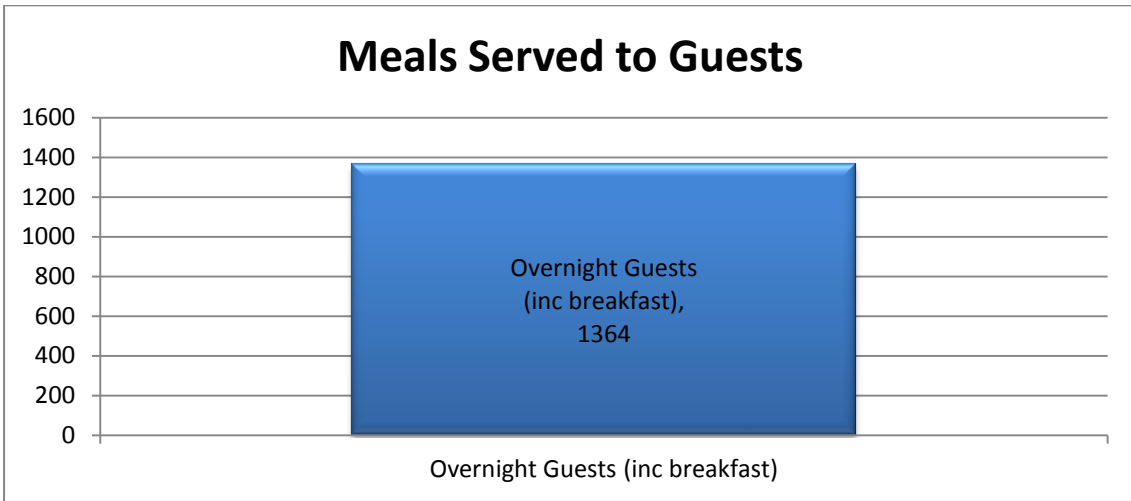
'It's been great this year I have enjoyed volunteering and what to do it again next year' Karl (Volunteer)

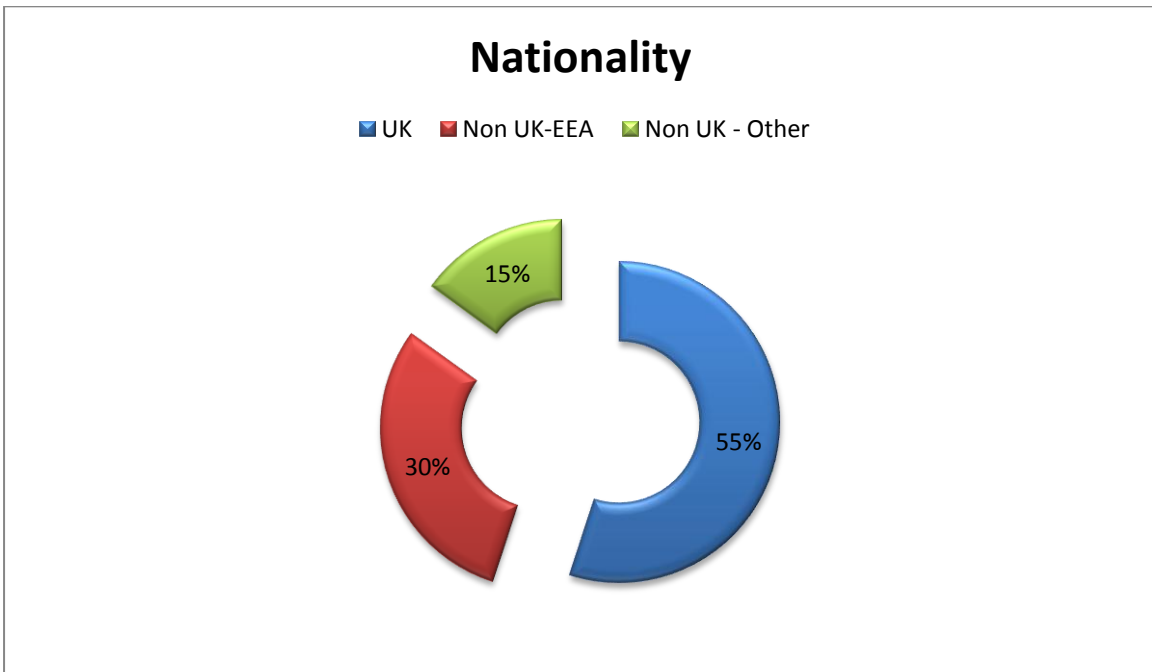
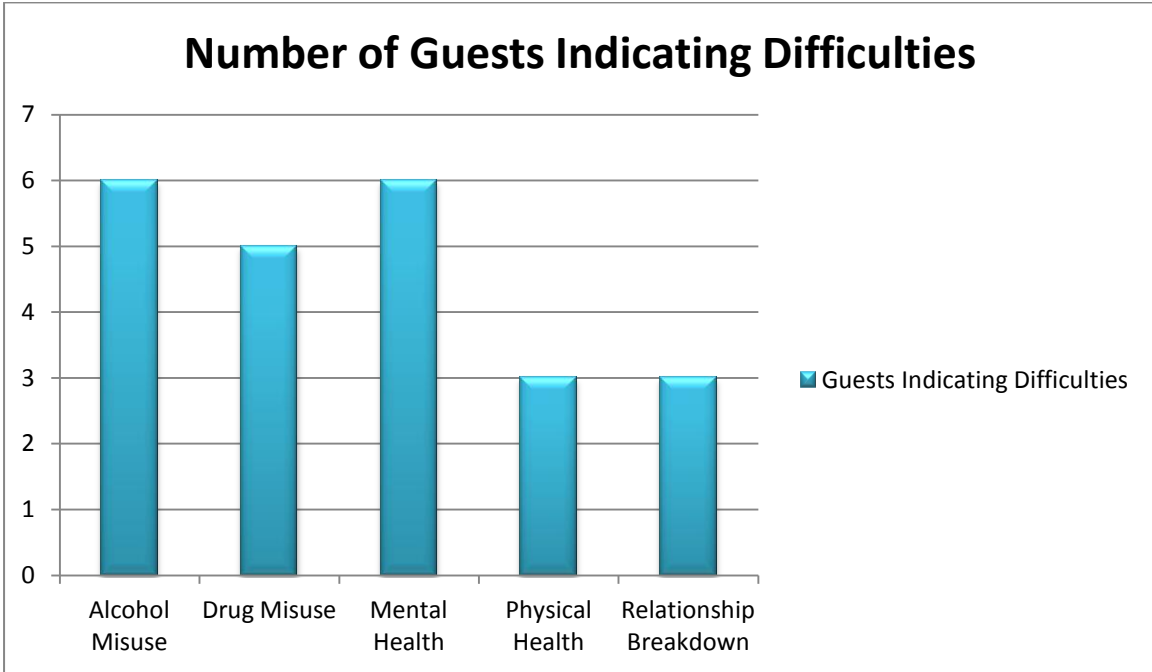
'Thank you for all FirmFoundation have done' Steven (Guest)

Night Shelter Statistics











Conclusion

The shelter of 2015 has been a well run and managed project with minimal external issues. FirmFoundation's referral routes have again worked very well and it is result of the year round work that the charity does. Forty Seven referrals were received over the twelve weeks.

The shelter saw a shift in circumstances for many guests this year. Three of the guests were working and homeless when they entered the shelter. This also meant that our usual referral routes into accommodation were frustrated as some of our landlords preferred benefits only. Twenty guests stayed with FirmFoundation's shelter, with some guests staying for a longer period of time compared to 2014. This also meant that the number of guests which FirmFoundation could offer a bed space to was limited, due to these longer periods.

Eight guests secured accommodation.

We would like to thank all of those involved with the Night Shelter 2015, we have been bowled over with the huge support we have received from the volunteers who have provided meals, support, sleeping overnight and the myriad of those other jobs that rarely are mentioned but are just as important.