

ANNUAL REPORT - 2015



Featherfist
power and purpose

***MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:***



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Featherfist, I am pleased to present to you our 2015 annual report. 2015 was another exciting year of growth for Featherfist!

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. As we begin a new year, I reflect with great pride at how incredibly engaged Featherfist is with the homeless community through our outreach and comprehensive supportive services.

Since our organization’s founding in 1984, we have worked diligently to provide extensive outreach, comprehensive case management and supportive services and referrals to prepare our clients for and access to permanent housing with follow-up case management for a minimum of six months.

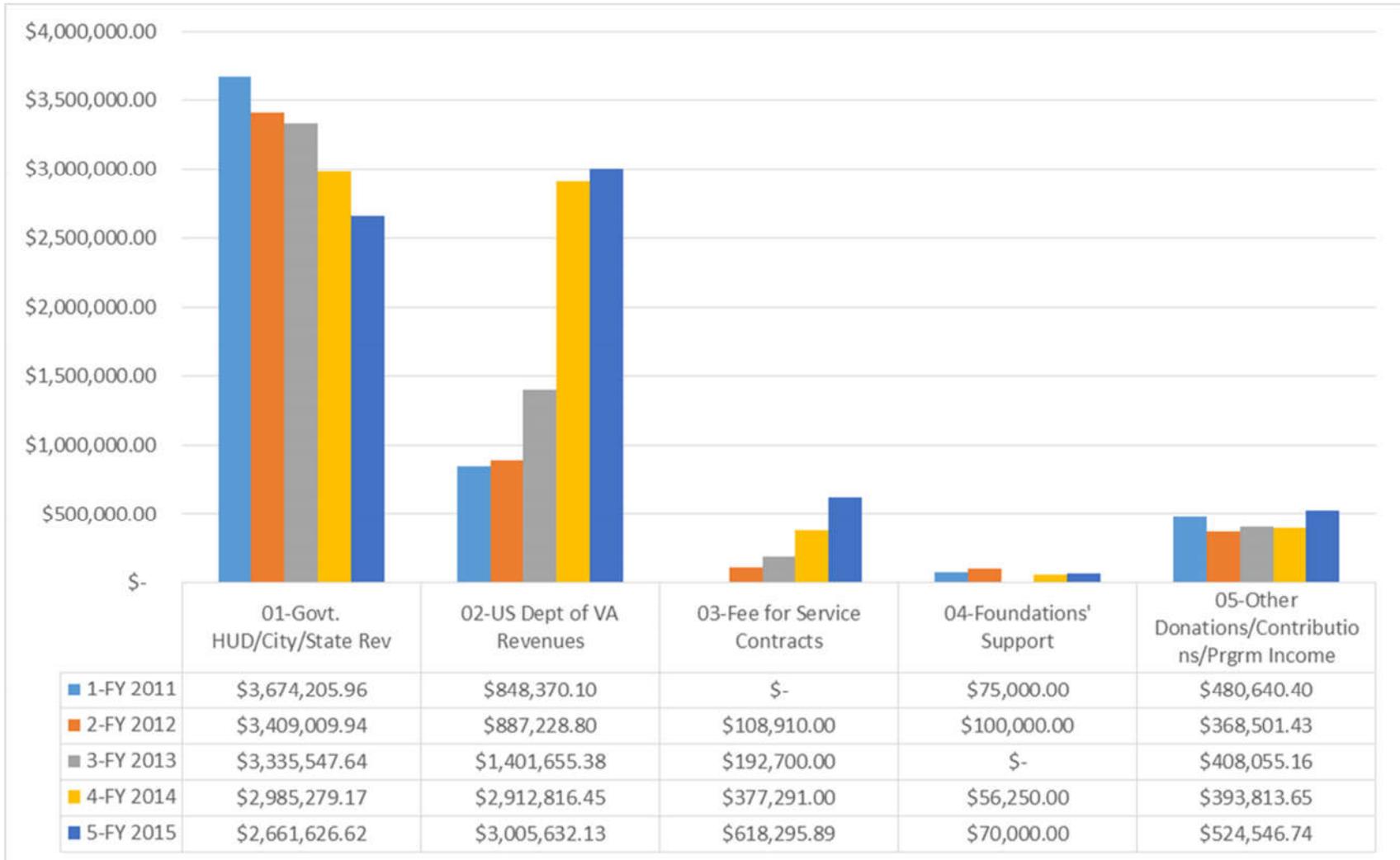
This mission has led Featherfist to develop innovative programs and best practices that help stabilize families and return them to productive lives.

For more than three decades, Featherfist has been the leading voice for homeless families and veterans. Because of the commitment and dedication of our staff, Featherfist continues to expand our services and programs to the homeless community through our partnerships with the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Congressional Black Caucus, Chicago Community Trust and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

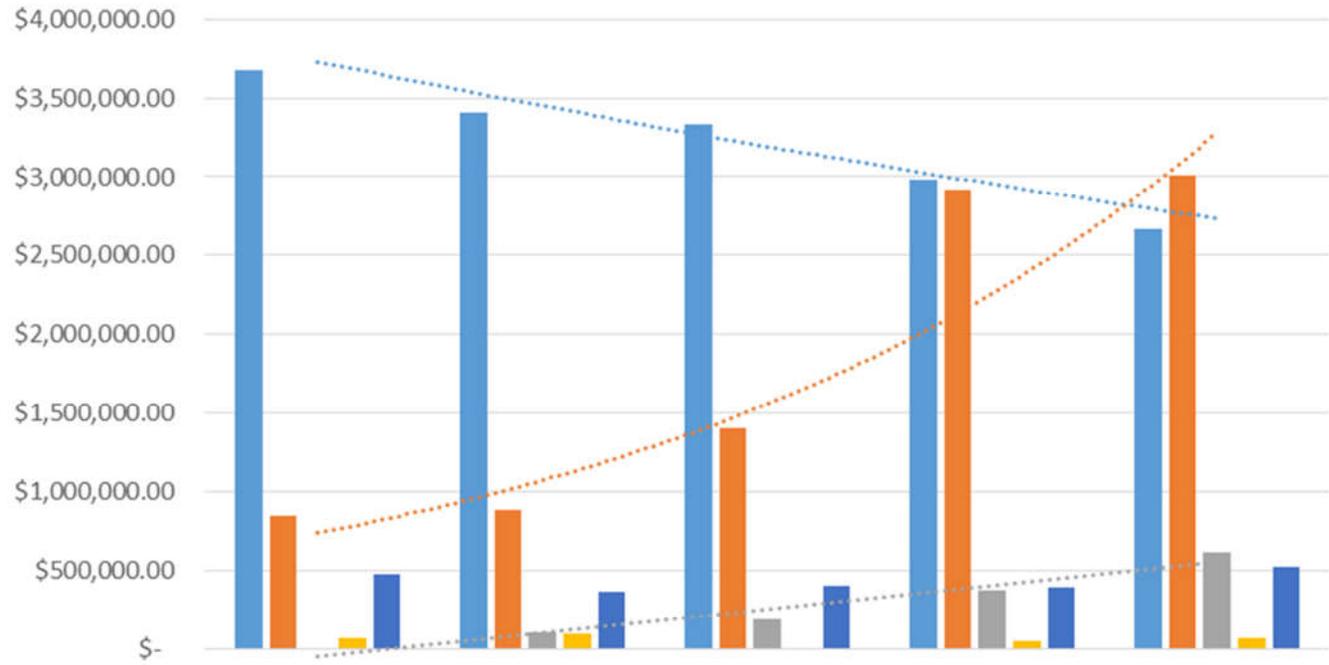
Thank you for your trust and generous investments. It is our mission to eliminate homelessness! We are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Melanie G. Anewishki

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



\$(500,000.00)

	1-FY 2011	2-FY 2012	3-FY 2013	4-FY 2014	5-FY 2015
■ 01-Govt. HUD/City/State Rev	\$3,674,205.96	\$3,409,009.94	\$3,335,547.64	\$2,985,279.17	\$2,661,626.62
■ 02-US Dept of VA Revenues	\$848,370.10	\$887,228.80	\$1,401,655.38	\$2,912,816.45	\$3,005,632.13
■ 03-Fee for Service Contracts	\$-	\$108,910.00	\$192,700.00	\$377,291.00	\$618,295.89
■ 04-Foundations' Support	\$75,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$-	\$56,250.00	\$70,000.00
■ 05-Other Donations/Contributions/Prgm Income	\$480,640.40	\$368,501.43	\$408,055.16	\$393,813.65	\$524,546.74

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

Featherfist has shown steady growth over the past four years. The agency has met all of its financial obligations. Cash flow is free from any stress or encumbrances.

Featherfist has experienced an increased budget over the past two years. This increase is due to the agency being awarded less restrictive awards such as the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and fee for services contract work. This has resulted in Featherfist having a greater outlay of expenses for client leasing, direct assistance and personnel.

Realizing that the funding environment is getting progressively restrictive, the agency's management took some crucial strategic steps to enhance our financial viability and stability. In 2010, the agency hired a Director of Development. This position spearheads the marketing and grant seeking effort. This position has been instrumental in bringing under focus Veterans Services. Through aggressive research and development efforts, Featherfist won the SSVF award (\$1.2MM/annually), the Transition in Place (TIP) program for veterans, and two capital rehab grants for our Veterans centric projects as well as other unrestricted funding. Efforts are also underway to obtain funding through the Chicago Low Income Housing Program initiative that will grant capital funds to reduce our debt service on existing veteran programs. These grants are less restrictive in nature and less cumbersome administratively. In the short to medium term, we anticipate an even higher unrestricted income generation from fee for services contract work.

Another strategic move was the development of a strong in-house Housing Department. Featherfist has now become the leader in providing housing location services to the community. The outsourcing of housing location services has resulted in the agency being awarded part of the Colbert Consent Decree contract from the State of Illinois which has resulted in substantial unrestricted income.

Recently, Featherfist has expanded its contractual services to Tax Credits or other subsidy funded housing projects where we are not the lead developer. Due to our 501(c)(3) status, we have been approached by several developers to partner with them. We have already completed two senior housing projects in Oswego, Illinois, and are in negotiation with two other developers for Veterans' centric projects.

Yet another interesting and fruitful strategy has been to introduce the agency to the University of Chicago. The goal of this partnership is to position the agency to be a resource to various organizations that will be mutually beneficial.

In 2016, 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.

With six satellite offices, Featherfist has four main areas of focus for service delivery:

Outreach & Engagement - Over 30 years ago, before Featherfist was ever an “organization”, volunteers combed the streets searching for the homeless. From those beginnings, Featherfist has grown into the premier agency in the City – and specifically the south side of Chicago – for outreach to the homeless citywide on the streets and in shelters and engaging with them to develop relationships that ultimately lead to assisting them with much needed essential services and eventually, housing.

Comprehensive Case Management - Areas of assessment include, but are not limited to: number of members in the family; current level of income; substance use disorders; mental health issues; chronic physical issues; developmental disabilities, ex-offender status; prior evictions; legal issues regarding DCFS, child support or other child protective concerns. The results of this assessment enable the case manager(s) to begin the development of a service plan and refer family members for appropriate services. Case management continues through the housing process and for as long as 24 months.

Housing - Featherfist’s Housing Department receives referrals from Featherfist case managers to begin the housing search for the family. During the case management process, a housing application is completed and indicates the area of the city the family wants to live in, number of bedrooms and any other special accommodations needed. Housing staff begins the search for appropriate housing. Featherfist’s Housing Department has a city-wide reputation for developing relationships with housing providers to secure safe, secure and affordable housing in every neighborhood across the city.

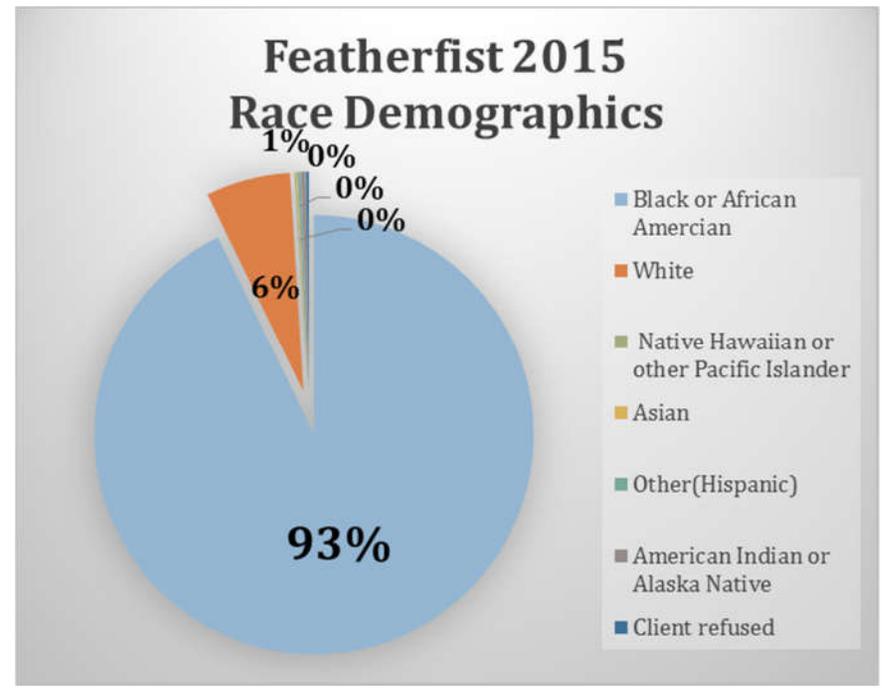
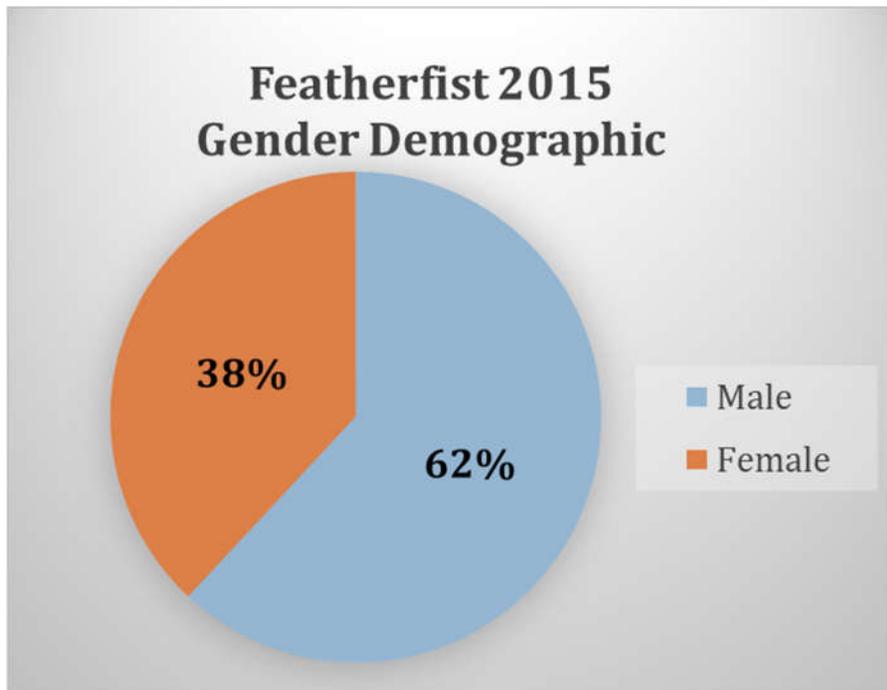
Veterans’ Services - Featherfist has expanded its Veterans’ Services programs from one (1) in 2004 to five (5) in 2012, and maintains those five programs today. Former military service members comprise a large portion of the homeless population in Chicago. Many of those homeless veterans live with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and/or physical disabilities. Featherfist, by utilizing case managers who are former service members, and networking with local VA Medical Centers, has been able to successfully house many veteran households. Because of our success rate in housing homeless veterans and assisting them to maintain housing, Featherfist was awarded the only TIP (Transition in Place) Veteran housing program in Illinois in 2012.

AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ** Obtained State of Illinois Colbert Consent Decree. Featherfist has located housing for 219 consent decree class members.
- ** Partnership with 3-Diamond Developers to provide supportive services to senior citizens residing in senior living residences in Oswego, IL. Oswego I and Oswego II have 123 residential units for seniors.
- ** Received the Congressional Black Caucus 2015 Veterans Braintrust Award
- ** Member of the University of Chicago Community Programs Accelerator
- ** Featherfist has served 474 veterans in the SSVF and Rapid Re-Housing program.



During 2015, Featherfist served 4,167 clients:



Who we are

Featherfist, a not-for-profit social service agency whose main office is located on the South Side of Chicago in the South Shore community, provides supportive and housing services to the homeless community throughout Chicago.

Contact Us

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