



**First Fruit Ministries (FFM)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to feeding, sheltering and caring for those in need. Our goal is to transform lives by nurturing the talents of each individual so they may accomplish their true calling and mature in their faith. Our vision is to help others experience the freedom of becoming who they were created to be: productive and healthy members of our community.

**Wilmington Dream Center · Permanent Supportive Housing (WDCPSH)** is a permanent supportive housing program designed to provide chronically homeless women with sustainable permanent housing, and encourage them toward increased income and/or education and self-determination through personal growth. Mental health care, primary care, employment assistance, recovery support, and life skills training will all be provided to residents, either directly through First Fruit Ministries or indirectly through partner organizations. Dealing with the external issues of income and housing without addressing root causes such as co-dependence, lack of self-esteem, abandonment issues, and poor coping skills is ineffective in creating long term results. Safe personal relationships are key in creating meaningful and sustainable change. At First Fruit Ministries we find that when the program participant feels loved by and genuinely confident in their relationship with staff they are better able to tackle the hard work of personal growth and to achieve the highest outcomes.

## **Admission**

**To be accepted as a resident of WDCPSH, the applicant must be:**

- Chronically homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Have achieved a minimum 30 days without alcohol or drugs
- If the client has a history of substance abuse, she must be in active recovery (ie. Attending 12 step meetings weekly, working with a sponsor)

**The application process begins by calling 910.794.9656, to prescreen for eligibility.**

If the prescreening is successful the applicant is asked to first read the program guidelines and then to complete the application package available on:

<http://www.firstfruitministries.org/programs/wilmington-dream-center>

- Completed application packets can be either
  - a. faxed to 910-794-9657
  - b. mailed to Post Office Box 15354, Wilmington, NC 28404
  - c. delivered to our office at 2750 Vance St, Wilmington between 9am and 2pm weekdays
- When we have beds available we go through the applications we have on hand and invite applicants to come in for an interview based on their written application. Successful applicants will be notified by phone when they are accepted into the program. The applicant is welcome to check on their application at any time during the process.

## Wilmington Dream Center · Permanent Supportive Housing Program

We want **all** residents to feel safe and comfortable in their home; to feel supported by our staff and volunteers and by their fellow residents. We want to provide a nurturing and ordered place for personal growth and self-empowerment. We have found that tremendous individual growth and change is possible when our residents are feeling encouraged, engaged, and secure. To help all residents the following **House Rules** are in effect.

### Drugs and Alcohol

- Drug and alcohol testing will be conducted on entrance to the program and randomly throughout residency.
- Use of alcohol and legal substances that get you high on the premises is prohibited.
- Use of illegal drugs or synthetic drugs on or off premises is prohibited. If a resident tests positive for illegal drugs, she may retest within 24 hours at her own expense.
- Use of a controlled substance for which a resident does not have a valid prescription is prohibited on or off the premises. If a resident tests positive for a controlled substance for which she does not have a prescription, she may retest within 24 hours at her own expense.
- All prescription medicines are the responsibility of the resident.
- Sharing or selling of prescription drugs is strictly against the rules.
- Residents are required to notify the Director each time a physician prescribes a new medication.

### General

- Residents are encouraged to treat their fellow housemates as they would want to be treated, with understanding, consideration and patience. Verbal abuse is not tolerated.
- Any form of violence by a resident will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- Concerns about another resident should be discussed with the Program Director or Housing Assistant and **not** be the subject of gossip among residents.
- Use of profane language will **not** be tolerated.
- Cigarette smoking is allowed outside in designated areas only. Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Smoking, loitering and gathering with friends is not allowed in the front of the building or in the laundromat at any time. If a resident is expecting a ride, they should wait inside the building.
- Burning candles and incense are a fire hazard and not permitted.

### Dining Room

- Dinner is served from 5:00pm to 6:15pm Sunday through Thursday in the dining hall. Residents must be out of the dining room by 6:30pm so clean-up can begin.
- Each resident should store all food items appropriately in their storage space in the drawers, shelves and refrigerators in the community dining room. Food is not to be stored or eaten in bedrooms. PSH residents will have locking refrigerators. No food should be stored on top of refrigerators or countertops. The kitchenette is to be used by PSH and Family Center residents only. The kitchenette must be cleaned after cooking before leaving the area.

### Laundromat

- The laundromat is currently locked to the public.
- Residents are welcome to use the laundromat at any time but it is recommended that they stay with their washing and drying.

### Chores

- Residents are responsible for keeping their personal living areas and bathroom clean. Bathrooms must be cleaned twice a week. Residents of WDCPSH will be assigned a rotation of cleaning common areas in their living space.
- All PSH residents are welcome to eat the dinners provided Sunday-Thursday in the dining hall. PSH residents are in the rotation with Transitional Housing residents for Kitchen/Dining Room cleaning.
- Chore checks will be conducted.

### **Food Pantry**

- Residents may shop the food pantry during food pantry hours with the general public Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The pantry is opened for residents only to get dry goods on Mondays from 10-11 am.
- Residents may not shop for family members or friends.
- Residents are expected to take no more than they can store in their designated space in the dining room.

### **Nights Spent Away From Home**

Often, a residual effect of chronic homelessness is a tendency to spend the night wherever you are. Here at First Fruit Ministries, we believe that one of the benefits of permanent housing is knowing you have a place to come home to every night. In keeping with this belief, we request that residents come home at night. If you choose to spend the night away, we request that you let the director know as soon as possible. This alleviates worry and avoids any confusion about whether or not the resident is okay.

### **House Meetings**

House meetings are held no less than once a month. PSH residents are welcome to attend.

### **Case Management Meetings and Counseling**

Each resident is required to attend weekly case management meetings with the Program Director or Case Manager. Life transitions can be unsettling. For this reason, residents should be connected to mental health counseling. If the resident does not have a therapist before entry, the Director will help them engage mental health services. Medications should be taken as prescribed. Residents are expected to manage their own medication.

### **Fire Drill Procedures**

Each resident is to make themselves familiar with the fire evacuation procedures. When the alarm sounds, all residents must immediately evacuate and report to the grassy area bordering Vance Street in front of the building.

### **Support Services**

Support services are key in obtaining personal growth and empowerment. Residents are requested to attend 3 support groups of their choice each week. Social support groups should be uplifting; members should have the same goal and assist the resident in reaching their highest potential. Examples of supportive services are: AA/NA meetings, church sponsored groups/meetings, Residents' Study Groups held at First Fruit Ministries, Domestic Violence support groups, activity clubs, group sports, etc. Residents are invited to attend Thursday 7:00pm Praise and Worship services in the sanctuary.

### **Employment**

Residents will be encouraged to find employment if possible. Once employed, the Program Director will work with the resident on budgeting and saving skills.

## **Service**

We have many opportunities to serve here at First Fruit Ministries. These include working at the food pantry, serving dinner to unsheltered visitors on Thursday nights, cleaning and beautification of the building, helping in the offices, working in the back garden, and several other projects. One of our beliefs is that giving back to our community will be a blessing to you as you settle in and make a home here. Volunteering benefits the volunteer in so many ways that it is our sincere hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

## **Visitors**

Visitors are permitted from 9am to 9pm each day. Please ensure that any visitor you bring in stays in your company the entire time they are in the facility. Overnight guests are not permitted. Guests are allowed in the kitchenette, residential areas and the PSH/Family Center back patio. Please ensure all guests stay in these spaces. Each resident is responsible for the conduct of their guests.

## **Entertainment**

Residents are permitted to have computers for internet access, DVD's, movies, games. *There is no cable access for network TV.* We encourage each resident to choose video games, internet browsing and movies that conform to healthy standards regarding subject matter and suitability. Please remember that cultivating personal growth is not compatible with watching or listening to trash.

## **Program Fees**

Residents are responsible for paying program fees at a rate equal to 30% of the resident's adjusted gross income. Program fees are due no less than monthly and may be paid weekly or bi-weekly. Payment arrangements will be made with the Director. Proof of income should be provided to the Director at program entry. If the resident has no income at program entry then paystubs or letters from other income sources should be provided when income is received. Non-payment of program fees is cause for termination of residency.

## **Consequences**

The Program Director and Housing Assistant may issue a Warning to a resident when a house rule is broken. Repeated Warnings will result in Infractions being issued and repeated Infractions will result in Termination of Residency.

## **Termination of Residency**

The following conduct may result in termination of residency at WDCPSH:

- Possession, on or off premises, of illegal drugs, and synthetic drugs whether legal or illegal
- A positive drug screening of illegal, synthetic or non-prescribed controlled medication
- Possession of alcohol on the premises
- Refusal to take a drug test
- Sharing or selling of prescription drugs
- Possession of a weapon
- Repeated violations of house rules
- Destruction of property
- Violent or threatening behavior towards yourself or others
- Any kind of physical harm to anyone else
- Not paying program fees
- Illegal actions on or off premises
- Disrespect, slander, or intimidation toward staff or other residents