

PUBLIC FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

Saturday, September 30, 2006
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Newark United Methodist Church
69 East Main Street, Newark, Delaware

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS

ONE: Those who are homeless can be seen in doorways, in bus stations, in parks, and on the roadside. They can be found in abandoned buildings, in shelters, and in parked cars. In the hustle and bustle of our lives we walk by them, for they are invisible to us.

PEOPLE: O God, help us slow down our fast-paced lives and give us the strength to open our eyes to those who are homeless.

ONE: They are the men, women, and children who due to unfortunate circumstances are left without a place to live and food to nourish them.

PEOPLE: O God, you call us to help them, as best we are able.

ONE: They have stories rich in both joy and sadness to tell. They seem voiceless, because we are too involved in our own lives to take time to listen.

PEOPLE: O God, please help us to find the courage to stop and listen to the stories of your people.

ONE: Often they are lonesome, with very few people willing to care for them or to provide them with the warmth they deserve.

PEOPLE: O God, help us to open our hearts to accept your people whom society has abandoned.

ONE: They are your children. They are similar to us. They too have hopes, dreams, desires, and aspirations.

PEOPLE: O God, help us open our minds so we may recognize all on the earth as your people.

ONE: They are your people filled with love and goodness –although often overlooked.

PEOPLE: O God, open our minds to allow us to see the beauty in all your people.

ONE: They frighten us because we do not know their stories. They frighten us because deep down we know we can easily become one of them.

PEOPLE: O God, forgive us for our fears and help us to remember that your light shines through them just as brightly as it shines through any of your children.

Amen.

Kenny Williams, Kaitlin Walsh, Mida McKenrick, Erin Walsh, Kelsey Oliver, and interim associate pastor Monica Ouellette from Newman Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Rumford, Rhode Island, USA.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 Welcome
Rev. James Faltot, Newark United Methodist Church
Vance Funk, Mayor of Newark
- 9:15 National Focus
Michael Stoops, National Coalition for the Homeless
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Local Focus
How we got here? Background
Richard Waibel, Newark Coalition
Homelessness in Rural/Suburban Areas
Carl Mazza, Meeting Ground (Elkton, MD)
Homelessness in Urban Areas
Bill Perkins, Friendship House (Wilmington, DE)
Where do we go now? Future Plans
Richard Waibel, Newark Coalition
- 11:30 Cooperative Group of Churches Working Together
Donna Clark, Salisbury Md. Urban Ministries
- 12:15 Instructions on Afternoon Proceedings / Break
- 12:30 Lunch – Heritage Hall
- 1:15 Small Group Discussions
- 2:00 Questions and Discussion with Panel of Experts
Mark Werrell, Newark United Methodist Church
- 2:45 Closing

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS



Small group #1
Housing & Basic Necessities

Small group #2
Employment & Education

Small group #3
Health & Safety Issues

Small group #4
Substance Abuse & Mental Health

Small group #5
Community Perceptions & Misconceptions

Small group #6
Forming Community Partnerships



Local Newark churches spend more than \$20,000 each year to provide shelter to those in need.



In the Newark community, there is a growing need to provide centralized and coordinated support that provides for basic needs as well as stability for a recovery process to occur.



In general, 85 - 90% of the homeless in Newark are able-bodied and in a transition phase that will likely improve with a little support.



Members of Newark churches and community groups have been working together to establish a Drop-In Day Center to address the needs of the homeless.

FUTURE EVENTS

- The Newark United Methodist Church will be presenting a 4-week Educational Seminar on the Homelessness on Wednesday Evenings October 25, November 1, 8, and 15 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. If interested, please contact the church office at (302)368-8774 for further information or questions and to register.
- Newark Area Coalition will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm at Newark United Methodist Church to discuss the drop-in center.

WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF YOU SAY YOU HAVE FAITH BUT DO NOT HAVE WORKS? CAN FAITH SAVE YOU? IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS NAKED AND LACKS DAILY FOOD, AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, "GO IN PEACE; KEEP WARM AND EAT YOUR FILL," AND YET YOU DO NOT SUPPLY THEIR BODILY NEEDS, WHAT IS THE GOOD OF THAT? SO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT HAS NO WORKS, IS DEAD.

JAMES 2:14 - 17

SPECIAL THANKS

In addition to thanking our private donors, we'd also like to thank the following local businesses and organizations for their generous support of the forum:

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AND FINALLY...

Our invited speakers, local residents, business owners, government officials, and members of the University community who joined us today to teach, learn, and share their thoughts and ideas with us.

~N.U.M.C. Outreach Team



**“A HAND-UP
NOT
A HAND-OUT”**