



## **Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness**

*Action Alert April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

**IMMEDIATE ACTION:** Send a Letter to the Editor drawing attention to our community's continuing **social safety net crisis** which demands media attention.

**The Message:** We are facing a social safety net crisis because the proposed budget of the governor seeks to:

- Eliminate General Assistance GA - that provides \$203 a month for 33,000 single adults who are disabled or ill and unemployable. This will push many people into crisis and more severe illness, and
- Take income assistance away from 7,000 families who have a parent or child with disabilities and are on MFIB (Minnesota's welfare-to-work program), income benefits and some will lose their food support as well; 900 will lose child care assistance making it even tougher for those who can work.
- Eliminate Emergency General Assistance (EGA) which provides once-a-year emergency grants to pay rent or utility bills. Without EGA more Minnesotans will join the growing number of homeless.

Human dignity requires us to *stop balancing budgets on the backs of our poorest neighbors*. This is a **crisis** in our own community but it has disappeared from the media. Please bring the issue back to public awareness with prominent coverage.

### **Whom to Contact:**

The Minneapolis Star Tribune  
The St. Paul Pioneer Press  
Your Community Newspaper

### **Talking Points:**

- **Talk about why these safety net programs are important and how they will impact the community.** If you know someone on General Assistance, Emergency General Assistance, or MFIP, please share their story in your letter.
- **Let them know that the safety net programs:**
  - keep our communities safe
  - protect the dignity of Minnesota's poorest and most vulnerable adults
  - help to prevent homelessness and suffering
  - protect thousands of military veterans who rely on the programs for their social and economic support