

Affordable Housing update at Plymouth Church!!!

Summer 2010

- Currie Avenue Partnership
- Habitat for Humanity
- Heading Home Plymouth
- Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH)
- Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF)
- Simpson Homeless Shelter serve meal

Currie Avenue Partnership:

To permanently house 150 homeless adults with disabilities

With an overwhelming financial response from Plymouth Congregational Church members this partnership was officially formed in December 2009 with funding from the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (Plymouth is a member) and the Minneapolis Downtown Council. The project is administered by Heading Home Hennepin and works at finding permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness who have disabilities, often involving mental health or chemical dependency, which qualify them for the state's Group Residential Housing program. Once enrolled, state and federal funds will provide continued support to ensure housing.

As of June 1, 2010, 10 Housing Case Managers have been hired, 25 people have been housed, and 25 more are waiting for their move-in date. An additional 25 individuals have begun the intake and housing search process.

For more information: <http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/hennepin/>

Habitat for Humanity:

**To bring people together to create and preserve homeownership in our neighborhoods
To partner with hard-working, low-income families to be successful homeowners
To inspire action that promotes affordable housing for everyone in our community**

At Plymouth we sponsor three work weeks a year! Sign up through Bonnie Herr:

bherr3@msn.com

May 17 – 21

August 2 – 6

October 18 – 22

-The [Homeownership](#) program builds and rehabs simple, quality homes in partnership with low-income families and the community with zero percent interest mortgages, making a 30-year commitment to each new homeowner and to the community in which they live.

-The [A Brush with Kindness](#) program preserves homeownership by helping low-income homeowners repair and maintain their homes.

-The [Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention](#) program assists families living in the City of Minneapolis who are facing foreclosure or who have fallen behind in their mortgage payments.

Heading Home Plymouth:

To shift Plymouth's focus from managing to ending homelessness

To invite members to advocate for policies and funding changes needed to end homelessness

Each year the congregation is invited to join a five month campaign to be an advocate to End Homelessness. This year there were 291 Plymouth advocates who made regular contact with their elected officials via email, phone and/or letter writing. Many attended the JRLC Day on the Hill at the State Capitol and met face to face with their elected officials. Plymouth partners with the DCEH on the action alerts at the Take Five Table on Sunday mornings. The leadership team is currently looking for a few new members to join them. For more information: Jan Neville, janeville@comcast.net

Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH)

<http://www.dceh.org/>

Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) work together to end homelessness by using its civic voice to educate and push the community from managing homelessness

and poverty to ending it through support of Heading Home Hennepin, congregations, volunteers, and community organizations to affect the common good of our community.

PROJECTS:

COLLECT USED BIKES, FIX THEM AND GIVE THEM TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE LOOKING FOR WORK: CONTACT MIKE AND BENITA WARNS, WARNS@PCLINK.COM OR 651-641-1037

LOOKING FOR LAWYERS TO DONATE TIME IN THE SHELTERS TO GIVE ADVICE TO HOMELESS PEOPLE: CONTACT ANNIE HARMS, ANNIE@DCEH.ORG

SIGN UP TO BE AN ADVOCATE AND RECEIVE ACTION ALERTS: CONTACT HEIDI, HEIDI@DCEH.ORG

GOALS

- Plan educational and volunteer opportunities that inform congregants about issues pertaining to poverty and homelessness.
- Develop and implement effective strategies for coordinated advocacy around issues pertaining to poverty and homelessness.
- Aid congregations in the shift from managing to ending homelessness in their own individual and cooperative program planning including direct service.
- Foster effective communication among congregations and in the broader community about DCEH's collective work as an interfaith network.

Members

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH, THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY, CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY, GETHSEMANE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MASJID AN-NUR, MASJID AL-IKHLAS, PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH, TEMPLE ISRAEL, WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Connie Marty is the staff person serving on the steering committee; Jim Swanson and Jan Neville serve as leaders on the Interfaith Team.

Contact DCEH Congregational Organizer Heidi Johnson McAllister: heidi@dceh.org

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF)

**Inspired by social justice and guided by our many faiths,
creating homes for those in need, building community for all.**

-Night on the Street: April youth sleepover in our church parking lot. This year 400 people slept in cardboard boxes and raised \$50,000 for affordable housing.

-Lydia Apartments housing: is across the street from Plymouth for formally homeless people living with mental illness. Members are invited to join the Lydia Connections working group to build relationships and enhance our community. Contact Renee Macomber:

rgmacomber@msn.com

-Housing 150 Taskforce: started for our sesquicentennial year in partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church has funds to build affordable housing. Current project is **Nicollet Square housing for homeless youth at 3700 Nicollet Ave S**. Current completion date is November 2010! Contact Jenny Mason: jmason@plymouthfoundation.org

-PCNF offers tours on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

For this month's location or further information: <http://www.plymouthfoundation.org/>

Simpson Housing Shelter:

Cook and serve a meal to approximately 110 shelter guests at the Simpson Homeless Shelter 2740 1st Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Prep starts around 4:30p.m. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. Plymouth needs 8 volunteers and has booked the following dates: **July 6 & August 17**. Contact Spencer Moffatt Seminary Intern, sp.moffatt@gmail.com