DCEH Forming New Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The member congregations of Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, including Plymouth Church, have noticed an upswing in phone calls and requests for emergency rental assistance in 2016.

DCEH wants to take a broader, more streamlined and comprehensive approach to this need. We have developed a simple application that will be available at all DCEH congregations; the completed application will be sent to our Emergency Rental Assistance processor (a new part-time DCEH staff position), for evaluation and connection to one of the congregations in our collaborative which offers this support: Basilica of St. Mary, St. Olaf, Dignity Center/Hennepin Avenue Methodist, and Central Lutheran. DCEH is in final stages of program development and hiring the staff person and hope to launch the program later this year.

Jeff Sartain from Plymouth's clergy is on the DCEH Steering Committee which has developed this program. Through this effort Plymouth can offer resources to our guests and neighbors we previously were not able to offer.

DCEH is a collaborative effort with 13 interfaith congregations in the Downtown Minneapolis area, and together we employ a director, Joe Kreisman, and now an Emergency Rental Assistance Processor. DCEH coordinates efforts to end homelessness including many services to those who experience homelessness, education, and legislative advocacy. Plymouth member, Katie Dillon, is also engaged with this program, reaching out to youth groups and encouraging their involvement in homelessness issues.

On Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. Plymouth will host a DCEH event, Songs from the Street, featuring several local choirs made up of people who are experiencing homelessness and others who stand in support, including "Street Song," the DCEH Choir that includes Plymouth members Tom and Kathy Schulenberg and Gingie Ward.

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