

Our History

New Visions Homeless Day Shelter was incorporated in 1995. It brought together three separate programs originally begun by the Camden Lutheran Parish and, together, represented more than 35 years of faith-based service delivered to the poor and homeless in Camden. The three projects involved in the merger which formed New Visions, were:

The Good Samaritan Center, started in 1974, was located at 325 Market Street in downtown Camden from 1976 until 1995. "Good Sam" as it was affectionately called, developed into an ecumenical food pantry, clothing closet, and emergency services agency supported by more than 100 churches and denominations as well as synagogues.

Frank's Place Day Shelter for the homeless, opened in 1989 as a result of a study on homelessness commissioned by the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders and spearheaded by CPAC (Community Planning and Advocacy Council). The program continues today in essentially the same form but as part of New Visions Homeless Day Shelter.

PROJECT J.O.B. was a community-based employment counseling and referral program started in 1986 and originally located at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 7th and Market streets in Camden.

In January 2009, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey became the managing agent for New Visions. Until 2014, New Visions served the Camden community at its former location which was the old Trinity Lutheran Church on Stevens Street. In December 2014, New Visions moved to its current home at 555B Atlantic Avenue, which it shares with Joseph's House, an overnight homeless drop-in program that provides shelter to Camden's homeless between 8pm-8am.



Part of  Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

**555B Atlantic Avenue
Camden, New Jersey 08104**

856-379-6032 - primary line

856-379-6033

856-379-6034 - fax

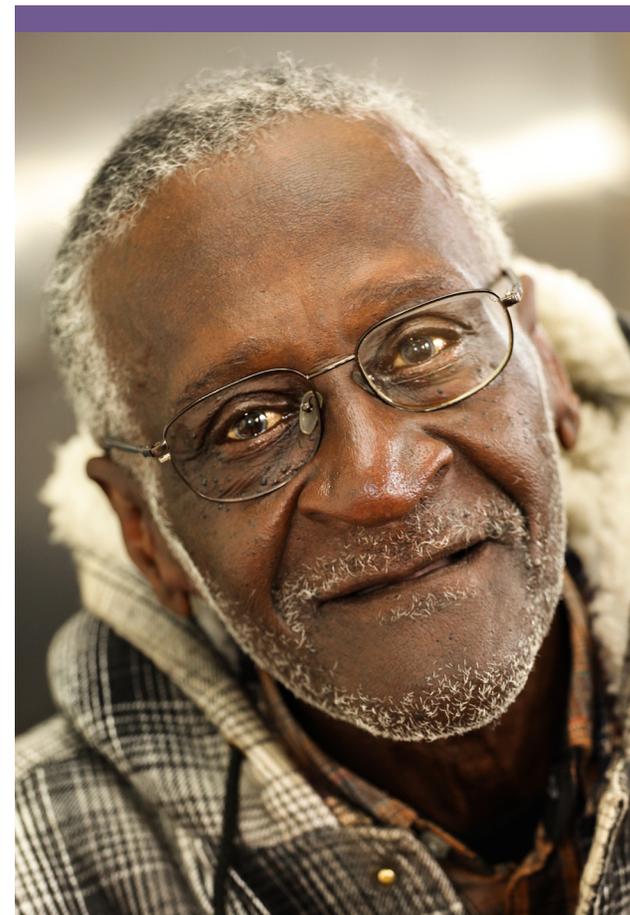
Open Monday - Friday

7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Mission Statement:

*Through the power of the Holy Spirit
and in response to God's love as
revealed in the Gospel, the mission of
Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey
is to serve those in New Jersey who
hurt, who are in need, or who have
limited choices.*

www.lsmnj.org



**Meeting the Needs of
Camden's Homeless Population**

Homelessness isn't just a problem that occurs in major cities across the United States. It's a very real problem in New Jersey as well.

During a recent annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless in New Jersey, it was revealed that nearly 9,000 people were experiencing homelessness statewide, with nearly 700 people citing being homeless in Camden County. Of those 700 people, 150 were considered 'unsheltered' and living in a public space — such as in a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

New Visions Homeless Day Shelter in Camden, a program of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, is a safe-haven for those in need of daytime shelter and services. The program provides breakfast and lunch, access to showers, a laundry room, a food pantry, a clothing closet, mail services, and referrals to social services that will best meet the guests needs (i.e. mental and behavioral health, addiction services, assistance with the employment search, housing, etc.).



Our Services:

Meals: Breakfast and lunch are served daily, Monday through Friday. Guests receive nutritious meals served by community volunteers. Special care is taken to see that fresh fruits and vegetables are included with each meal.

Laundry: Guests are provided complimentary access to washers and dryers to launder their clothing.

Showers: Maintaining good hygiene not only promotes good health, it also helps to maintain one's self dignity. Providing access to showers for our guests gives them the opportunity to maintain a regular routine of proper hygiene.

Clothing Closet: We distribute seasonal clothing as well as new socks and underwear when it is available.

Mailbox: Lacking a permanent physical address, our guests rely on the ability to use our mailing address to send and receive important mail. This service is helpful when a guest looks to acquire a job and needs to identify a mailing address for receipt of documents.

Food Pantry: Regular donations of non-perishable food items and hygiene supplies are stored at New Visions and distributed to those who need them. Fresh fruit and vegetables are also given to guests, when the season permits.

Partner Services: New Visions partners with several community and volunteer-based organizations to bring social services onsite -- directly accessible to the guests. New Visions' staff also refers guests to outside services, when needed. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Job Counseling and Placement
- Addiction Counseling
- Spiritual Counseling
- Legal Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Haircut and Shave
- Dental Services
- Pet Therapy

New Visions has deep roots in the faith-based community and, by serving the needs of people in varied and challenging life circumstances, LSMNJ upholds the values of our mission of serving those who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices.

Community Support:

New Visions Homeless Day Shelter serves the needs of Camden's homeless population thanks in part to the many churches, companies, community groups, and individuals that give of their time and talents.

Volunteering: New Visions welcomes volunteers to assist in preparing and serving meals, as well as organizing the Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, and engaging in conversation with the guests. If you have a special skill or talent that you are willing to share with our guests, please contact us.

Donations: Ready-made meals, non-perishable food donations, hygiene supplies, laundry supplies, clothing, coats, shoes, and socks are always in need. All donations can be dropped directly at New Visions during normal business hours (M-F: 7:30a – 3:00p).

Financial Contributions: Support New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. Secure online donations can be made at www.lsmnj.org/support-us. Be sure to designate your donation to New Visions.

If you prefer to mail your donation, the address is:

Fund Development Department
Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey
3 Manhattan Drive, Burlington, NJ 08016

Events: Corporate partners, organizations and individuals participate in various fundraising events where proceeds directly benefit New Visions. For a complete list of upcoming fundraising events, visit www.lsmnj.org/support-us.

Grants: Over the years, New Visions has been blessed to receive grant funding from various organizations and foundations that have enabled the expansion of services and physical space and contributed to the well-being of our guests. The grants we receive make such a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

“On an average day, Monday through Friday, New Visions serves between 125 and 150 people.”