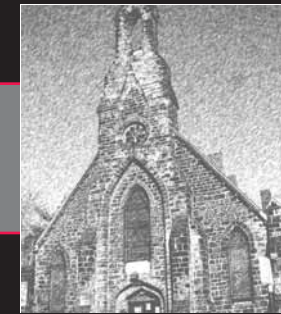


New Visions HOMELESS DAY SHELTER



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A PROGRAM OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NEW JERSEY

FALL 2009



Lucia Mair, Anna Strecker & Josh Macha

Welcome OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

We have a few new faces at New Visions that we would like to introduce you to:

LUCIA MAIR is 19 and just finished high school in Homburg, Germany (southwest corner of Germany). She is the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace based in Germany. Lucia volunteers at New Visions each morning, and at Christ Lutheran church in the afternoon. Lucia wanted to spend her time and energy on something that has meaning, and found that opportunity through service in Camden. "I find New Visions to be like a family," she explains. "I believe I will grow and learn more in one year of service here, than if I had gone straight into college." Lucia has been accepted into Medical School in Germany, although she admits this could change after her time spent in Camden. The patrons have quickly received & embraced Lucia, who has expressed how happy she is to be here.

ANNA STRECKER is from Cincinnati, Ohio. Anna was a student at Wittenberg University, when she felt a year of service would help her discern her calling in life. She has come to New Visions as a volunteer through an organization called Mission Year. Anna shares, "I was happy to find how open, wise, and friendly the patrons of New Visions have been to me. My favorite part, so far, is talking and listening with the patrons between meals." During her year at New Visions, Anna is looking forward to gaining a deeper understanding of people, a bigger view of the world and the issues that people face, as well as seeing the commonalities that all people share.

JOSH MACHA is 18 and from a town southeast of Fresno, California. He graduated high school last June and is doing a year of service through the organization, Mission Year. He lives in a house in Pennsauken with 5 other Mission Year volunteers who are assigned to Camden and Philadelphia. Josh started at New Visions in August and will stay until July 2010. Josh tells us, "My first impression of New Visions was that the patrons were extremely kind in a way I had not expected. I enjoy my conversations with the patrons and making connections with them." Josh hopes his experience enables him to find his identity through serving others. His faith plays a major role in his work.

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Volunteers from St. John's Catholic Church in Collingswood & Church of the Holy Saviour in Westmont.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Visions Community Services of Camden, Inc. is to provide multi-cultural social services to men, women and children at risk in Camden County in an ecumenical spirit. New Visions advocates dignity, justice, serving human needs and the empowerment of all who enter.

NEW VISIONS HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

New Visions Homeless Day Shelter provides a daytime safe haven for men, women and children to receive a nutritious meal (breakfast and lunch), a hot shower, and access to job placement assistance and social services. We work to serve those who are in need or who have limited choices.

NEW VISIONS HOMELESS DAY SHELTER 523 STEVENS STREET, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, 08013 • (856) 963-0857

LUTHERAN
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Services

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Adoption Options
Assisted Living Program
Community Partnering
Immigration & Refugee Services
Lutheran Disaster Response
Lutherans Feeding Friends
New Visions Homeless Day Shelter
Speakers Bureau

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Lutheran Home for Children
Piscataway Community Residence
Sayreville Community Residence

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Community Redevelopment
Lutheran Social
Ministries of Camden

SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Luther Haven
Project Home
Stepping Stones Commons

AFFORDABLE FAMILY HOUSING

Cadwalader Apartments
Elwood Driver Townhomes
Mott Centre Street Apartments
Peapack-Gladstone
Family Housing
West Hanover Street Apartments

AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING

Birchwood at Old Bridge Senior
Apartments
Circle F Senior Apartments
Luther Arms*
Lutheran Senior
Residence at Pennsauken
Mirotta Senior Residence
Mt. Olive Manor I & II
Roosevelt Solar Village*
South Plainfield Senior Residence

SENIOR HEALTHCARE

Lutheran Care at Moorestown

CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Crane's Mill

*Professionally managed by Lutheran
Social Ministries of New Jersey



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"Everything is freely given by the God of love. All is grace. Light and water, shelter and food, work and free time, children, parents, grandparents, life and death—it is all given to us. Why? So that we can say thanks; thanks to God, thanks to each other, thanks to all and everyone." —Henri Nouwen

JOURNEY WITH US

** through the many activities, programs, and services that New Visions provides **

As Thanksgiving season is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for the many people; including donors, volunteers, and supporters; who constantly believe in the mission of New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. We could not serve the amount of homeless men, women, and children in Camden County if it weren't for the commitment and the dedication of many people.

In this newsletter, the day-to-day operations are highlighted, in order to give you a sense of the many services that we provide on a daily basis. Journey with us and our patrons as I document a typical day at the shelter -- from the moment we open the door until we turn out the lights at the end of the day. Each day, patrons come to New Visions to receive basic social services, which include: laundry, showers, mail services, food pantry, clothing room, breakfast and lunch. Church groups, youth groups, and individuals are constantly bringing in donated items to assist New Visions in providing for the needs of the patrons. At times, it is very hard to believe how much is truly accomplished -- but through the hearts, minds, and souls of many individuals, the Gospel is being lived out at New Visions Homeless Day Shelter.

In addition to providing the basic social services, New Visions offers opportunities for men and women, who are homeless, to 'get back on their feet.' The programs that New Visions provides include: Narcotics Anonymous / Alcoholics Anonymous meetings; educational workshops on job training, low-income housing opportunities, etc.;

medical and dental evaluations; drug rehabilitation referrals; among many other activities and programs.

We could not continue to serve 200 of our brothers and sisters each day, without the assistance and support of all of you! We express our gratitude for the many volunteers that serve the meals, coordinate food drives or clothing drives, facilitate educational workshops, help us clean and tidy up the building -- all of which provides us with an opportunity to affirm the dignity of the men, women, and children that utilize the services at New Visions.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. states, "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Each and every one of you provides New Visions with the support, the resources, and the love that we're able to share with the patrons.

Hopefully, the newsletter will provide you with a clear understanding of the many, many hands that bring much light and hope to the world. Some supporters are on the front lines serving the meals, others are in church basements collecting the donations, and many, many others are in their homes, looking for items to donate. Whatever role you play, it's a critical one! We are fortunate for the partnership and relationship with you! Please continue to share our story, and invite others to participate as well.

Kevin Moran, Director



SUPPORT the HOLIDAY TURKEY FUND

During the holiday season of Thanksgiving & Christmas, LSM/NJ raises funds to ensure that the patrons of New Visions Homeless Day Shelter receive a warm holiday feast of turkey, stuffing & all the fixings.

To make a donation to the **Holiday Turkey Fund**, visit www.lsmnj.org and click on "**Please Donate Now**" and select the **Holiday Turkey Fund** or send a check made payable to Lutheran Foundation of New Jersey c/o Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, 6 Terri Lane, Suite 300, Burlington, NJ 08016. Be sure to designate your donation for the **Holiday Turkey Fund**. For questions, contact us at (609) 699-4139.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Financial contributions are needed to help us feed the hungry this holiday season. We also accept donations of grocery items, such as: stuffing, gravy, canned veggies, cranberry sauce, corn-bread & gift cards to Shoprite & Pathmark.

DAY IN THE LIFE at NEW VISIONS HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

From the Desk of Kevin Moran.....

8:00am Open the doors for the patrons. It is such a fulfilling feeling to be able to offer a safe haven to so many that have so little. New Visions becomes a family and a community for those that have none.

Welcome drop-off donations

Every Monday we receive donations of bread, bagels, and pastries from Wegmans in Camden. Twice a week we receive bread and pastries from Panera Bread. Local Farmers Markets donate a variety of produce each week, and we are constantly receiving donations from church groups, high school groups, and individuals. The patrons are so grateful for these special deliveries that assist us in providing nutritious meals.

8:30am Patrons begin utilizing social services

Today we had:

- ** 35 patrons – showers
- ** 15 patrons – laundry
- ** 75 patrons – clothing room
- ** 10 patrons – mail

8:45am Temple Lutheran - French Toast Breakfast - Volunteers from Temple Lutheran in Pennsauken came to prepare a French Toast breakfast for the patrons, and do so the third Friday of every month.

9:30am Breakfast is served to 100 patrons

10:00am Entered today's statistics into HMIS - New Visions' staff member, Danielle, entered data into HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). This database is used for tracking purposes and is used to provide reports to the State on the number of patrons that use our various services.

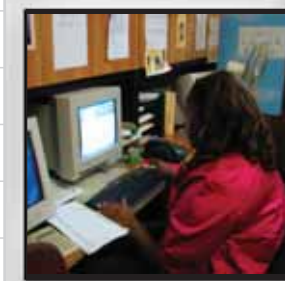
10:30am Community Worker Experience Program volunteers arrive - The Community Worker Experience Program (CWEP) provides residents from the city of Camden who are currently unemployed with an opportunity to volunteer at a local social service organization through a job co-op program. Each volunteer receives assistance, which includes food stamps, rent, child care, etc. in exchange for volunteering their time.

11:00am Presentation to Bishop Eustace High School - I delivered a presentation at a school assembly to high school students at Bishop Eustace as part of their religion / social justice courses. The presentation was on New Visions, and the importance of utilizing our education to provide to and serve the needs of our brothers and sisters.

11:30am The Church in ACTS – Lunch - Volunteers from The Church in ACTS came today to prepare lunch for our patrons. They come the second Monday of each month and have been a supporter of New Visions for the past 3 years.



Donation delivery of bread and pastries.



CWEP volunteer enters daily statistics into HMIS.



Volunteers from The Church in ACTS provide lunch to our patrons.

11:45am Temple Beth Shalom / Congregation M'Kor Shalom Delivery - Temple Beth Shalom in Cherry Hill and M'Kor Shalom each delivered a U-Haul Truck full of food donations (canned food drive in honor of Yom Kippur). We received approximately 45 bags, filled with canned goods. As a result of receiving the canned food from generous donors and supporters of New Visions, we are able to provide families with emergency food bags each and every day. When the truck(s) arrived, 10-15 student volunteers from Salesianum High School formed an assembly line to stock our shelves. New Visions has established a tremendous partnership with a variety of high school groups, college groups, and church groups; including the Romero Center, Salesianum High School, Father Judge High School, Merion Mercy Academy, Bishop Eustace Preparatory School, St. John's Church (Collingswood NJ), Holy Saviour Church (Westmont NJ) among many others.

12:00pm Speaker on Job Training - Gail Kasper, a Motivational and Professional Speaker from New Jersey, provided an educational presentation to the patrons on job training and reaching for your dreams.

12:30pm Lunch is served to 150 patrons

1:00pm The Smith Family – Emergency Food Bag - The Smith Family came to New Visions for an emergency food bag. There are 2 adults and 4 children to feed. "I thank God for New Visions. When our Pastor heard that my husband lost his job, he told us about the services available at New Visions. We were going to have to decide between buying groceries or paying our electric bill. We are so thankful that the shelter could help us during this tough time." – Mrs. Smith

1:15pm Assisted patrons with social services - Through a referral partnership, we often will assist some of our patrons that we feel need additional social services by referring them to local organizations that treat drug and alcohol dependency. We refer adults to Fellowship House in Camden, a drug rehab facility, and children, ages 18-21, to Covenant House in Philadelphia.

2:00pm NA / AA meeting for those interested - New Visions hosts Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous support group meetings for anyone interested in attending. We normally have 15 – 20 people attend each Wednesday, to assist in their recovery.

3:30pm Encouraged patrons to go to Cathedral Kitchen for dinner - Because we are only a day shelter and do not serve dinner, we always refer our patrons to Cathedral Kitchen – just down the road.

Our hope is to one day soon provide dinner to all of our patrons. We would like to be able to provide shelter and all of our services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But to do that, we need the continued financial support of our gracious donors, as well as that of many more corporate donors. You can make a difference, just by sharing this newsletter with your friends, family and co-workers.

4:00pm New Visions closes for the day

As we close the door and turn out the lights for the end of the day, we have already begun preparing for what's next. For tomorrow will bring us more mouths to feed, more bodies to clothe, and more souls to heal. We only pray that God can give us the strength to persevere -- for it is our calling -- it is why we are here.

7:00pm Ministries Awareness Fair - St. Mary's Catholic Church - Before the day is completely over, I am happy to head to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cherry Hill and promote New Visions at its Ministries Awareness Fair by distributing information and answering questions about New Visions and Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, and the necessity of utilizing our God-given gifts and talents to continue to live out the Gospel message.



End of the day brings the sad reminder that we are only a Day Shelter.