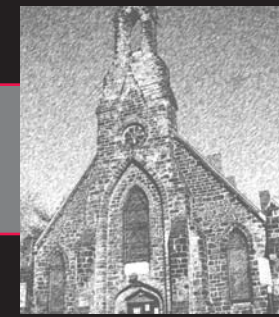


New Visions

HOMELESS DAY SHELTER



New Visions

HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

A PROGRAM OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NEW JERSEY

SUMMER 2009



New Visions Homeless Day Shelter
523 Stevens Street
Camden, New Jersey • (856) 963-0857

DID YOU KNOW?
From January 2009 through July 2009:



- 23,681 meals served including breakfast and lunch.
- 500 Volunteers have invested 2,000 hours serving the patrons at New Visions.
- New Visions has ministered to 25,327 patrons, offering the following services including: laundry, mail, showers, medical assistance, food bags, breakfast, and lunch

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.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES
of NEW JERSEY
6 Terri Lane, Suite 300
Burlington, New Jersey 08016
609.386.7171
www.lsmnj.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

LUTHERAN
SOCIAL
MINISTRIES of
NEW JERSEY

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
Mirota 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

My name is Kevin Moran, and I have had the distinct privilege of working at New Visions Community Services, a program of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, as Executive Director for the past 3 - months. I feel that I have definitely been called by God to work with and among the homeless in Camden County, and 3 - months ago, I decided to accept that call, knowing that God would provide me with the grace and the strength to accept the many gifts that are provided each day through the people that I meet and the stories that I hear. This has been a remarkable journey, and I look forward to the times ahead!

I grew up in Willingboro NJ, and went to Holy Cross High School in Delran. I attended the University of Scranton, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in May 2001. After graduation, I decided to live a year in solidarity with the poor and marginalized through 'The Jesuit Volunteer Corps,' and was assigned to Our Next Generation, Inc., an after-school tutoring / mentoring program for 1st-12th graders, in Milwaukee WI. Just as the JVC motto states, I truly feel as though I was 'Ruined for Life.' Not only was the JVC experience extremely inspirational and powerful, but through that experience, I decided to pursue my Master's in Social Work and Master's in Public Administration, with a concentration in Nonprofit Management at Marywood University in Scranton PA. At the University of Scranton and beyond, I had many opportunities to live out the mission of the school by being a 'man for and with others.' I had transforming experiences through my immersion trips; which included: doing arts and crafts with children in Duran, Ecuador, building a library and health clinic in San Salvador, El Salvador, coordinating a drug and alcohol free New Year's Eve party in Chinle, AZ, serving homeless men and women in Staten Island, NY, helping flood victims in Williamston, NC, working with men and

women who are infected and affected by HIV / AIDS in Washington DC, and working with 3-5 year old children at the Child Development Center in Camden NJ.

Although each of these experiences was unique, they taught me the importance of being in the 'right relationship with one another.' The best way for a stereotype or preconception to break down is to go to places that Jesus would go, by allowing our hearts, minds, eyes, and ears to be open to meet people and listen to their stories. As Henri Nouwen said, "I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them."

Prior to coming to New Visions, for the past four years, I have had the opportunity to work at the Romero Center in Camden NJ, a retreat and social justice retreat center. The mission of the Romero Center is to bring high school and college students and adults to the city of Camden to provide them with social justice education, by living out the mission of Archbishop Oscar Romero. The students and adults have opportunities to go to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, HIV / AIDS drop-in centers, food pantry's, day care centers, nursing homes, low-income affordable housing organizations, among many others.

I had an invitation to answer God's call to live out the Gospel message by taking this position at New Visions Community Services. Each day brings about many experiences. As Confucius said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." I believe that New Visions provides many homeless men, women, and children with that single step. I look forward to assisting each of them in their journey.

Kevin Moran



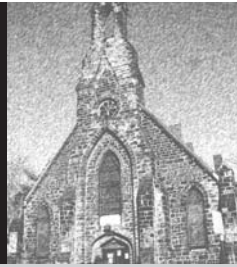
SUPPORT the HOLIDAY TURKEY FUND

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



New Visions HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

NEEDS YOU!

Volunteer Opportunities at New Visions

Want to help, but don't know how? Take a Look...

- Hungry to Serve the Homeless? New Visions provides Breakfast and Lunch (Monday through Friday) = 10 meals per week. Come bring a meal or help serve a meal to our homeless brothers and sisters.
- Organize a drive through your church, school, or local communities.
- Toiletries
- Canned Food
- Men / Women / Children Clothes
- Cleaning Products
- Toys
- Bed Linens (Sheets / Blankets)
- Baby Items (formula / diapers / jars of food)
- Carpenters / Teachers / Gardeners / Artists / Painters – we accept all volunteers!
- Please contact us with specific opportunities to utilize your skills / gifts.
- Be a mentor for our homeless brothers and sisters.
- Make a financial contribution to help us provide necessary programs to our patrons.

New Visions volunteers are important and valuable members of our family. They enrich the lives of patrons, guests, and staff alike with their energy, generosity, and presence.

Contact Kevin Moran to match your ideas, skills, gifts, and interests with the needs of the New Visions community.

If you have any questions or would like us to help you coordinate a service project, please contact Kevin Moran at 856-963-0857 or kpmoran@lsmnj.org.

We hope you will partner with us in continuing the mission of New Visions. We look forward to working with you to make a difference in the city of Camden.

VOLUNTEERING: A Priceless Gift to Give

Volunteerism is infectious. Some people are born with the desire to help those in need, while others are exposed to the act of selflessness by seeing their parents, church members or co-workers take part and make a difference. Once someone witnesses the joy of helping those less fortunate, they too become influenced to serve. It is not uncommon to see various volunteer groups have a connection to one another. Their positive experiences pave the way for others to join in.

Whatever the reason for giving back to the community and whatever the means you are able to give of yourself, volunteerism never goes unnoticed at New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. Without the help of so many congregations, organizations and individuals, New Visions would not be able to support the demand of providing nearly 50,000 meals to our patrons each year. We are grateful for the assistance, and we feel blessed to have a loyal group of volunteers to provide support. 'Thank you' to all those who dedicate their time to serving us! Your extension of God's love is a priceless gift to everyone at New Visions.

VALUABLE RESOURCES

There are people that hold the key to making a difference and many times they don't even know it. Do you have a special skill or interest that you would like to share? Most of the volunteers at New Visions come to help prepare, cook and serve meals to our patrons, however, there are some that offer assistance in areas which they feel can be a resource to others.

Educators come to the shelter to teach reading, writing, mathematics and English-as-a-second-language. Several of our patrons do not have their high school diplomas and are able to achieve the skills they need by learning from our volunteers. Creative community members share their knitting expertise or their love for drawing and painting. Together, they create beautiful artwork that



will be displayed throughout the facility. And then there are those, mostly students, who share in the joy of bringing a smile to another's face by merely playing a game of chess, checkers or cards. It passes time and lifts one's spirits.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

We have built strong relationships with local congregations – some have been volunteering at New Visions for many years. Often they come to us and develop a plan or coordinate an initiative that best suits the resources of their members.

For example:

TEMPLE LUTHERAN, PENNSAUKEN

- French Toast Fridays: a group of women prepare and serve the only home-made hot breakfast of the month for the patrons of New Visions.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CHERRY HILL

- This congregation helps New Visions in two major ways. They provide dozens of casseroles on a regular monthly basis. They also run a thrift shop out of their church. All the money from the thrift store goes toward buying much-needed staples for New Visions such as sugar and coffee.

TEMPLE M'KOR SHALOM, CHERRY HILL

- This synagogue does the single largest food drive of the year for New Visions around Yom Kippur. They bring 2 U-Haul trucks full of canned goods for us, along with youth group members to help unload it all!

HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH, COLLINGSWOOD -- Westmont NJ & St. John's Church

- These merged parishes have collaborated to form a combined social outreach ministry. As a result, they adopted New Visions, and have been a tremendous partner in continuing the mission. In May, a group of 15 volunteers came on a Saturday, to participate in a 'Spring Cleanup.' Along with the volunteer day in May, these parishes have provided ongoing support to provide for the needs of the patrons at New Visions.

If your congregation or organization has an initiative or would like to support the shelter in a specific way, let us know. We always welcome fresh ideas and are happy to open our doors to you. Call Kevin Moran at (856) 963-0857 for more information.



Happy Retirement CAROL RILEY!! You will be missed.



In April, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey honored Carol Riley, past Director of New Visions, for her years of service to the shelter and to its clients. For the past 12 years, Carol has lived the mission of the shelter and spent tireless hours advocating for its patrons. Her heart for the clients of New Visions enabled her to reach out with love to many people considered to be "outsiders" by civil society; thus, no one was turned away from the doors of NV under her watch.

As she enters into retirement, we extend our best wishes to her and also our sincere appreciation for her compassion and dedication, and for enriching the lives of so many.

You will be greatly missed Ms. Carol!!!

In Their Own Words..... VOLUNTEER & PATRON TESTIMONIALS

"On Wednesday, July 1st, I spent a day volunteering at New Visions. This is not a new experience for me since I have been there on 2 other occasions in previous trips to Camden, NJ. The atmosphere at New Visions is definitely out of my "comfort zone", but I think that is where Jesus puts us at times.

I never have been homeless, hungry, or addicted to drugs, but serving meals, being in their presence, and listening to their stories allows me to be in their way of life. The lessons they taught me are priceless! God Bless Kevin Moran, his staff, and all who enter the doors at New Visions."

Brenda Hart
Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church, Spring Run, Pa.

"During a school service trip to Camden NJ, we visited a place called New Visions, a day shelter for the Homeless. We met three men at New Visions. The first was Perry. Perry was a man with a serious drug problem, which led to his family disowning him. On June 27th, he turned 50, and that will mark the 25th anniversary of him being homeless. Perry's advice to us was 'Don't ever get involved with drugs.' We had a short talk with a man named Steve, who was on the total opposite side of the spectrum from Perry. Steve had only been homeless for 2 months; a result of the recent economic downturn. He was just a man who had run into bad luck. Brian was the last person we talked to before leaving. Brian shocked us. He had been homeless for a long time (although he would not tell us how long) and he had been doing some odd jobs. Although his drug problem was not as bad as Perry's, he had one. What shocked us was that Brian was smart. He was articulate, and he engaged us in intelligent conversation. We were unable to comprehend why a person like Brian was homeless.

This experience did a lot to help me overcome stereotypes. I, along with my classmates, learned a lot about the reasons for poverty, and how difficult life is. Theologian Gustavo Gutierrez once said, "You say you love the poor, then name them." After my experience at New Visions, I can."

Ryan Fink
Fordham Prep

"New Visions was such an eye-opening experience that it cannot be described in words alone. I feel like everyone needs the opportunity to visit and truly learn what the other side of life is like. I'm very grateful for my experience at New Visions and it's a memory that I will have forever."

Brendan O'Malley
Boston College High School

"New Visions is a place to relax, look into one's self, and make decisions to plan for the future."

**** Patron ****

"New Visions is a refuge; a place to think about how to improve your situation in life, and change it."

**** Patron ****