



New Visions HOMELESS DAY SHELTER



New Visions HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

A PROGRAM OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NEW JERSEY

SPRING 2010

Save the Date

FOOD FOR SHARING – A COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Join us for the Lutheran Foundation of New Jersey signature fundraising event held in the newly renovated Breidenhart Castle. Our hope is to bring together the community and all those who are advocates for ending hunger and homelessness in New Jersey.

Thursday, September 23, 2010

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Breidenhart Castle

On the campus of Lutheran Care at Moorestown

255 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Proceeds benefit New Visions Homeless Day Shelter & Lutherans Feeding Friends program.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

For more information, visit www.lsmnj.org or contact Barbara Carriere at 609.699.4102.

HEROES OF HOPE DOCUMENTARY FEATURES NEW VISIONS

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey was selected to produce a segment about New Visions Homeless Day Shelter and LSM Camden for "Heroes of Hope," a documentary programming vehicle that specializes in producing documentaries on subjects that elicit thought, provoke further learning and raise awareness for a variety of benevolent purposes.

Narrated by Hugh Downs and distributed to public television stations, our segment highlights New Visions Homeless Day Shelter for men, women and children in Camden and LSM Camden's Community Redevelopment Project of 89 site homes in a defragmented Camden neighborhood that is plagued with drugs and gang violence. The segment will air on Public Television in April – check www.lsmnj.org for air dates or visit YouTube to view it now!! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vif7RWyRjXY>

LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES of NEW JERSEY

Services

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Adoption Program
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
Lutheran Senior
Residence at Pennsauken
Mirota Senior Residence
Mt. Olive Manor I & II
Zurbrugg Mansion
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

Kevin Moran, Executive Director

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

Henri Nouwen

What allows New Visions Homeless Day Shelter to continue its ministry to men, women, and children in Camden County who are neglected, lonely, poor, sick, and oppressed? Many would come up with elaborate answers to rationalize what allows the ministry to continue each and every day. Rather, the answer is quite simple. Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers! We could not function without the dedication and commitment of so many loving individuals, who are willing to spread God's love and compassion to our brothers and sisters in remarkable need!

The spring newsletter focuses on the volunteers willingness to continue the mission of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey: "... to serve those in New Jersey who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices." The volunteers - each unique - offer the gifts of time, treasure, and talent to the patrons of New Visions. They willingly and openly share God's love, in living out the Gospel message of Jesus.

The week of April 18th - 24th marks the 36th anniversary of National Volunteer Week, which is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in our country. During that week, the country celebrates the achievements and hard work of all the volunteers that commit themselves to organizations that put the Gospel of Matthew: 25 in action: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. Each one of our volunteers has shared significant compassion, and has expressed to the patrons that they are valuable members of society, that they are loved, and that they are 'somebodies.' This has led to a transforming action.

Within six months of working at New Visions, I met a patron, who was extremely outgoing and eager to share his story with any of the volunteers that had the opportunity to come visit. 'Robert' was 50 years old and living on the streets for the past 25 years. He was exhausted from living on the streets and was attempting to focus on recovering from a severe drug addiction. At the time, New Visions became the home group for a local Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting on Wednesday afternoons. I asked 'Robert' if he ever considered attending the NA meetings. His response was quite profound.

"Although the fellowship and camaraderie of NA is critical for those suffering from an addiction, I consider my NA to be every time I have the opportunity to sit down and share conversations with the volunteers that come visit New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. The volunteers, from near and far, express to me that I am 'somebody,' and that there are people 'who care.' 'Robert' constantly teaches the volunteers that, in order for our perspectives to change, we must first meet the people, listen to their stories, and build a significant relationship. As a result, our hearts are transformed. That is truly the most important gift that any of the volunteers can provide for the patrons at New Visions Homeless Day Shelter - the gift of companionship and friendship.

As the quote at the top of the page by Henri Nouwen expresses, friends are those individuals that can be a source of comfort, a source of tears, a source of laughter, and ultimately, a source of God's love and compassion. The volunteers come to New Visions with possible preconceptions or stereotypes about the homeless and poor. However, once they meet the patrons and listen to their stories, they are able to allow the preconceptions and stereotypes to break down because they leave New Visions with the names, the faces, and the stories of someone that they encountered. The focus of the volunteer experience is constantly on the 'relationship with the individual.' The emphasis of volunteering at New Visions is not on, 'what we do or what we accomplish,' that makes the difference, but 'who are we becoming,' which allows us to transform our minds, our hearts, and our lives!

This newsletter proudly recognizes corporate organizations, high school groups, college groups, church groups, community organizations, local fellowships, and many, many faith-filled, compassionate and loving individuals who volunteer at New Visions! We are grateful to you and the commitment that you have made and continue to make in sharing the mission of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey. Please continue to spread God's love - as each one of you have openly and willingly done with our patrons. You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, as we each continue to do the work that God has called us each to do. Thank You All!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

During the 2009 holiday season we distributed approximately 350 Thanksgiving food bags & 410 Christmas food bags to Camden residents as the result of receiving donations from individuals and organizations all over the state.

LSM LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES
of NEW JERSEY
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609.386.7171
www.lsmnj.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Volunteers from The Moran Family help during the holiday season.

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.

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Grant Funding REFURBISHES BASIC NECESSITIES at *New Visions*

We are thrilled to report that New Visions was recently awarded the 2010 Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Fund (formerly known as Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)) from Camden County in the amount of \$41,000.

The shelter has been fortunate to receive this form of grant funding for the past 2 years. Last year the money was used to install the new commercial kitchen, 2 classrooms upstairs, and the wheelchair ramp located on the side of the building.

In 2010, we will be using the grant money to complete several necessary renovations, including:

- 1) Enclosing the kitchen area, and installing air conditioning window units. In the spring and summer, the kitchen becomes unbearably hot for the cooks due to the commercial ovens. That heat escapes into the main community room, making the entire second floor uncomfortable.
- 2) New commercial grade toilets (2 for men, 2 for women) will be installed. New Visions has a constant stream of patrons who need to use the bathroom facilities from the time we open at 8:00 a.m. until we close at 4:00 p.m. Residential toilets were not made to handle this volume of traffic. As a result, we have often clogged toilets causing increased pressure on the other working toilets. The commercial grade toilets should alleviate this ongoing issue.
- 3) New commercial grade washers (2) and dryers (2). Our current washer and dryer were donated and are older residential machines that cannot handle the amount of clothing we wash per day. We have long waiting lists every week of patrons who would like to wash their clothes. We often must turn people away. These new units will allow more patrons the opportunity to clean their clothes.

Over the years, New Visions Homeless Day Shelter has been fortunate to receive grant funding to offset many of the costs associated with day-to-day operations. Thanks to the many funders that believe in our mission of serving others, we continue to provide for our clients.

New Jersey's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has recognized the need to help thousands of local homeless individuals by dedicating funds through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Fund to various NJ counties, such as Camden. The funds help local communities meet the basic shelter needs of homeless individuals and families. Grants provide transitional housing and a variety of support



Single Washer and Dryer currently used to accommodate our patrons' laundry

services designed to move the homeless away from a life on the street and toward permanent housing.

These grants are presented for the rehabilitation or remodeling of a building used as a new shelter, operations and maintenance of the facility, essential supportive services (i.e., case management, physical and mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, childcare, etc.), and grant administration. The grants also provide short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs.

New Visions is grateful to Camden County and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the opportunity to continue to provide a clean and safe haven for its patrons. We also extend our sincere appreciation to all of the funders, churches, organizations and individuals that provide funding to support our initiatives and our mission.

Our staff and our patrons are excited for the renovations and the addition of these much needed items. We believe they will contribute to the well being, cleanliness, and health of all our patrons!



With grant funding from Camden County, New Visions' kitchen will be enclosed and air conditioning units will be installed.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE VOLUNTEERED AT NEW VISIONS IN THE PAST YEAR:

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
CHRIST OUR LIGHT PARISH
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FATHER JUDGE HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HADDONFIELD
HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH
LESLEY UNIVERSITY
MERION MERCY ACADEMY
MOORESTOWN FRIENDS
MOORESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
MORRISVILLE UNIVERSITY
REDEEMER LUTHERAN IN VINELAND
ROMERO CENTER MINISTRIES
ROWAN UNIVERSITY
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
SALESIANUM HIGH SCHOOL
SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL
SIGNAL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ST. AUGUSTINE'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
ST. BARTHOLOMEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH IN CAMDEN
ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN COLLINGSWOOD
ST. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MOORESTOWN
SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.
TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
TEMPLE LUTHERAN
TEMPLE M'KOR SHALOM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CAMP HILL, PA
URBAN PROMISE MINISTRIES
YORKSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS THAT GAVE OF THEIR TIME AT NEW VISIONS IN 2009 AND CONTINUE TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR PATRONS.

Your organization is important to us! If we have omitted it in error, misspelled or incorrectly listed it, please accept our apology and bring the error to our attention so we may correct our records. Call LSM/NJ's Development office at (609) 699-4139.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK SHEDS



LIGHT ON THE FABRIC OF OUR QUILT

Anyone who has ever worked to prepare a patchwork quilt understands that each square that is chosen is unique – whether it is the size, the color, or the pattern on the fabric. Once you arrange the individual blocks or patches, it makes another unique product – the quilt. Each quilt is a priceless work of art. Not only for the variety or individuality it displays, but for the thought and care it takes to assemble it.

During this time of recognition – National Volunteer Week (April 18th – 24th) -- we are reminded how volunteering is much like a quilt. Volunteers and volunteer groups represent blocks on the quilt. Each with a unique reason for donating their time to a particular cause or organization; each with a special skill that enables them to share their knowledge; each with a passion for helping those in need. Individually, they bring something special to the project, but when all the volunteers come together, they make a huge impact and make a difference.

At New Visions Homeless Day Shelter, the patches of our quilt are made up of individuals, church groups, schools, organizations, and even the shelters' patrons. It is decorated with the many faces of our volunteers in action. Without the help of these dedicated individuals, we would not have enough hands to help feed our clients breakfast and lunch or enough time to teach them new skills and how to look for jobs. Without the love and support of volunteer groups, we would not have enough clothes to dress our patrons or blankets to keep them warm at night.

In our eyes, National Volunteer Week should be a year-long celebration of the great work that is done day-in and day-out by so many. We are enormously grateful to all of our volunteers for their compassion, and for providing warmth, shelter, comfort and hope to our patrons. Thank you!

"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness."

~The Dalai Lama