

Simple Ways to Work to End Homelessness!

(A resource for congregations from many faith traditions)

created by the Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle-MBA Just Peace Coordinator

Dare to be a prophet calling people to think about what it would mean to end homelessness in our society. Would you be willing to pay more taxes if meant that every individual and family had a home?

Invite the homeless in your community to worship with you.

Invite people to pray daily to end homelessness. Start a prayer group on this topic.

Support to a family in your community who is moving from homelessness into housing and needs companionship.

Develop a booklet with prayers about homelessness and economic and social justice.

Visit a program that serves the homeless in your area. You may do a service project or simply visit the clients. Every community has opportunities for this type of service.

Display telephone numbers for the White House, Capitol and State House in a prominent place and encourage people to express their opinions about ending homelessness.

Invite members of your faith community to join you at the State House for Lobby Day to End Homelessness. It is very powerful to meet our legislators and talk with them about our individual and community concerns about ending homelessness now.

Give usable furniture and clothing to programs that help the homeless. The Boston Furniture Bank is a great resource.

Invite children to draw pictures of a world in which each person has a home and display them.

Use worship resources that emphasize working for economic and social justice and ending homelessness each week.

Teach and preach about the dynamic connections between faith and doing justice in the world.

Talk about the cost of living in your area and how much housing costs. Could your congregation support a program to increase affordable housing in your community?

Explore the connections between global economics and poverty in the world.

Start a small study group to help people keep making the connections between our faith traditions calls to do justice the ways we live our lives today.

Invite people from many religious traditions to come to your church to talk about their traditions. Visit other faith communities and learn how they are working to end homelessness. .

Do hands on projects like Habitat for Humanity or something specific in your neighborhood, state and the wider world.

Collect canned goods, hotel soaps and toiletries and take them to a homeless shelter.

Donate the material to furnish one room for an individual or family moving from homelessness into housing. You might provide all of the supplies for a bathroom, bedroom or kitchen.

Sponsor an ex-offender and welcome their families into your congregation.

Sponsor a resolution to end homeless at your faith communities governing body.

Collect special offerings to go directly to programs that assist the homeless.

Develop a phone tree and organize a letter writing campaign so that people can respond quickly to legislative issues which affect the homeless.

Talk about the difference between charity and justice.

Celebrate your congregation's history of mission and justice programs.

Sponsor a yearly Mission Fair so that members can meet people from the mission projects they support.

Community Contacts: MACUCC Task Force to End Homelessness

Ecclesia Ministry

One Family Inc.

Sr. Linda Bessom, Faith into Action Together (Mass. Coalition for the Homeless)

Len Dalton, Metrowest Coalition to End Homelessness

Rev. Liz MaGill, Worcester Fellowship

Rev. Shantia Wright-Gray, Worcester Area Mission Society

Send us ideas and stories about successful programs! We would love to include them on our web site.

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