

And so:

We, the Ministries at Main Street, in honor of Christ's call, wish to be light in the world on His behalf, shining that light to all who are without friends, a permanent place to live, and suffering loss; Inviting them to come and be fed and offered a bed.

Please **PRAY FOR:**

The poor and homeless in Pottstown, that we might serve them well, and that they would find rest for their souls.

Contacts for food distribution, that we would have enough to meet the many needs.

Laborers & Church Group Workers, that we would have enough help to ensure that Staff will not wear out.

Financial support, so that we could serve them faithfully.

YOUR PART ?

- We are excepting donations & volunteers,
- Sheltering during the fall/winter months, and
- We could use your help in...
Laundering,
Overnight staff,
Cleaning, and
Administration.

Please PRAY for a Proper Building to care for our Homeless Friends and to see where you might help.

A P s a l m 23
M i n i s t r y

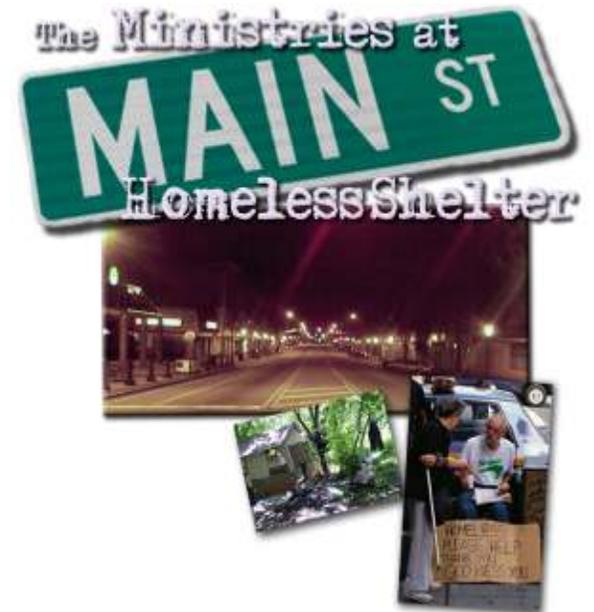
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*What would you do, if
you had no place to
sleep Tonight?*



What use is it, my brothers, for a man to say that he has faith, if he does nothing? Will such a faith give him salvation? If a brother or a sister is without clothing and in need of the day's food, and one of you says to them, go in peace, be warm and full of food; but you do not give them the things of which their bodies have need, what profit is here in this? Even so faith without works is dead. Jas. 2:14-17

VISION:

We Are In Need Of A Local Pottstown Homeless Shelter Cooperative.

As helpful and needed as “One Night At A Time” (ONAT) has been in our area, it had been discontinued as a mobile homeless shelter—becoming a stationary 50 bed facility located in Norristown, on the grounds of the State Hospital facilities, at the end of 2006.

The ONAT program no longer exists in the way that it once had—as a cooperative mobile shelter finding its physical location in different host churches, from Norristown to Pottstown, each month.

The difficulties with administering the ONAT mobile shelter, that covered the entire county, were formidable. And as much as it blessed the homeless community with protection from the elements at night, it operated with difficulty, in obvious need for a permanent location to better serve those needing its help.

ONAT was the only resource of rescue, for homeless single men and women in the Pottstown area. The new facility, located in Norristown (the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center—or CHOC), gained a 70 person waiting list nearly as soon as it opened. There was a huge need, and the problem continues to grow.

Cold weather was setting in, and we felt the urgency to help this growing population in need locally, by providing shelter within the religious community, here in the Pottstown area, where Christ’s people would embrace our friends suffering from homelessness, with

supportive and redemptive solutions and safety. Churches, businesses, cooperatives, and individuals that care, offered help toward this end, and The Ministries at MAIN St Homeless Shelter had begun, providing shelter during the Fall/Winter Seasons (November through April) establishing a cooperative mobile shelter serving Pottstown and our Tri-County areas, serving dinner, safe sleeping conditions and breakfast for our homeless friends, as well as maintaining an Intake Center base of operation.

Please pray for us as we move forward.

MISSION:

Scriptural Understanding and Our Calling to be the Church

We, the Ministries at Main Street call the church to BE THE CHURCH, caring for the poor as Christ has instructed us:

Beginning with the prophets spoke thousands of years ago. Isaiah, offers us just one of nearly 3000 biblical references of how we are to honor the poor, when he writes,

“Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. (Isaiah 58.5c-9)

Ezekiel instructs us that the actual sin of Sodom had nothing to do with sex, but rather, “This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.” (Ezekiel 16.49)

And the prophet Zechariah wrote, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.” (Zechariah 7.9-10)

The understanding of the early Church was, “[The Galatian Church] asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.” (Galatians 2.10)

And the teachings of Jesus within the Gospels reveal,.. “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” (Mark 10.21b, Matthew 19.21 & Luke 18:22b)

“When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14.12-14)

Jesus often rearticulated the law in order to clarify its intent, as we rephrase this final passage, from Luke 6.20b “All you who are poor, are a blessing to us, bringing to us God’s desired government of mercy, love and His honor, embodied in you, and we are called to be a blessing to you.”