

The Doorway

A Newsletter for

HOMELESS MISSOURIANS INFORMATION SYSTEM

...a tool toward housing all Missourians.

Volume 2 Issue 2



"THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW"

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE – SINCE 1901

Tragic Loss

The Rev. Stuart E Whitney, who helped found the reStart Inc. homeless shelter, died of cancer Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at his Kansas City home. He was 66.

Whitney was a pastor at Grand Avenue Temple United Methodist Church when several churches and synagogues banded together and opened the downtown shelter in the early 1980s. He became reStart's executive director and served until 2002.

In recent years, Whitney had worked at Westport United Methodist Church for a social services program that helps poor and homeless people. "Stuart looked upon everyone's life as having value," said Doug McNally, who worked with Whitney at reStart and Westport United Methodist. "Since everyone has value, everyone deserves second chances."

The first reStart shelter was in the Grand Avenue Temple basement. The charity eventually bought a building at 1026 Fremont Avenue and in 1985, opened a shelter there. The zoning board initially blocked the shelter, but reStart opened anyway when the temperatures that winter dropped into single digits. "We recognize we are in violation, but we also recognize we have to find a place for folks," Whitney said at the time. "I cannot conceive that anyone in this city, when it is 8°, will say, 'Let's put folks out on the street.'"

Evelyn Craig, reStart's current executive director, said Whitney was an inspiration. He had helped launch the charity's \$8 million capital campaign.

Whitney was a native of Trenton, MO. IN his free time, McNally said, Whitney loved to cook and try new foods. He read voraciously and followed news and politics.

--Kansas City Star, April 27, 2005 (written by James Hart)

SuperNOFA 2006 Application

A total of eight (8) projects were prioritized: HMIS; five (5) permanent housing programs; and two (2) transitional programs. It was posed to the committee reviewing applications to rank HMIS as #1 and it was agreed, due partially to HMIS being a core component of HUD's requirements for funding.

Priorities were as follows:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HMIS/MASW	CoC	HMIS	\$405,398
Community Caring Council	in/around Cape Girardeau	permanent	\$388,376
Vision House (DV)	Cape Girardeau	permanent	\$378,227
New Hope	Bootheels (sp?)	permanent	\$330,044
SEMO Restoration Center	Ropapola	permanent	\$244,545
Family Resource	Ripley	permanent	\$256,013
Hope Haven	Cass	transitional	\$353,628
DAEOC	Bootheels (sp?)	transitional	\$101,204

The total is \$2,457,435, which is \$86,902 below the CoC pro-rata share allowed.

Health Access - Hearing Schedule

- Poplar Bluff Hearing – Tuesday, October 11, 6:00-8:00 PM
The Black River Coliseum, 301 S. 5th Street
- Springfield Hearing – Tuesday, October 18 Time and Location TBA
- St. Joseph Hearing – Thursday, October 20, 6:00-8:00 PM
East Hills Library, 502 Woodbine Rd. Suite A

It's not too late. Be part of the health care solution! Call the MASW Health Access Project and join the planning team in your area today. 573-634-2901

Governor's Committee to End Homelessness

Walking with People...Who Have No Homes

The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness would like to invite your organization to participate in the **Homeless Awareness Resource Fair** on November 14, 2005. The Resource Fair will be held in conjunction with "Walking With People Who have No Homes" awareness activity located on the south lawn and steps of the State Capitol. There will be a display of approximately 2,600 pairs of shoes that represent only *ten percent* of the number of Missourians who experience homelessness each day according to a 2001 survey completed by the Missouri Association for Social Welfare.

As you may be aware, Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week was first publicized and promoted as a National event by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness in 1988. Here are some Missouri facts:

State of Missouri

- ❖ Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Families are spending the night in homeless shelters with an increase of nearly 60% from 1998 to 2001. (Missouri Association for Social Welfare)
- ❖ Childhood homelessness is often hidden; however in 1997 there were 7,695 known homeless children and youth in the state and by 2000 that total rose to 17,560. (Missouri Department and Secondary Education)
- ❖ One-third of adult homeless men and nearly one-quarter of all homeless adults have served in the armed forces. (Department of Veterans Affairs)

Why participate?

Participating in homeless awareness week will aide in bringing a greater awareness to available community resources and will help to promote the statewide and national endeavor to end hunger and homelessness. The resource fair will also be an opportunity for people without homes to come and access available resources.

The plight of those without a home can be both lonely and difficult. Addressing their struggles by organizing and participating in awareness activities may bring greater solidarity and understanding as well as promote future involvement.

When?

Monday, November 14, 2005. Organizations interested in having a resource table will be provided with one table for their materials. The Resource Fair will be open 10:00am-2:00pm. Tables located on the South lawn.

We hope your organization will be able to participate in the 2005 Homeless Resource Fair. Your organization's participation is critical in the effort in providing community awareness to the services you make available in helping those that do not have homes.

Space is Limited, so please sign up now if you plan on participating
*Registration deadline: **October 3, 2005***

Shelter Spotlight – High Hope Employment Services

Friendship Apartments, d/b/a High Hope Employment Services, Inc. (HHES) opened their doors in October 2004, and began receiving homeless individuals in January 2005. The supportive housing facility is funded by HUD, Missouri Housing Trust Fund, CDBG, Neighborhood Assistance Program, and Federal Home Loan Bank.

The planning process for supportive housing began several years ago. HHES became a primary representative for housing needs by participating in the State of Missouri CoC with Karia Basta and Liz Hagar-Mace. HHES staff was approached by the CoC members because they were property owners and had 20+ years experience in working with individuals with mental retardation/developmental disabilities (MR/DD).

Friendship Apartments offers two, two-bedroom transitional/efficiency apartments; ten, one-bedroom transitional/efficiency apartments; and eight, one-bedroom permanent/efficiency apartments.

HHES provides Supported Employment, Transition from School-to-Work, and Off-site Day Habilitation services. They also have a consumer-run recycling center, confidential document destruction business, a thrift store, and a satellite office in Kirksville with mobile crews and enclaves.

The agency is currently not planning any special events; they are focusing their energy and efforts on getting matching grant funds.

Homeless Services Coalition for Greater Kansas City
Jackson County Point-in-Time Census

Gathering the Data

HSC, in coordination with numerous community agencies, conducted a 24-hour point-in-time census of the five county metropolitan homeless population on Thursday, January 27, 2005. The goal of the count is to be able to determine the number of people who are receiving/requesting services in a single 24-hour period of time. This information is gathered via survey instrument in order to count all service and housing needs.

The survey is broken down into three distinctive categories:

1. Street Outreach/Housing Provision
2. Housing Inventory
3. Supportive Services Only

HSC's goal was to include as many agencies as possible across the five county (Jackson, Clay, and Platte in MO and Johnson and Wyandotte in KS) metropolitan area in order to capture a regional snapshot of homelessness, as well as to be able to easily pull out the data for each for the political jurisdictions.

For more information please contact HSC at: 816-924-7997.

Special Points of Interest
 At any single point in time you could expect to find in Jackson County:
 * 1,511 Homeless Children
 * 615 Homeless Families
 --568 are Female Headed Single Parent Families
 --10 are Male Headed Single Parent Families
 --37 are Two Parent Headed Families

What does Homelessness in Jackson County Look Like?

In Jackson County the most prevalent face of homelessness is that of children. Of the 3,716 homeless individuals who were counted on January 27, 1,465 of them were homeless children in families; there were another 46 unaccompanied youth under the age of 18. These 46 children are but a small number of what we know to represent the vast numbers of children who were not counted on that day.

Run-a-ways and throw-a-way kids generally shun traditional homeless service agencies. This is the case in that the shelters and service providers are required by law to turn them over to state custody or back to their families. While in many instances this may be in the best interests of the child, it makes creating services for street kids uniquely difficult.

Definitions:

Chronic Homelessness – refers to an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more **OR** has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living in the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter during that time.

Persistent Homelessness* – refers to an individual/family who has been either continuously homeless for a year or more **OR** has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living in the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter during that time. **This is not a HUD definition it is simply a definition our community wants to use to categorize homelessness in order to determine need.*

Jackson County 24-Hour Point-in-Time Census

(These charts simply represent the number of people receiving/requesting shelter/housing on January 27, 2005.)

Individuals	Total Individuals	Female Adults	Male Adults	Unaccompanied Female Youths	Unaccompanied Male Youths
Emergency Shelter	709	164	511	16	18
Transitional Housing	298	176	110	6	6
Permanent Housing	473	225	248		
Streets (other non-shelter/housed)	119	13	106		
Total	1,599	578	975	22	24

Persons in Families with Children	Total Family Units	Total Number of Persons in Families	Total Number of Children in Families	Single Parent Female Headed Families	Single Parent Male Headed Families	Two Parent Family Units
Emergency Shelter	123	393	254	104	3	16
Transitional Housing	316	1,098	771	303	2	11
Permanent Housing	174	619	435	159	5	10
Streets (other non-shelter)	2	7	5	2		
Total	615	2,117	1,465	568	10	37

Chronic or Persistent Homelessness

	Individual		Persons in Families	
	Sheltered Homeless	Street Homeless	Sheltered Homeless	Street Homeless
Chronic Homelessness	272	76	5	
Persistent Homelessness	295	25	197	
Homeless	913	18	1,908	7

A final report with data from the five county area will be published and distributed later this Spring. For more information, or to request a final document, please contact HSC at HSC, 3200 Wayne, Ste 209, Kansas City, MO 64109 or 816-924-7997.



SOCIAL WELFARE: Do we really want to end homelessness?

By FRANCIE BRODERICK (Tuesday, Jul. 26 2005)

In 1962, a young social worker from St. Louis wrote a book that is credited as the impetus for the Johnson administration's War on Poverty.

Michael Harrington's "The Other America" put forth the idea that the poor in America were becoming largely invisible. Population shifts from cities to suburbs and the construction of the interstate highway system had made it possible for people to go from home in the "burbs to work in the city without ever having to witness the urban poor. Migrant workers, meanwhile, were tucked away in company-owned tract housing, and the rural poor lived in equally out-of-the-way areas.

That arrangement is breaking down. Tax-poor cities are working hard to reclaim and energize downtown areas by marketing themselves to upscale condo- and loft-dwellers. This is the backdrop to a story that has been in the news in St. Louis recently.

Lucas Park in downtown St. Louis long has been a gathering spot for people who are homeless. This is, understandably, not the image of St. Louis that our civic leaders want to promote. So what are we to do about these poor people, who are anything but invisible?

One solution appears to be to move "them" out of the park and into a new day shelter a few blocks away.

This is a humane approach, and it solves the problem of visibility, temporarily, but it fails to address the root issues of this clash.

The problem is that we want the poor to remain invisible and out of sight, but at the same time, we need them. We need them to take the low-paying, no-benefits, service-industry jobs that drive the economy.

But when the wages from those jobs are so low that people can't afford housing, or they have to go to food pantries or shelters to subsidize their basic living expenses, we don't want to see them. When the state cuts their health care because they're working these jobs but still can't afford their medication or mental health treatment, we really don't want to see them.

There are two different ways of looking at homelessness and poverty. The first is called the deficit model: Something is wrong with the person. If we just fix the person's character deficiencies or teach them skills or give them job training, the problem will be solved.

The other model looks at larger, systemic problems: lack of affordable housing, lack of access to health care, poorly financed education systems, rising college tuition that pushes even state universities out of reach and the shortage of living-wage jobs. You don't have to be a genius to figure out that no matter how many people you train or rehabilitate, there always will be some people forced into poverty because there simply are not enough decent-paying jobs available.

We need to work from both models. We need to help individuals improve their situations as much as possible through training, treatment, whatever is called for. We also need to take the long view and address the root causes of poverty and homelessness that are built into the structure of our economy.

Unfortunately, the deficit model seems to be the favored approach. Perhaps this is because it takes us off the hook. If we focus our attention on the shortcomings of the individual, we don't have to acknowledge how we benefit from their poverty and homelessness: Our food prices are lower because the people who pick the food live in substandard conditions. Our taxes are lower because we have chosen to ignore the issues of affordable housing, universal health care and a quality public education for all.

This is the hard part, then: Are we really willing to address the fundamental issues that confront a growing percentage of our citizens, or do we just want them to become invisible again?

Francie Broderick of University City is director of Places for People, a nonprofit mental health center based in St. Louis.

Fight Homelessness! Save Our Housing! Missouri Shouts Out!

Group schedules rally for housing programs

Published by Columbia Daily Tribune - Published Wednesday, June 8, 2005

A Missouri social service organization has scheduled a rally at the courthouse square tomorrow to protest cuts to federal programs intended to reduce homelessness.

The Missouri Association for Social Welfare plans a "Missouri Shout-Out! Save our Housing! Fight Homelessness" event at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at 801 E. Walnut St. The rally will feature Craig Stevens of the National Low Income Housing Coalition as a keynote speaker.

Funding for state and federal housing programs such as Section 8 is in jeopardy and could increase homelessness, said Rosanna Cassidy of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. The rally is one of a series of events staged across the country to call attention to the need for low-income housing and the prevention of homelessness, Cassidy said.

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Housing rally makes noise - *Speakers worried about federal budget cuts.*

By RACHEL WEBB of the Tribune's staff

Published by Columbia Daily Tribune

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Debbie Calvin has lived in her Park Avenue apartment for five years. She likes the wide doorways for wheelchairs and the second bedroom where she can store medical equipment. Calvin, 51, lives in one of four apartments managed by the Columbia Housing Authority designated for disabled residents.

The authority has proposed razing 70 apartments for low-income residents along Park and replacing them with a mixed-income development. If Calvin's apartment is torn down, she fears there is no guarantee she'll be able to move into one like it.

"Some people are going to be left out in the cold, and I don't want to be one of those," she said. The housing authority has said it plans to replace the apartments and provide residents such as Calvin a place to live.

Calvin was one of about 25 affordable-housing advocates from around Missouri who attended a rally at Courthouse Square today. The Missouri Association for Social Welfare sponsored the rally to draw attention to potential cuts for federal housing assistance.

Housing for everyone is a moral issue, said Craig Stevens, national field director for the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The organization, based in Washington, D.C., worries that cuts to federal housing programs combined with an increased need are threatening the ability of residents to afford decent homes.

"This is not a partisan issue, it's a human issue," Stevens said. The proposed federal budget for fiscal 2006 proposes reducing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget from \$32 million to \$28 million, said Jack Stretch, chairman of the housing and homelessness committee for the Missouri Association for Social Welfare.

Meanwhile, he said, the Bush administration has proposed adding \$1 billion to the housing-voucher program known as Section 8.

"It's not new money. It's just smoke-and-mirror kind of stuff," Stretch said before the event.

The social welfare group proposes a provision in the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act that would give housing authorities the right to determine their own rent structures, place time limits on those receiving assistance and make it difficult for residents to transfer their vouchers to other locations.

The proposed legislation would also direct 90 percent of the vouchers to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the median income. Today, three-fourths of Section 8 vouchers go to holders with extremely low incomes, or 30 percent of the area's median income, according to the coalition.



Don Shrubshell photo

Craig Stevens of the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington, DC, tells about the plight of homeless people as Nancy Heidrich, left, and Susan Moore, right, support a "Missouri Shouts-Out" sign during a rally today at Courthouse Square.

U.S. Sens. Kit Bond and Jim Talent, both Missouri Republicans, support housing for low-income residents, according to e-mailed statements from their representatives. Bond is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and chairman of the subcommittee for Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development.

The average Missourian must make \$11.85 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment, according to a 2004 report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition. In Boone County, that figure is slightly lower, at \$10.71 hourly for a 40-hour work week. A Boone County resident making the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour would have to work 83 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment with a fair-market rent of \$557, according to the report.

Columbia is a smaller metropolitan area, which makes it easier to identify people who need housing assistance, but that also places limits on its resources, said Liz Hagar-Mace, housing director for the Central Missouri Human Development Corp.

"Not being a larger community means we don't draw in a lot of the large block grants and funds available," said Hagar-Mace, who is also a member of the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness.

SECOND THOUGHTS: Friday, June 10, 2005

A story yesterday about a rally organized by advocates for affordable housing should have said the Missouri Association for Social Welfare opposes a provision in the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act that would give housing authorities more flexibility.

* * * * *

MISSOURI: Rally protests cutbacks

Missourians and people from around the country advocate for more funding for Section 8

Published by The (Columbia) Missourian

By IKURU KUWAJIMA

June 14, 2005

Rosanna Cassidy knows what it's like to be homeless. While living in Springfield in 1994, she and her 2-year-old daughter lived in a shelter for three months before getting a helping hand from the federal government.

While in college, Cassidy was able to study and raise her daughter at the same time thanks to a \$485 monthly rent voucher she received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. After college, she landed a job, and by 2003, she was earning enough money that she no longer required the government's help.

"Without the program," she said of Section 8, "I would have ended up going back to the shelter."

Cassidy's daughter is now 13. "(She) said she doesn't remember her homeless experience at all," Cassidy said. "The only thing she remembers is she was being with me."

Cassidy, who now works for the Missouri Association for Social Welfare in Jefferson City, organized a rally Thursday at the Courthouse Square that called attention to potential budget cuts for federal housing assistance programs.

The protest attracted people working for housing agencies from across the state, including residents of Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, St. Louis and Springfield, and even from as far as Washington, D.C.

"It's a national and local issue," said Craig Stevens, a keynote speaker for the protest and state coalition director

for the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington.

Stevens said over the years Congress has been cutting funding for HUD. He said proposed cuts for fiscal 2006 would cause further problems for low-income people.

“Last year, Missouri lost 1,583 Section 8 vouchers out of 40,000,” he said. “If Congress sticks by its current budget plan, the state will lose over 7,000 vouchers by the year 2010.”

Stevens said Congress is considering reducing HUD’s overall budget from 2005’s \$31.3 billion to \$28.5 billion for the next fiscal year by spending less on housing programs for people with disabilities and people with HIV and by eliminating Community Development Block Grants, public housing capital funds and the Hope VI program.

For the Section 8 portion of the HUD budget, President Bush is, however, proposing that \$18.4 billion be allocated, a near \$1 billion increase from fiscal year 2005, according to a February news release from HUD.

Stevens said President Bush raised the budget for Section 8 because so many people have shown concern about the cuts. However, if Congress does not appropriate sufficient funding for HUD, this increase will not go through, Stevens said.

“If we don’t get an increase this year, thousands of people would lose their houses,” he said. “And, if they are homeless, they are not going to get off the street or out of shelters.”

Jack Stretch, a professor at St. Louis University, told the small gathering at the rally that Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., will have strong influence over the decision as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The cuts, if approved, would affect a number of Columbians. Many people here receive support from HUD programs, but the housing supply is far below demand, said Doris Chiles, executive director of the Columbia Housing Authority.

She said the CHA will receive about \$5 million from HUD this year and will use it to provide 1,043 vouchers. More than 500 people, however, are on the agency’s waiting list. Compounding the problem is the fact that rental prices are rising.

“We are not taking applications now because there is not enough supply,” she said.

** Article also published by the National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH).*

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Rally decries proposed cuts in government housing funds

Friday, June 10, 2005

Published by The Daily Dunklin Democrat

Marc Powers ~ Southeast Missourian

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Advocates for government housing assistance for the poor rallied Thursday to oppose potential cuts in federal spending on housing programs.

Roy Jones, housing coordinator for the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council, said there is already a waiting list of up to two years for rent vouchers under the federal Section 8 housing program. "Any cuts are going to make things more difficult," Jones said. Jones said that in the last year, the cost of rent in Cape Girardeau has increased between 17 percent and 25 percent, depending on the classification of different types of

rental property. "Even with the money we receive today, we will not be able to provide the same number of vouchers next year as this year," Jones said.

Although state housing assistance for the poor was unaffected by the recent budget cuts that targeted many of Missouri's social welfare programs, Jones said federal spending is the primary source of financial support for low-income housing. About 15 people attended the rally in front of the Boone County Courthouse. Organizers said they are concerned that both chambers of Congress have proposed budget resolutions that include cuts to federal housing programs.

J. Wayne Zimmer of Project HOPE in Cape Girardeau said more than 700 people in the city are on the waiting list for government subsidized housing. He said advocates need to raise public awareness of the shortage of affordable housing. "In a country that is recognized as the best country in the world, we should not have a homeless problem," Zimmer said.

Craig Stevens, the field coordinator for the National Low Income Housing Coalition, said U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., in recent years has played a key role in protecting housing programs as chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee that oversees funding of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, Stevens said Bond and other lawmakers are under pressure from the Bush Administration to cut HUD programs.

Stevens said advocates must stress to policy makers the harm that would be done if federal housing assistance is reduced. "We've been talking about moral issues for years," Stevens said. "We need to frame this that way if that is what it takes for them to respond."

** Article also published by SE Missourian.*

Housing-MASW · MASW Housing & Homelessness

This Group serves as a forum for members of MASW's Housing and Homelessness Task Force, for agencies and people involved in the Homeless Missourians Information System (HMIS) Project, and for anyone involved in or interested in the issues of affordable housing and homelessness in the State of Missouri.

To sign up visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Housing-MASW/>