



January, 2014

Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless

E-News

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10th at 10 am at Christ Church on 149 Court St. in Plymouth. We are looking for new people to serve on our board. We need people with skills and/or strong interests in fundraising, membership development, publicity, and contacts with the business community. The Board generally meets on the first Mondays of the month at 9 am at Christ Church at 149 Court St., Plymouth. Please contact Connie at cmelahoures@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org if you are interested in serving or need more information.

Auditor Needed

The Board is looking for an individual to do a basic audit of our books. Please contact Jim Freedman at treasurer@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org if you can help.

Point-in-Time Count

Each year, the Taskforce participates in an annual census of the homeless population, required by the state. This means we count the folks in our shelter that night and also any who may be living on the streets and not coming in. While the Taskforce knows of a few of the unsheltered, please contact Connie at cmelahoures@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org if you personally know of someone who is homeless of whom we might not be aware. We do not count couch surfers.

Overnights of Hospitality

We are just about half way through our tenth season of the Overnights of Hospitality, the emergency shelter program for single men. Even though the national average has reflected a slight decline in the homeless population, that has not held true for Massachusetts. All shelters have experienced an increase in numbers which is putting a strain on the shelter system. Here in Plymouth, our

average continues to be fifteen per night, Some nights over twenty have sought shelter with a record high of twenty-five. Several days we opened early or closed later to keep the men out of the severe cold or blizzard conditions. We greatly appreciate the four host sites and the volunteers as we struggle to meet the challenges we face.

New volunteers to chaperone and/or serve a meal are always welcome. Go to our website for job descriptions (<http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>)

We are also getting more calls from women seeking help. The Taskforce will assist them by providing one or two night stay at a local hotel and then encourage them to go to Fr. Bills/Mainspring in Brockton.

Christmas Eve.

The Taskforce hosted 12 men in the Pilgrim Sands on Christmas Eve. Which gave them a place to shower and a nice warm bed in which to sleep for the night. For supper, pizza was ordered in.

Once again, thanks to New Hope which provided backpacks filled with goodies including hats, gloves, and a Dunkin Donut gift card.

366 Court St.

As you may remember, the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) and the town of Plymouth voted to fund the purchase of the Quintal property at 366 Court St. for the Taskforce. The Taskforce, through its attorney and the town's attorney, is seeking to designate the property as affordable housing. Once that is accomplished, a purchase and sale agreement will be set. Once the property is obtained, the Taskforce plans on housing four women and a house manager. The commercial property which is currently rented will eventually be used for a Taskforce office/resource center.

Sad News

We are sad to report that Rich Pecorella has been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Rich served on the board for many years and could always be counted on to serve as a chaperone and as a pickup driver. Please hold him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Donations of Clothing

We are always in need of collecting hats, gloves, winter jackets, socks, and underwear to have on hand to distribute. You may drop off donations at the Christ Church Parish office on 149 Court St. from Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm. Please mark the bag for Overnights.

Fundraising

If you are an avid shopper on Amazon (as I am), you can now help us to raise money for the Taskforce. Just be sure to go to our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org> and click on the Amazon button. You do not need to type

in the search box. Just hit GO. For every item you purchase, we will receive a percentage.

You can also help us raise money by using [Goodsearch](#) as your search engine or Goodshop or Good Dining. Once again, go to our website and click on the link to get started.

It helps to put these link in your Favorites Bar.

We will continue to use the [Scrips](#) gift card program, but it is currently under transition to a new liaison.

You can also make a direct contribution online via our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>.

Thank you to those who chose to make a year end donation to the Taskforce!

By the way, we are an all volunteer organization which receives no direct funding from federal or state governments. All funds received, go to support our program.

Website

Check out our website:

<http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>

Facebook

We are now also on Facebook. Go to our website <http://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org> to like us!

Etc...

Please be sure to let us know if you change your email address or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.