

Helping Hands of Springfield

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Shelter News

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A few words from Brenda.....

Hello from Helping Hands! I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying the nice weather. We have been very busy at the shelter the past few months, and we are thankful that the temperature has been staying relatively nice since we are experiencing an air conditioning dilemma. According to the service technician who responded to our plea for help last month, our outside A/C unit has seen it's last day, and all we need is \$2400 to get a new one. Oh, well if that's all! Fortunately, the units that are still working are the ones that cool the offices and sleeping areas, so the majority of the building is still cool. The one that is broken cools the social lounge making it a challenge for our clients to come in from the heat, as it can get a bit warm during the day. So, if you know of a group or organization that would like to adopt this project and fix our A/C dilemma, please have them call me at the shelter. There have been so many things going on since the last newsletter, I'm not sure where to start, but here goes. On May 1, 2006 we instituted our revamped version of the Day Classes here at the shelter. Now, lovingly renamed the HELP Classes, our case worker Lori and board member Dana Young have worked hard to redesign the classes and make them more goal oriented to show the clients what they need to move toward their goals. The classes include self help groups such as AA & CA along with Life Skills classes and goals groups each day with an incentive store to "shop" if their attendance is exemplary during the week. The classes are well attended and the clients seem to enjoy the opportunity. We are actively recruiting volunteers to facilitate the classes so if anyone is interested, please call Lori at 522-0048. The last thing I must mention is the need we are currently facing for shelter meal donors. Unfortunately many groups are dropping out after many years of helping us in addition to those that take the summer off due to vacations. This leaves the shelter in the situation of being forced to cover as many as 8 meals each month out of the shelter budget, which we are having difficulty doing. If you are involved in a group that would like to help out, or know of someone that can help, please have them call Apple at 522-0048. As always, thanks for continuing to give to those less fortunate in our community through our agency and don't forget to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we serve the homeless in Springfield. Until next time..... Brenda

Knights of Columbus Council No. 364 chooses Helping Hands

Helping Hands will be the Benefactor for the Knights of Columbus, Council No 364 Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser.

The Knights of Columbus anticipates donating proceeds to the shelter in the amount of \$1,500—\$2,000, but we need the support of the community to make this a success.

Join us July 9, 2006 at the Knights of Columbus #364 2200 Meadowbrook Road Springfield, IL 62711.

The All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet is served from

8:00 am— Noon

The cost is:
\$7.50 for adults
\$4.50 for kids age 6-12 and
kids age 0-5 are FREE!



HUD Program Update

With our second grant year almost done, the HUD program has successfully completed our first Site Monitoring visit. The staff from HUD in Chicago spent 3 days visiting the program, looking over our paperwork and making sure we were in compliance with all HUD rules and regulations. Although it sounds as if it would be a grueling experience, it was enjoyable and our staff was able to learn quite a bit about how to recruit clients for the program and meet the needs of the chronically homeless with disabilities in our community. The program can provide services to 16 individuals and we are currently providing assistance to 7. If you have any questions about the program or would like more information to make a referral to the program, please feel free to contact Nicole Newman, HUD Case manager at 793-0470.

Don't forget to indicate Helping Hands Homeless Shelter as your United Way designee!!



HUD Program Wish List

- Furniture—couches, chairs & tables
- Household items including dishes, silverware & pots and pans
- Linens, Blankets & Pillows —full, queen & king
- Towels & wash cloths
- Plastic Mattress Covers
- Food items
- Gas gift certificates
- Monetary donations for incentive store items
- DVD Player for office
- First aid kit
- D & 9-volt batteries
- Alarm Clock
- Shower Curtain
- Clothing—Men & women's all sizes
- Vacuum cleaner
- Shop Vac
- Carpet Cleaner
- Cleaning supplies such as Lysol spray, Clorox cleaner, rubber gloves, oven cleaner, Mr. Clean, carpet fresh, comet, lime-a-way, toilet bowl cleaner
- Mops & Bucket
- Broom & Dust pan
- Door Mats for apartments

A Few Words from Terry Thomas, Board President

The Helping Hands mission statement includes the following goals: shelter the homeless, provide support, promote independence and work with others in the prevention of homelessness in the community. To help work toward our mission, Dana Young, Helping Hands Board member and Lori Skufca, case manager have revamped our day classes, calling the new program the **H**omeless **E**mpowerment and **L**ife-skills **P**rogram or **HELP** program. These classes are designed to provide clients with information about job skills, assertiveness, self-esteem, budgeting, substance abuse assistance, in addition to setting personal goals and help with overcoming obstacles that might keep the clients from succeeding. The **HELP** classes focus on showing the clients how they can move toward self-sufficiency and independence. We are happy to report that our classes were implemented on May 1, 2006 and have been well attended and well received by the shelter residents. We expect that participation in the classes will continue to increase as programs like this are crucial for Helping Hands of Springfield to fulfill its stated purpose. However, if we are to continue to help the disadvantaged move on to independent lives free from dependence upon public assistance, we need funding and donations. If you or someone you know could help Lori, Dana and the staff of Helping Hands implement these programs and keep them going, we would love to hear from you. You can contact Lori at 522-0048 with your offer of monetary support, materials, time or expertise. Whatever you are able to do to make our programs a success is greatly appreciated.



Volunteers hard at work!



Highlights of the 8th Annual Soup Supper

Helping Hands held the annual Soup Supper on March 19, 2006. The Helping Hands staff, clients and the Board would like to thank the Westminster Presbyterian Church once again for their generosity in the hosting the event this year as well as the support of the congregation. Helping Hands supporters from all around town came out to taste try our Irish themed Soup Supper. A total of \$1,200 dollars was raised to be utilized to support critical shelter programming and supplies.

Local Soup Supper Supporters

Augie's Front Burner	Hooter's	Tea Thyme Tea Room
Bellacino's	Maverick	Z Bistro
Brew Baker's Caffé	McCormick's Deli	The Feed Store
Brewhaus	Robbie's	Chilli's
Caron's Café	Ryan's	Secret Recipes
D'Arcy's Pint	Shop N Save	Garden of Eat'n
Greco's Sales	Subway	MJ Kellner



St. Andrew's Society Celtic Dancers



AKA Fashionetta Debutante Volunteers



Soup Supper Supporters

Agency Wish List

Regular Shelter Supplies

COFFEE!

Plates, cups, napkins, toilet paper, towels, facial tissue

Any kind of COFFEE!

Deodorant, Shampoo, Shaving Cream, Razors, Non-alcoholic Mouth Wash, Feminine Hygiene Products, Hand Lotion, Toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs & brushes

Did I mention Coffee cups?

Bleach, Laundry Soap (Powder), Lysol Spray, Dish Detergent, Garbage bags (all sizes), Clorox cleaner.

Last but not least, COFFEE!!!

HELP Class Incentive Store Wish List

Top 10 Client Requested Items

1. AA & AAA Batteries
2. New Socks—mens & women's
3. Mens boxers and briefs (all sizes)
4. Women's underwear & sports bras (all sizes)
5. New T-shirts (all sizes for men & women)
6. New Sweatpants (all sizes for men & women)
7. Bus passes & tokens
8. Phone Cards
9. Bicycles
10. Restaurant gift cards (i.e.: McDonald's, Dominos Pizza or Pizza Hut)

Congratulations to Board Member Kristen Schurter and her husband Ted on the birth of their son

 Samuel Joseph born Sunday June 11, 2006. He weighed in at 8 lbs 5 oz and was 22 inches long.

Shelter News

Helping Hands of Springfield
200 South 11th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Phone: 217-522-0048
Fax: 217-522-0549
Email: helpinghands@insightbb.com

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We're on the web at
www.helpinghandssi.org



Just in case you wondered.....

In case you were wondering what our response has been to the statements made by Alderman Bartolomucci regarding the homeless in Springfield, let me tell you it has been an interesting month. My first thought was to send him an e-mail just like everyone else in social services was doing that first week. But since my first thoughts aren't always the right way to do things, I opted for taking a slightly softer approach. In an effort to educate Alderman Bartolomucci on what the homeless are really like, I sent him an e-mail and extended him an offer to come to the shelter and work a shift with the people who he intended to "run out of town". Much to my surprise, the very next day he came to the shelter to talk with me and Lori, our case worker. Alderman Bartolomucci, whose intentions are honorable, in my opinion doesn't really comprehend the magnitude of the homeless situation, nor what the reality is of how to solve it. I spent in excess of an hour explaining to him what Helping Hands of Springfield does to help a homeless individual in this city, and still he didn't really comprehend what it was that we need. He did make some calls and talk to some other elected officials about the space constraints of the shelter and staffing needs of our agency, but since moving the shelter is not a real possibility and we have no additional funds for another case worker, his efforts were done in vain. He also turned down my offer to work a shift in the shelter, stating that his "Aldermanic duties and raising his children were his top priorities at the moment". Isn't that what we're all doing in addition to getting involved in important issues in our community. Anyway, I hope that my lack of media exposure did not make anyone feel that we aren't involved in making changes to the way the homeless are viewed in Springfield. I hope that if anything, his view of how to make change has brought our plight to the forefront of the media and hopefully will draw attention to the positive movement we have made in an effort to help those less fortunate. Let's keep on fighting the good fight and work together because even if nobody else notices, I am positive that our efforts will continue to make a difference to the individuals we provide shelter for each night!