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House the Homeless

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House the Homeless

Abstract

Since 2012, Gettysburg Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.) has brought together local churches and citizens to provide emergency shelter to those without housing during the winter months. Last year alone, C.A.R.E.S. served nearly a hundred local folks, some with families, many of whom were working but unable to afford housing. (*excerpt*)

Keywords

Gettysburg Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter, Gettysburg C.A.R.E.S., homelessness, South Central Community Action Programs, S.C.C.A.P.

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement | Inequality and Stratification | Social Work

House the homeless

Since 2012, Gettysburg Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.) has brought together local churches and citizens to provide emergency shelter to those without housing during the winter months. Last year alone, C.A.R.E.S. served nearly a hundred local folks, some with families, many of whom were working but unable to afford housing.

This October, as the leaves turn and the temperatures drop, C.A.R.E.S. will open its doors again, with area churches housing the program in two-week shifts, and with many local volunteers staffing the shelter each night until we close in late spring.

This year will be an especially challenging one for folks in Adams County, whatever the weather:

The S.C.C.A.P. (South Central Community Action Programs) Shelter, the traditional homeless shelter and the hub of social services for Adams County, is now only accepting families; single homeless folks will have to choose between C.A.R.E.S. and sleeping rough. Moreover, the S.C.C.A.P. shelter is now employing a "housing first" model, which gets folks into permanent housing before offering any other services. This can be very successful, but a housing first program relies upon a constellation of services in order to help newly housed folks be able to stay in per-

**GETTYSBURG
C.A.R.E.S.**

*Christopher
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manent domiciles.

According to Megan Shreve, CEO of S.C.C.A.P., "the housing first model is great but our community does not have many of the supports needed to help harder to place singles and families into housing successfully - that is a community problem and the weight of it can't fall on S.C.C.A.P. or C.A.R.E.S. We alone can't solve it."

What does this all have to do with C.A.R.E.S.? In short, even if the housing first approach shows great results, a large number of single homeless folks, and some families, will be left out in the cold.

That is where C.A.R.E.S. will have to step in.

With S.C.C.A.P. reeling from budget cuts, volunteers must be prepared to step into the breach; the need for these services

has been increasing, not decreasing: Thus, the S.C.C.A.P. cut-backs may presage a perfect storm on the horizon for those in Adams County who are struggling to make ends meet.

In the face of social service cuts, the support of concerned citizens as advocates, as volunteers, and as donors is all the more crucial as we battle homelessness and poverty in the midst of our community.

What can you do to help? Contact C.A.R.E.S. at info@gettysburgcares.org, go to our webpage, or check us out on Facebook, where you can read about our upcoming Birthday Party fund-raiser, happening Thursday, September 7th.

C.A.R.E.S. is always seeking volunteers, not just to staff the shelter overnight, but to help out in any way with which you are most comfortable, and cash donations are gratefully accepted.

C.A.R.E.S. wants YOU to get involved in providing a vital helping hand to our most vulnerable friends and neighbors!

Christopher Fee is a C.A.R.E.S. board member, professor of English at Gettysburg College and clerk at Menallen Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).