



Servants Center rescues the mentally ill homeless and poor from the streets and provides ongoing support with dignity, reflecting Christ's love.

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Peggy Boverhof

From Don Tack, Retired Founder of Servants Center

Effective ministry among the homeless demands sorting out those who cannot help themselves from those who are fully capable of holding a job but refuse to do so. Both groups need a powerful demonstration of God's grace, but tactics we use to truly help are different.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:14, the apostle Paul writes "And we urge you brothers...warn those who are idle..." Other scriptures, such as Proverbs 29:7, provide the Biblical foundation for the unique work of Servants Center: "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern." Justice for the poor calls on us to ask penetrating questions about why a person is homeless or claims to be homeless.

Every week as I drive around the Grand Rapids metro area, I stop, get out of my pick-up truck, and talk with individuals standing at street corners holding signs asking for money. Ninety-five percent of these persons are not disabled in any way. They fit the description of my farmer father: "they think they are too light for heavy work and too heavy for light work!" I always offer to drive each sign holder to local employment agencies that I know are hiring. The unemployment rate in the Grand Rapids area is less than four percent, among the lowest in the nation. Anyone willing and capable of the most basic tasks can get a job. Employment agencies are willing to work with job seekers to place them at employers near the bus lines, so not having a car is not an impediment. When we give cash to street hustlers, we are not helping.

Servants Center gets mentally ill disabled people off the streets. These are the pitiful

folks who cannot help themselves. I think Paul includes them in the latter portion of 1 Thessalonians 5:14, "encourage the timid...help the weak." The scholars of New Testament Greek tell us this passage refers to people with "small psyche", the root



When asked what the money was for, he replied, "I gotta get me some coffee, man!"

concept for mental disability, either developmental (what we used to call retarded) or neurological brain diseases, such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Since 1993, Servants Center has helped hundreds of Grand Rapids' most vulnerable citizens get off the streets by establishing Probate Court Legal Guardianships and managing client's monthly Social Security Disability Income. Servants Center's hard-working staff models the Biblical compassion and "street smarts" of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man." 2 Corinthians 8:21

Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom, patience and discernment as we search out and care for our homeless neighbors.

In May, Patrick Cameron left Servants Center after 15 years with the ministry to pursue new interests. We are grateful for all the years of hard work he has put into helping the homeless get off the streets. Peggy Boverhof came to Servants Center last year as Payee Accounts Manager. She stepped up after Patrick left and kept things running smoothly with no affect to our clients. In August the Board of Directors asked Peggy to take over as Executive Director and she accepted. With her background in non-profit administration, God's perfect plan placed Peggy here at just the right time.

Yes, I would like to support the ongoing ministry of Servants Center

Please accept my gift of: \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ Other ___

Make Checks payable and mail to: Servants Center, PO Box F, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Donate securely online at our website, www.servantscenter.org, or send a gift to "servantscentergr@gmail.com" on PayPal. Servants Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



Helping the mentally ill homeless get off and stay off the streets

What We Do

Just what does Servants Center do every day? Servants Center began many years ago out on the street, under the overpasses, along the river and in the woods searching for the homeless that fall through the cracks of our system—those with mental illness. They need someone to trust and to advocate for them. Today so much more has grown out of that. We have worked with close to 500 clients over the years in securing stable housing and managing their Social Security benefits. Today our active client list tops 170.

Servants Center's primary goals are to:

- First build trust with homeless individuals
- Get them evaluated for medical/psychological needs
- Get them into stable housing
- Apply for and manage their Social Security benefits if not yet in place
- Provide ongoing support to appointments, advocate for mental health services, help with personal needs, provide friendship...
- If deemed able, help them to move towards independence
- Reflect Christ's love always with our actions and words

Every day is filled with numerous tasks and challenges as we provide the ongoing support they so desperately need. Our job is not done when we get them into housing. The long road really begins with the ongoing support, and this can be for years or their lifetime. We spend about \$1,500 per client per year for all the services we provide them.

How do we determine "success" for a client? It's not independence for most of our clients, it's stable housing. Mental illness doesn't just go away in time. It will only be managed, and a *stable* future is their real "success."

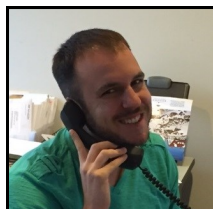
Men's Client Outreach Specialist

We wish to expand our staff and have a need for a Men's Client Outreach Specialist. This full-time position is for someone who feels called to work with the mentally ill homeless and poor population. Tasks include but are not limited to transporting clients to and attending care conferences, doctor's appointment, helping clients move, cleaning out rooms, being a liaison between Servants Center, clients, hospitals, case managers and other agencies, sitting in the ER with clients, crisis management and interacting and developing trust with homeless out on the streets. Medical knowledge very helpful. If you feel called to join a team in very demanding work, please send your resume and references to: Servants Center, PO Box F, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Kiyona Westbrook handles all of the Medicaid, Medicare and insurance programs for our clients. Her background in assisting patients with the Medicaid application process and enrolling clients in Medicare Advantage Plans has prepared her for the daily task of ensuring our clients' benefits don't lapse.



Adam Freeman is assisting with paralegal duties, applying for Social Security benefits, completing Probate Court reports and client visitation. He is a recent graduate of Cooley Law School and will be taking the Bar Exam soon. He has his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the Univ. of Central Florida.



Never a Dull Moment

Dupree—He's in and out of jail and unstable medically, which is jeopardizing his last chance at housing.

Timmy—Told staff his pillows are too flat and hurt his neck. We told him to put 2 pillows in 1 pillowcase. "You're brilliant!" he exclaimed.

Donny—Desperately needed long term nursing care. Placement is difficult due to history of bizarre behavior. God intervened. Sent him to ER, got admitted and then sent to nursing home for rehab, where he can't be turned away. Pray he will behave and able to stay long term.



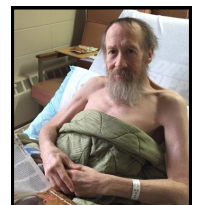
Tina—Young woman who does self harm with frequents visits to the ER.

DQ—Has failed at all housing placements. We are concerned he will lose his current housing due to his Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

Hue—Calls one of our staff "Mom" and loves to sing when he phones.



John—After years on the street, we helped him get medical attention due to severe gangrene in his legs. It became necessary to amputate both legs at the knee. He's doing well now and in long term nursing care.



Mario & Debra—Have progressed to independence! Pray for them.

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

Volunteer Opportunities — We can use you!

Appointment Helper—You would be paired with one of our easy clients. Take them to appointments, or do light shopping together and be a trusted friend.

Special Helper—We have lists of things our clients need. Go shopping for us, which will free up our time for more difficult clients. Your small group or class can help clients move or clean up a room.

Tax Advice—We occasionally have questions about filing taxes for our clients. Would you be willing to be a resource for us when we have questions?

Marketing Expertise—Help us to update our brochure and other informational materials.

Please let us know of changes to your mailing address on the reverse side, or send an email to servantscentergr@gmail.com.

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