



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

December 2020

From the Executive Director

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“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 31:8-9

The Lost Sheep

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a story about a shepherd who leaves 99 of his sheep in the wilderness so he can find the one that wandered away. *“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'”* Luke 15:4-6

It is clear that God never gives up on people. God pursues the lost. He does not stop searching, like this shepherd who goes out searching until he finds the sheep. This could be said of Servants Center. Because each person is precious to God, they are precious to us. We don't just sit and wait for calls for help (though we do receive a lot of referrals). We go out on the streets daily, into the homeless camps, into the woods, under the highway overpasses searching for the mentally ill homeless, a population at risk. These vulnerable individuals have been rejected by family, by society, and are ignored and looked down upon.

After the lost sheep is found, the shepherd carries him back to the flock. The shepherd takes it upon himself to rescue the sheep. Servants Center works to help these individuals by establishing a trusting relationship so we can get them connected to medical and mental health services, into safe housing, reinstate insurances, disability, and food benefits and other services. We stay connected so they will always have someone they can turn to. To see and experience the change in the lives of these individuals is such a joy! *“I will search for the lost. I will bring back those who have wandered away. I will bandage the ones who are hurt. I will make the weak ones stronger.....I will take good care of my sheep. I will treat them fairly.”* Ezekiel 34:16

We learn about God's heart in the parable of the lost sheep. Our interactions with the mentally ill homeless and poor give us an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus every day. We are honored to be used by God to love and help these precious individuals out of homelessness.

Have you ever thought about how hard it would be to be both homeless and mentally ill? Take 3 minutes and watch a short video at <http://www.scgr.org/stories>. It is the story of Henry, a Servants Center client and Chuck, one of our dedicated volunteers, who began helping Henry on behalf of Servants Center many years ago.

Help us Meet the Need

We are at a point where we've reached the need to add an additional staff person so that we can continue to provide our hands-on, Christ-centered services to more mentally ill poor and homeless. We have a good reputation for accepting the most difficult individuals. We are connecting with more individuals from our time out on the streets. And we are seeing an increase in the number of weekly referrals we receive from Adult Protective Services, hospitals, case management agencies, and Social Security. The need for our services is growing. We want to be able to say Yes and provide our loving care to all.

We would like to add a Client Specialist by next spring, or sooner. Our goal is to raise \$38,000. Will you help us reach this goal?



Cardboard adds insulation to this sleeping bag.

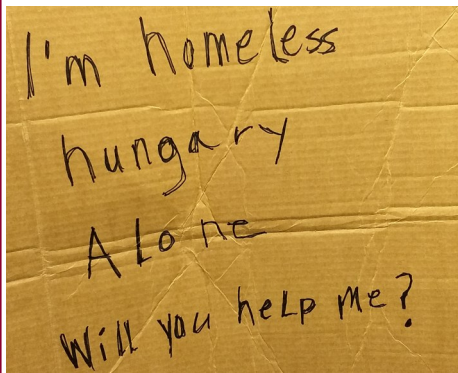


Helping the mentally ill homeless get off and stay off the streets

Alone No More

Though you see a lot of cardboard signs out on street corners around town asking for money disguised as "anything helps," this sign is asking for more than that. This person doesn't want to be alone.

This is where Servants Center can be of help. It all starts by building a relationship of trust. We spend time with them while getting them into needed services, and if a guardian is warranted or a representative payee is recommended, we will step into



that roll. They trust us and with our frequent interactions by phone and in person, they no longer feel alone.

Help provide basic needs to our clients. Visit our WISH LIST at www.scgr.org/wish-list

"LORD, you hear the desires of those who are hurting. You cheer them up and give them hope. You listen to their cries." Psalm 10:17

Donate with Assurance



Enhancing Trust

We are accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

www.ecfa.org

A Reassuring Voice

During the COVID crisis we get daily phone calls from clients feeling confusion, frustration and fear of the unknown. Their entire routine has now changed. We acknowledge their concerns and find all they really want to hear is a reassuring HI from us, or they just want to have a quick chat about life. Taking the time to listen can help reassure someone who may feel isolated or confused; that everything will be ok.

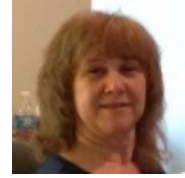
Waldo has lived under an overpass for a long time. He is chronically homeless. He passes out from alcohol and has had two walkers stolen, along with his cell phone, backpack and all his clothing. He suffers from



poor circulation and has had one toe amputated so far. With his declining health and the realization that winter is fast approaching, he finally agreed to let us help him move into a group home.

Please help us expand our services to the homeless and mentally ill with your financial gift. Will you consider making your gift a regular monthly or quarterly gift?

Jan Irwin is Retiring



After seven years with Servants Center, Jan is retiring at the end of December. Jan has been our liaison with Probate Court, with the Guardian ad litem and with Social Security. We have benefited much and learned a lot from her 30+ years as a paralegal. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. We wish her many blessings in her retirement!

Replacing Jan Irwin is Joel Ickes, joining Servants Center in November as our Court Liaison and Advocate. Previously Joel ministered to and advocated for New York City's most vulnerable populations as a community pastor



and part-time legal assistant. His interests are in homeless ministry, landlord-tenant law and prison reform. We are excited to welcome Joel!



We are seeing an increase in the number of elderly (65+) homeless individuals. We were able to get this elderly Veteran off the streets.