

# The Homeless Outreach Newsletter



April 2000

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Letter from the Director
- 1 Upcoming Events
- 2 Facts on Homelessness in Our Nation
- 2 Poem
- 3 Request for Action from CCNV Shelter
- 4 Action Letter
- 5 Report on the Valentine's Party & Easter Celebration! (with Photos)

### Board of Directors

Ladd Hakes  
Carol Leo  
Bertha Fenwick  
Charles Fenwick

The Homeless Outreach, Inc.  
4114 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Temple Hills, MD 20744

### Letter from the Director

Carol Leo

Praise the Lord! This ministry is one that has been on my heart for many, many years. It has been a blessing to serve as the "Children's Activities Coordinator" for the past 10 years, under Linda Shuey and then Otis Moton. Now, as Director, I have another opportunity to minister to the poor and the needy whom the Lord has called us to reach.

*For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.  
Psalm 12:5*

Jesus has such a love for those who, through circumstances, are oppressed by poverty. To go forth and bring them the Gospel is a privilege and to be able to give tangible forms of love through the gifts of food, clothes and other necessary items is a double blessing!

I truly believe that the hope that is instilled through the outreach events that we hold is a stepping stone and building block to freedom in the lives of those we minister to.

All of you who have been so faithful over the years are such an integral part of this process. To God be the glory and I can't thank you enough. In future issues of this newsletter, I hope to have testimonies from some of those who have been homeless and who have been touched or helped in some way by this ministry.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and been part of this ministry of love over the years. Thank you for your continuing support. May the Lord bless you! †

## Upcoming Events

### • Mother's Day Outreach

**Saturday, May 20, Angel's Watch Shelter**

**Tuesday, May 23, CCNV Shelter**

### Collecting hygiene items



### • Summer Cook-Out

**Sunday, June 25, Cosca Park for Spring Rd., Community of Hope I & II, Shepherd's Cove, Angel's Watch**

### Collecting monetary contributions for food, bus rental



### • Back To School Party

**Saturday, Aug. 19, National Church of God, Sunday, Aug. 20, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, D.C. Spring Rd., Park Rd., Community of Hope I & II, Shepherd's Cove, Angel's Watch**

**We are collecting School Supplies: pens, pencils, paper, notebooks, binders, rulers, book bags**

**Call Carol Leo (301) 423-6466, (301) 567-9500, ex. 150 or Sharlene Henley (301) 753-6445, (301) 567-9500 to donate or participate!**



## FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

The following statistics came from the website of the *National Law Center On Homelessness And Poverty*:  
<http://www.nlchp.org/nimrel.htm>.

- **The Nature of Homelessness**
- According to 1995 Census Bureau statistics, 36.4 million people are at or below the poverty line. One in 10 of these become homeless.
- The homeless population is diverse:
  - 25-40% work
  - 37% are families with children
  - 25% are children
  - 25-30% are mentally disabled
  - 30% are veterans
  - 40% are drug or alcohol dependent
  - 15% are both mentally disabled and substance abusers
- The homeless population is quite diverse in terms of their length of homelessness and the number of times they cycle in and out of homelessness.
  - Research indicates that 40% of homeless people have been homeless less than six months and 70% were homeless less than two years.
- Currently, it appears that 12 million adult residents of the United States have been literally homeless at some point in their lives
- Homeless people are twice as likely as the general population to have chronic health problems, but are less likely to have access to adequate health care.
- For the more than 750,000 children who are homeless annually, inability to obtain school records and lack of transportation are primary barriers to public education. Almost 23% of school-aged homeless children are regularly shut out from school.
- A 10-year study from 1988 to 1997 indicates that homelessness has experienced a dramatic increase in the U.S. over the past two decades.
  - On any given night there are 750,000 homeless people and only 250,000 spaces available in shelters.
  - For those who do not obtain shelter, the most common places to stay are automobiles (59%) and makeshift housing, such as tents, boxes, caves or boxcars (25%)
- **Causes of homelessness:**
  - In 100% of the U.S. cities surveyed, supply of affordable housing is insufficient to meet the need. In 76% of cities there is a shortage of emergency shelter beds and transitional housing slots to accommodate homeless residents.
  - Of those surveyed, in 41% of the transitional housing programs that were planned, the existing community attempted to obstruct or block the project.
  - Fewer than 30% of those eligible for low-income housing receive it.
  - Lagging Incomes: Incomes for the poorest Americans have not kept pace with rising housing costs. Millions of workers are shut out of the private housing market.
  - Slashed services and Government Assistance: As earned income for the poor decreased, assistance programs were severely cut. Fewer than 14% of disabled homeless people receive disability benefits.

For more information you may contact Maria Foscarinis or April Logan of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty at 202 638-2535.

## God's Unchanging Grace

I stopped along the wayside  
Where wounded souls were bleeding –  
I came to share the Lord's Light  
That they might come to see Him!  
Shipwrecked souls in pain,  
Forgotten and forlorn,  
Jesus came to claim –  
For this the Lord was born!  
One by one, I told them  
Of the God who truly cares,  
Who longs to save and pardon –  
Who hears each fervent prayer!  
And by His love, they did receive –  
God's glory filled that place!  
His mercy brought them to believe  
Through God's unchanging grace!

**Glory to God!**

Poem by *Marianne Benson*, Feb., 2000

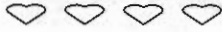
## THE STREET LAWYER

*A Novel by John Grisham*

An award was recently given to author, John Grisham for his powerful true-to-life novel called *The Street Lawyer*. This popular author received the Stewart B. McKinney Award for his outstanding work. John Grisham was honored by the Law Center for "increasing public understanding of some hard facts: more people than ever before are homeless with the number at over 2,000,000."

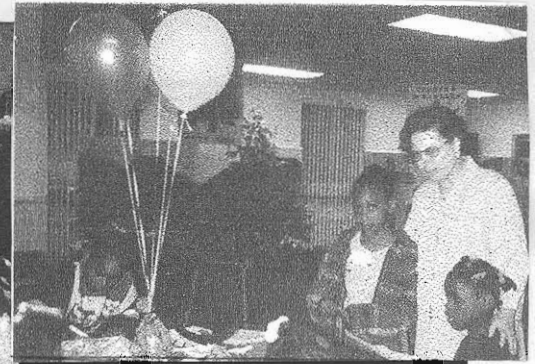
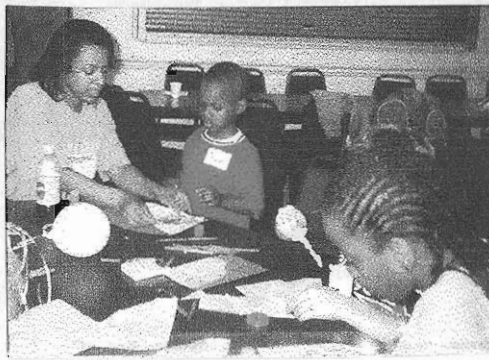
**DIRECTOR'S NOTE:** I don't have time to read many novels, but I did read this one and would highly recommend it to anyone. This book is a "page-turner." It is fast action, while at the same time presenting a poignant and insightful look into the lives of typical homeless people in the city of Washington, D.C. - *Carol Leo*

## VALENTINE'S PARTY



On Tuesday evening, February 15, the Homeless Outreach teamed up with Crusade of Mercy from the National Church of God to minister in the sweet spirit of love at 2<sup>nd</sup> & D Street, N.W. in the CCNV Shelter. Twenty children and 60 women participated in a wonderful time of sharing and fellowship. The Gospel presentation was given by the Master's Commission, under the direction of Pastor Bill Simmons. This dedicated group of young people have spent this past year living, working and ministering together. The team, led by Angie Guinta presented 2 skits to the audience that truly brought a warm response from the adults and children and resulted in a large altar call. Marianne Benson and Pete Hyde also ministered in song and message. Four of the residents came forward and began singing Gospel hymns karaoke-style. Teams of workers went around and had prayer with the shelter residents following the ministry presentations. A delicious warm meal was served and treat bags and bags of hygiene articles provided by Judy Cato and the residents of Council House in Marlow Heights were given to each person.

We give God all the glory for what He did in this meeting. ♥



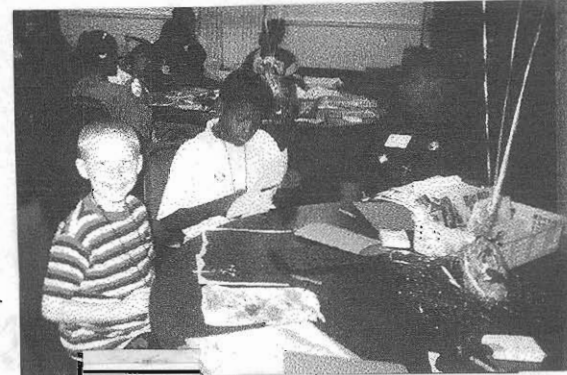
## THE EASTER CELEBRATION

"Oohs" and "ahs" and exclamations of excitement filled the air as the children and mothers from the shelters stepped into the specially-decorated room at Evangel Assembly of God Church in Camp Springs, MD. Everywhere were shimmering balloons, streamers, lights, decorations and props that contributed to the fantastic Easter Celebration that was about to take place. Approximately 80 children and mothers from 3 area shelters, (Park Rd., NW Wash., D.C.; Community of Hope II, S.E. Wash., D.C.; Shepherd's Cove, Seat Pleasant, MD) attended the event on Sunday, April 16. The excitement lasted all evening as the families participated in Easter egg dying, fun and laughter and prizes with Hillbilly Harriette (Diana McConatay) and Daisy Mae, (Rachel Hamelman), beautiful praise and worship music with Marianne Benson and Pete Hyde and then a delicious full-course spaghetti dinner. The dinner was expertly prepared and served by Deborah Nelson and her efficient team and the guests were able to have seconds and even thirds of this sumptuous feast. Pies and cakes, courtesy of Safeway provided at least one piece of cake for everyone after the meal, as well as one whole pie per family for each of the 24 families to take back to the shelters.

As the time came to dismiss the mothers into the Evangel Assembly's main sanctuary to see the beautiful Easter drama, babies were taken to the nursery and children and teens stayed behind with Hillbilly Harriette. While the mothers were being ministered to in the main sanctuary, the children were being led through a dynamic series of Bible activities in Hillbilly Haven. As they progressed through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, using the brightly colored props and banners around the room, their understanding of Jesus and Biblical truth grew, culminating in a giant altar call at the end of the service. Diana McConatay, (Hillbilly Harriette) described it this way: "I now know what the Bible

means when it says the crowds thronged Jesus." The press of children at the end of the performance wanting to get saved was so great that nothing could restrain them from storming the front of the room where Diana stood. Forty-one children came to the Lord. We truly give God all the glory for what He has done and will continue to do in these lives. In the main sanctuary many of the mothers had also responded to the altar call and had gone forward to receive Christ.

As the time came to go home, bags of socks, underwear, hygiene items, beanie babies, baseball cards, crocheted Easter baskets full of candy and other goodies were handed to each family.



**Special thanks** to all of the many, many workers and donors from National Church of God, Believer's Victory Christian Center, Corkran Methodist Church and Evangel Assembly of God Church for the many hours of labor, the many donations and the love that went into making this Easter event a big success. *Please continue to pray for these families from the shelters.* †



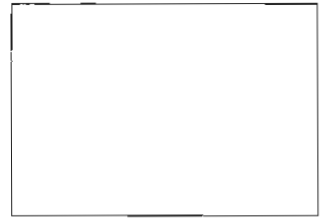


April 2000

**The Homeless Outreach, Inc.**

4114 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Temple Hills, MD 20748



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



## Check Inside for:

- **Upcoming Events**
- **Homelessness Update, Washington, D.C.**
- **Action Letter**
- **Photos & Good Reports**

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? or naked and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matt. 25:35-40

