

THE HOMELESS OUTREACH, INC.



I know that the Lord will maintain
the cause of the afflicted, and the
right of the poor. Psalm 140:12

NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 Issue 2

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Letter From the Director

Carol Leo

One theme that comes through in God's holy word from Genesis to Revelation is that of His care for the poor and needy.

Psalm 12:5: 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.

Job 36:15: He delivereth the **poor** in his affliction, and openeth their ears in **oppression**

Isaiah 29:19: The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the **poor** among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the **poor** of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

In spite of the persistence of the prosperity doctrine in today's church, and the equating of material wealth with God's favor, it is noticeable that in His word many more blessings are spoken over the

poor than the rich.

There are a few verses that indicate that God desires his servants to prosper, but these are far outweighed by the verses that contain words of warning to those who are the "haves" on this earth.

Ezekiel 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, **neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.**

The famous overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah was, in part, judgment for mistreatment of the poor.

Luke 12:48 ... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The Lord says that we are to be imitators of Him, so when He entrusts us with wealth, He expects us to include provision for the poor in our planning.

Leviticus 23:22: And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the **poor**, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

In fact, the Lord considers our attitude toward the "least of these" so important that it is listed as a chief indicator of whether a person is truly saved or not.

Matthew 25:40: 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.

25:41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

25:42: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

May the Lord continue to lead us! God bless all who have given so faithfully to this ministry.

April 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS 2006

- May 12** Mother's Day, Shepherd's Cove Shelter
- June 25** Annual Cook-Out, Cosca Park for the families from: D.C. Village, Shepherd's Cove, Spring Road, Community of Hope, Families Forward
COLLECTING: Toothbrushes, New T-Shirts
- Aug. 18-20** Back-to-School, D.C. Village, Shepherd's Cove, Spring Road, Community of Hope, Families Forward
COLLECTING: paper, pens, pencils, rulers, binders, crayons, glue scissors, backpacks, school supplies

THO (The Homeless Outreach) Grant

The Homeless Outreach, Inc., in conjunction with Community of Hope Shelter has formed a new program. We have committed to helping several families a year with rental costs for their first six months of independence once they have left the shelter environment. Most churches in the Washington, D.C. area experience constant requests for rental assistance, in order to stave off eviction. This program is an attempt to prevent this worst case scenario of eviction. It is for families attempting to live responsible lives and support themselves in modest housing. The candidates to receive our grant money are those which the shelter recommends as individuals who are following instructions and making every effort to improve their situations and properly take care of their children. We give God praise for enabling us to reach out and lend support in this way. We are currently supporting 2 families with rental assistance. Here is a summary of the situation for the first family that we supported, now on their own.

Mr. and Ms. XXX moved out of Community of Hope in the summer of 2005 with their children to their own house. On recent contact with the family, Ms. XXX stated that the family is doing very well. Both parents are working and the children are fine. They are very appreciative of the \$200.00 monthly rent payments over the past six months that helped make the transition to their own place a little smoother. With this assistance the family was able to save a little more and take care of a few other financial obligations. This service was very helpful and will be of benefit to others who live at the shelter.

Here is a description of the most recent family that we are assisting. It is a couple with three children, aged 4, 2 and 11 months. Mr. YYY works in a hotel and has done so since he came to the shelter. He has been very responsible getting up at 4:00 am to go to work every day. He has overcome a tremendous amount in his life.

Thank you, all who donate to this ministry to make this kind of support possible.

OUTREACH AT SHEPHERD'S COVE

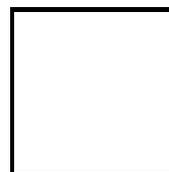
February 10: The Friday night before Valentine's Day, the women and children at Shepherd's Cove gathered in the cafeteria for a session of foam-piece arts & crafts, & snacks, led by Carol Leo and singing & prayer led by Marianne Benson & Pete Hyde. Valentine gifts of hygiene articles and warm woolen blankets were distributed to all families. A selection of winter coats, sweaters, hats & gloves, were also available for the taking. Many were thrilled with their new acquisitions of warm, winter clothing. The presence of God was so sweet, it showed on every face. One woman who came in with a sad, sad face brightened up as the evening went on. She had just arrived at the shelter that evening and she said, "I was sitting in my room so depressed, I wasn't even going to come down, but something told me to get up and go, and I'm so glad I did!"

March 10: We once again met with the women and children as one group in the cafeteria. Our session opened with a Jonah & the Whale Paper Bag Puppet Show for all, in which the children participated as puppeteers. This was followed by a paper-bag puppet craft session & lesson on obedience for the children and a life-skills workshop on "Over coming Fear" led by Minister Jeanette Gordon for the women. All 26 women became intensely involved in the lesson and each one prayed aloud in the prayer circle at the end. Pastor Haynesworth also came by and presented a lesson on the three-in-one God with St. Patrick's Day Shamrocks as illustrations. Snacks of donuts, Rice Krispie Treats and juice were distributed by waiters in the form of enthusiastic children. The women received gifts of hygiene articles.

BLANKET DISTRIBUTIION

The **N.E.T. Team from the National Church of God** teamed up with The Homeless Outreach on a cold night in February and traversed the city in search of homeless men & women. We found several dozen people at various locations, camped out in parks, doorways, and grates. They were very receptive and thankful for the warm, woolen blankets, hot tea, knit hats & "one-size-fits-all" women's gloves. The gloves were eagerly grabbed and stretched to fit even the large hands of the men. They were thankful for the physical warmth, but they also welcomed the spiritual warmth of God's love that was offered to them in the form of the Word of God and prayer. At least four souls prayed to receive Christ as Savior. To God be the Glory! **Thanks to Vision D.C.** for the donation of several hundred blankets, some of which are still in storage for next winter's distribution.

The Homeless Outreach, Inc.
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If you want to donate or participate by:

- Singing
- Puppets
- Skits
- Preaching
- Cooking
- Providing:
 - Food,
 - Hygiene Articles
 - New Underwear, Socks
 - New Hats, Gloves
 - New Toys

or helping in any other way

Contact: Carol Leo, 301 423-6466 or
Bertha Fenwick, 301 292-2658
Thanks and God Bless you!

America's Charities

If your place of business participates in "America's Charities", The Homeless Outreach, Inc. is eligible as a write-in recipient.

Thanks to 2 donors who contribute through this channel!



**THE HOMELESS OUTREACH
Has teamed up with
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA**

Call Carol Leo, 301 423-6466 or Volunteers of America,
1-800-407-2600 to make tax deductible donation of your
used car.

(Make sure to tell them it is for The Homeless Outreach, Inc.)

