

HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

Homeless people die from illnesses that affect everyone,
frequently without health care.

Homeless people die from exposure,
unprotected from the heat and cold.

Homeless people die from violence,
often in unprovoked hate crimes.

Health care is a human right.

Housing is a human right.

Physical safety is a human right.

Remember our neighbors
and friends who have died
without homes.

Remember why they died.



DECEMBER 21

The First Day of Winter. The Longest Night of the Year.

2010 Organizing Manual

Organizing Manual

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day December 21, 2010

Homeless people will die in your community this year.
Plan to memorialize them on December 21,
the first day of winter,
the longest night of the year.

In 2009, **152** communities participated in the 20th Annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; surpassing last years' number of communities by more than 20. As we enter the new decade, let's make 2010 a year of more awareness by organizing even more memorial services for the homeless throughout the nation.



**The National Coalition
for the Homeless**
2201 P St NW
www.nationalhomeless.org
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202.462.4822
Fax: 202.462.4823
info@nationalhomeless.org



**National Health Care for
the Homeless Council**
PO Box 60427
Nashville, TN 37206
www.nhchc.org
Phone: (615) 226-2292
Fax: (615) 226-1656
council@nhchc.org



**National Consumer
Advisory Board**

**National Consumer
Advisory Board**
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Cleveland, OH Homeless Memorial, Dec. 21, 2009

Pictured: Mayor Frank Jackson amongst others.

Photo Courtesy of City of Cleveland

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

An Overview

Each year since 1990, on or near the first day of winter, which is the longest night of the year, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness. Beginning in 2005, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the National Consumer Advisory Board joined NCH as co-sponsors of this meaningful event.

In an effort to maximize the impact of the day, we encourage local and statewide organizations to hold memorials for those who have died homeless in their communities. **In 2009, more than 152 cities and counties conducted Memorial Day events on or around December 21 to honor the more than 2600 people who died homeless last year.**

What You Can Do

1. Determine how many homeless persons have died during the previous year in your community. There is no official tracking of homeless deaths in most communities, so *start now* to collect the names of those who die. Work with people who are homeless, service providers, and public officials to compile as complete a list as possible.
2. Organize an event to commemorate this day and raise awareness about homelessness and its severity.

This Manual

This manual should serve as a resource to assist you in your efforts. If you have any questions, contact:

Michael Stoops, NCH, at (202) 462-4822 x19 or mstoops@nationalhomeless.org and/or John Lozier, NHCHC, at (615) 226-2292 x24 or jlozier@nhchc.org



Wilkes-Barre, PA Homeless Memorial Dec. 21, 2009

Photo Courtesy of Pete Wilcox, The Times Leader

Organizing an Event to Commemorate National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Your Event

Invite other organizations to participate in planning the event. Local and State Coalitions for the homeless, Health Care for the Homeless projects, shelters, housing programs, service providers and outreach programs may all wish to participate.

Decide what type of event you will sponsor. Past events have included:

- Candlelight marches
- Silent marches
- Vigils
- Graveside services
- Plays and performances
- Special religious services
- Public policy advocacy

A few of the 2009 Memorial Day events are described briefly below. Please keep in mind that these are local events tailored to diverse communities. Local organizers are encouraged to think creatively about ways to honor the memory of those who have died in their own community, as together we work for a future devoid of homelessness.



Bangor, ME candlelight vigil, Dec. 21, 2009
Kevin Bennett, Bangor Daily News

Work with your local health department and/or health care clinic/program to identify the number of people who have died in your community without an address. Try also to obtain people's names and ages.

A name-reading ceremony is a powerful component of **Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** events. A list of names read in 2007, in cities throughout the country, is available at <http://www.nhchc.org/memorialday.html>.

Please contact Michael Stoops at NCH at (202) 462-4822x234, mstoops@nationalhomeless.org and/or John Lozier at NHCHC at (615) 226-2292x24, jlozier@nhchc.org with the following information:

- What type of event you are planning
- The number of homeless people who have died in your community

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Working with the Media

Media coverage of homelessness usually reaches its peak just as winter begins and during the holidays. **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** offers a great opportunity to work with the media during this time in order to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness. Media coverage is a great tool to emphasize governmental policies, or lack thereof, which can be a part of the problem for those people experiencing homelessness. As governmental policies can also be part of the solution for homelessness, make sure to give credit where credit is due.

Your group should:

Issue a press release (see enclosed samples) announcing your event, giving information on the details and the needs in your community.

Write a letter-to-the-editor of your local newspaper drawing attention to your event and to the issue of homelessness in general.

Invite local media to your event if you feel comfortable doing so.

Working with your Local Government

In order to attract more attention to this year's **Memorial Day**, work with your local town or city council, the Mayor, the State Legislature, or the Governor. Encourage them to pass a proclamation/resolution that recognizes December 21 as **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** and describes homelessness as a continuing and serious issue that must be resolved (see sample proclamations below).

For Additional Homeless Memorial Day Resources:

Please visit <http://www.nhchc.org/memorialday.html> to see resources and useful links from **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**.



Boulder, CO Homeless Memorial, Dec. 21, 2009
Photo Courtesy of The Longmont Times-Call

2009 Memorial Day Event Locations

In 2009, over 150 different communities across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico held National Homeless Memorial Day events.

Alaska— Bethel, Juneau

Arizona – Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tempe, Tucson

California – Glendale, Modesto, Redding, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Ventura

Colorado – Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver

Connecticut – Fairfield Green, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, New London, Norwich

District of Columbia – Washington

Florida – Bradenton, Brevard County, Charlotte County, Clearwater/Clearwater Area, Fort Myers, Hallandale Beach, Hillsborough County, Hollywood, Jacksonville, Key West, Largo, Lauderhill, Marathon, Milton, Naples, Orlando, Pensacola, Pinellas Park Area, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee, Tarpon Springs Area, Tavernier

Georgia – Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah

Hawaii – Honolulu

Idaho – Coeur d'Alene

Illinois – Chicago

Indiana – Evansville, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Kokomo



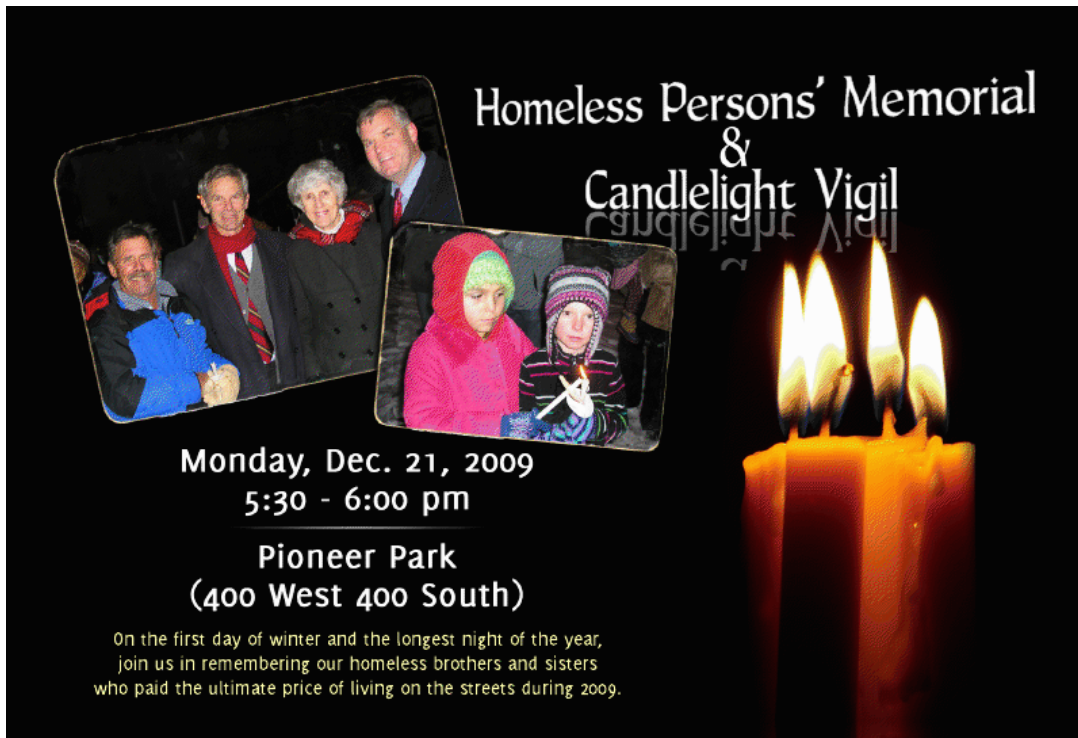
Salt Lake City, UT Homeless Memorial and Candlelight Vigil, Dec. 21, 2009

Photo Courtesy of Joseph Dane, Fourth Street Clinic

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Iowa—Council Bluffs (6 shelters in Douglas County in Nebraska and Pottowattamie County in Iowa), Davenport, Des Moines
Kansas – Wichita
Kentucky –Louisville
Louisiana – New Orleans, Shreveport
Maine – Auburn, Bangor, Brunswick, Portland
Maryland – Baltimore, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Harford County
Massachusetts – Boston, Hyannis (Cape Cod), Springfield
Michigan – Detroit
Minnesota – Minneapolis
Mississippi – Jackson
Missouri – St. Joseph, St. Louis
Montana – Billings, Helena
Nebraska – Omaha (6 shelters in Douglas County in Nebraska and Pottowattamie County in Iowa)
Nevada –Las Vegas, Reno
New Hampshire – Concord, Keene, Laconia, Lebanon, Manchester, Nashua
New Jersey – Atlantic County, Bergen County, Hudson County, Mercer County, Middlesex County, Ocean County, Passaic County
New Mexico – Albuquerque, Las Cruces
New York – Buffalo, Chautauqua County, New York City, Rochester
North Carolina – Asheville, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro
North Dakota—Bismarck
Ohio – Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo
Oregon—Albany, The Dalles
Pennsylvania –Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre (Luzerne County)
Rhode Island – Providence
South Carolina – Charleston, Myrtle Beach
Tennessee – Chattanooga, Jackson, Knoxville, Nashville
Texas – Austin, Bryan, Caldwell, Houston/Harris County, Lubbock, San Antonio
Utah – Salt Lake City
Vermont –Burlington
Virginia – Charlottesville, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach
Washington – Kitsap County, Spokane, Yakima
Wisconsin – Kenosha, LaCrosse, Madison
Wyoming – Cheyenne
Puerto Rico
Canada: Alberta—Edmonton
British Columbia—Victoria
Ontario—Toronto

Sample Flyers and Agendas



The flyer features a black background with a large, lit candle on the right side. On the left, there are two photographs: one showing a group of four people in winter attire, and another showing two children in winter clothing. The text is white and centered.

Homeless Persons' Memorial & Candlelight Vigil

Monday, Dec. 21, 2009
5:30 - 6:00 pm

Pioneer Park
(400 West 400 South)

On the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, join us in remembering our homeless brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price of living on the streets during 2009.

Speakers include the Governor's Office, Mayor Corroon, Mayor Becker and homeless advocate Pamela Atkinson.

**Hot chocolate, coffee and candles provided.
No RSVP required.**



Sponsored by the Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council, advocating for homeless persons by coordinating services, sharing information and increasing public awareness.

Thank You to the following partner agencies:



**For more information visit
www.fourthstreetclinic.org**

**Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Inc.
dba Fourth Street Clinic
404 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101**

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit 3280**

Join us for a candlelight vigil to honor and remember those who died, while homeless, in our community, & around the world

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Carter-Howell-Strong Park
Corner of Georgia & Copeland

Monday, December 21st
5:00pm – 6:00pm

Services facilitated by
Tallahassee Homeless Speakers Bureau

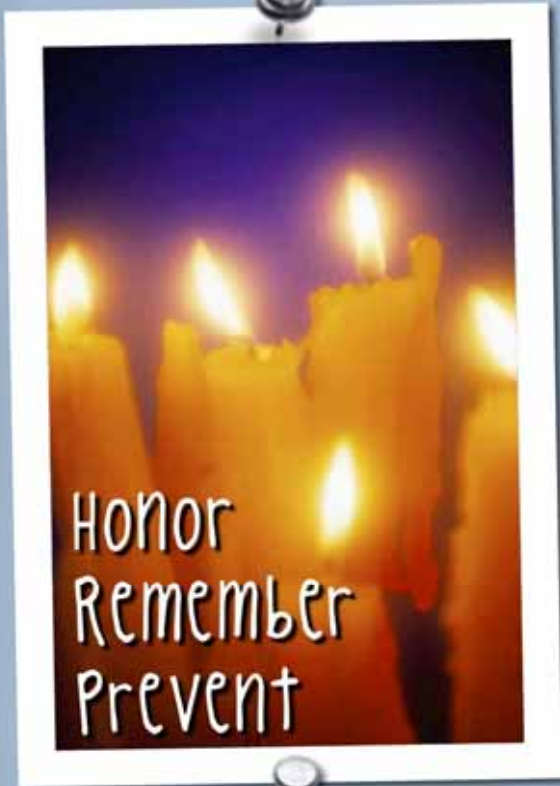
A light dinner and refreshments will be served

Each year since 1990, on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

For more information contact Bret Oglesby at
The Big Bend Homeless Coalition: (850) 205-6018 or
boglesby@bigbendhc.org

1st Annual Iowa Homeless Persons' Memorial

December 21 ★ The First Day of Winter ★ The Longest Night of the Year



A Candlelight Vigil
to remember those who have
died homeless

December 21, 2009
5:30 - 6:00PM
West Capitol Terrace
at the State Capitol

organized by: 
Joppa
JoppaOutreach.org
(515) 288-5699

Help Ease Homelessness
Bring candles, batteries, gloves, tents,
sleeping bags & 20-lb propane tanks

We gather to remember:

Individuals who died on the street or emergency shelter:

- Samuel Akonter . Juan Baltazar . David Patrick Bleda . Derride Bowman .
- George Allen Britney . Tracy D. Cabaloca . Kim Callahan William R. Cleveland .
- Gregory A. Cole . Jeff Coung . David Crema . Norman Cushing .
- Richard A. Delosangeles . John Doe . Jane Doe Richard Dutra . Larry Ray Farley .
- Tammy Fournier . Bernardo Gonzales . Carlos Gonzales . James . Patrick Grover .
- Cynthia Handrickson . JimmieHuddins . Erica Dawn Hyde . Daniel Van Kefalas .
- Robert Labes . Chung San Lee . Oswaldo Javier Lopez . Patricia Lopez .
- Luis Lorenzo Christopher Melswinkel . David Miranda . Lois Moore .
- Maryann Theresa Morgan . Gilbert T. Munoz . Phung Kim Ngo . Hai Nguyen .
- Michelle Nunez . Nathan Ooka . Robert Ostrodie . Charles Lane Pitt .
- Panfilio Prado . Gary E. Reynolds . Scott Riddell . Arthur W. Roy .
- Romano Peter Salinas . Fahmi Abdullah Sarahi . Walker Ford Schneider .
- Elijio Rodriguez Silva . James Slinger . Sharon Souza . Robert D. Star .
- Kenneth Stewart . Timothy Aaron Stovall . Todd Strebe . Ronald Irwin Studer .
- Michael Raymond Taylor . David Robert Thomas . David A. Tomlinson .
- Ba Van Trang . Antonio Valdez . Terry Valadao . Bulmaro Valdez . J .
- Felix Villalba, Jr. Maria Warner . Thomas White .

Individuals who died in transitional or permanent housing for the formerly homeless:

- Joe Bartfield . Dorothy Burrow . Chris Chase . Cornell Conley . Oscar Franco .
- Henry Houghton . May Jimenez . Ron Kerr . Beverly Hecht . Van Nguyen . John Sanchez . Richard Stasi . Brad Sullivan . Star Thiebaud
- William Vaughn . Ruby White .

Reflections

Program

Welcome
Jennifer Loving, EHC Lifebuilders

Vision
Mayor Chuck Reed, City of San Jose

Community
Jim McIntee Lifebuilder Award

Honoree:
Pete Kutras, County Executive (ret.), Santa Clara County
Presented by:
Superior Don Gage, Santa Clara County

Reflection and Prayer
Pastor Cal Cook, Golden Altar Ministries

Honoring the Deceased

Reading of the Names:
Chris Block, Charities Housing Development
Candace Capogrossi, Housing Authority

Lorena Collins, In/visión
Trish Crowder, Families Supportive Housing
Emily Hartson, Office of the County Executive, Santa Clara County
Leslie Krutko, Department of Housing, City of San Jose
Cindy Lemus, Coroner's Office, Santa Clara County
Michael Lipman, Valley Homeless Healthcare Program

"Angel"
Performed by Diana Guzman
Written by Sarah McLachlan

Closing Remarks
Jennifer Loving, EHC Lifebuilders

Please join us for a simple lunch following the program.

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Sample Press Releases



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2009

Media Contact: Erin Porterfield, Executive Director, MACCH

Tel. 402-561-7597

E-mail: eporterfield@unomaha.edu

HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO HOLD MEMORIAL FOR 39 PEOPLE *Homeless Memorial Day is December 21, 2009*

Omaha, Neb., December 14, 2009 – Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), the region's largest network of homeless service providers, announced today it will memorialize 36 people who died while homeless or recently housed over the past year. Also honored will be three people who worked to end poverty and homelessness that passed away in 2009. The memorial observation has been a tradition among providers and the metro community at large.

MACCH has organized memorial services to honor those who died next Monday, December 21st at the following times and locations:

- 4:30 p.m., Stephen Center—2723 Q Street, Omaha, Neb. (402-731-0238)
- 4:45 p.m., Siena Francis House—Baright Building, 1111 N 17 St, Omaha, Neb. (402-341-1821)
- 5:00 p.m., MOHM's Place, 1435 N 15 St., Council Bluffs, Iowa (712-323-4416)
- 5:30 p.m., inCommon Community Development, 1258 S 13 St, Omaha, Neb. (402-933-6672)
- 5:30 p.m., MICAH House, 1415 Avenue J, Council Bluffs, Iowa (712-322-7570)
- 7:30 p.m., Open Door Mission—Garland Thompson Men's Center, 2706 N 21 St. East, Omaha, Neb. (402-422-1111)

“It is important for us to remember the humanity of those we serve by reflecting on their lives,” said Erin Porterfield, Executive Director of MACCH. “In looking at this year's deaths, it is tragic to note the ages range from two years to 73 years. Diverse circumstances surrounded the homelessness of these neighbors, family members and friends. We must continue to share the responsibility to end the preventable tragedy of homelessness.”

The events underscore the urgent crisis faced by over 5,000 men, women and children who experience an episode of homelessness in Omaha and Council Bluffs each year. The memorial events honoring those passed away are

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

held in conjunction with National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day traditionally held on December 21st—the longest and coldest day of the year.

About MACCH

The mission of MACCH is to lead a collaborative network to prevent and eliminate homelessness. Located in Omaha, Nebraska, the organization collaborates with service providers committed to providing exits out of homelessness for individuals and families in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties. MACCH is a continuum of providers, advocates, funders, government agencies and elected officials interested in issues related to homelessness, and accomplish these goals through convening organizations and individuals toward greater solutions. For more information on MACCH, visit www.macchomeless.org.

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NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Dec. 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: ALL LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS EDITORS

Subject: Vigil To Remember Those Who Died Homeless in 2009

Contacts: Annette Rodriguez / (509) 949-9122
Pat Brown / 509-860-2505

YAKIMA – The longest night of the year – officially, the first day of winter – will begin with a candlelight vigil in downtown Yakima.

The Fifth Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Vigil will begin on Mon., Dec. 21, at 5:00pm in Millennium Plaza, 20 South Third St. The event will remember 17 people who died without homes this year in Yakima County. Their numbers include eight women and nine men. Their average age was 47.

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is co-sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. Yakima is one of more than 100 cities nationwide to observe the memorial. The Yakima vigil is sponsored by the Homeless Network of Yakima County . Support for the event is provided by the Olive Garden, Starbucks on 40th Ave., and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services.

The local program will include vocal music by Rev. Juliet Hemphill, Bethel AME Church, along with a litany written for the occasion by David Hacker, Housing First Coordinator for Yakima County. Yakima City Council member Maureen Adkison will read the city's proclamation. Pastor Dave Roberts, First Baptist Church of Yakima, will offer the invocation; and Rhonda Hauff, immediate past chair of the Network, will open the program with a welcome to community members and advocates as well as family members in attendance.

"In years past, we have found that this event not only helps us in the Network o re-focus our efforts to end homelessness, it also serves as a memorial service for family members and friends of those who have passed away without homes," Hauff said. "We have witnessed some very touching farewells that might never have found a voice without this vigil."

The community is invited to attend the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Candlelight Vigil.

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-Press Release-

Southwest Community Health Center and Operation Hope honoring deceased Homeless.

On Monday, December 21, 2009, in recognition of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, the Southwest Community Health Center, Inc, McKinney Care for the Homeless program in conjunction with Operation Hope present *a community memorial service*. This memorial service is in memory of area homeless citizens who died in 2009. This memorial service is conducted in communities across the country on the first day of winter to recognize the need to continually fight to eliminate homelessness in this country.

The service will take place at the Town of Fairfield Green located at 638 Old Post Road, Fairfield. Speakers for the service will include: Katherine S. Yacavone, President/ CEO of Southwest Community Health Center, Kenneth Flatto, First Selectman, Town of Fairfield, Carla Miklos, Executive Director, Operation Hope, John McKinney, State Senator, State of Connecticut and Sandra Jenkins from Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell's office. The memorial service will begin at 12noon. This year is the first time that local efforts bring the event will be outside the city of Bridgeport. In recognition of the long-standing relationship between Southwest Community Health Center's McKinney Homeless Health Care Program and Operation Hope, the 2009 Memorial Day is being held in the Town of Fairfield. During the ceremony, the names of deceased homeless persons will be read and a flower will be placed in the commemorative wreath. Music will be provided by DJ and the Roger Ludlowe Middle School Chamber Choir.

Operation Hope has been recognized, along with the Fairfield community, for their commitment to meet the needs of local people facing hunger and homelessness. From Operation Hope's beginnings nearly 25 years ago as a temporary shelter for homeless men, to its current menu of services including shelter for men, women, and families, a food pantry, a community kitchen, and safe, affordable, supportive housing combined with clinical support services, the community has been a critical partner.

Southwest Community Health Center has a 33 year history of providing accessible medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the residents of Greater Bridgeport, delivering over 82,500 client visits in 2009. Southwest operates eight homeless shelter medical clinics, including one at Operation Hope. Their partnership has helped hundreds of men over the years and they share the mutual goal to end homelessness for all. Southwest provides comprehensive health care services to the insured and uninsured individuals and families in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The goal of the McKinney Health Care for the Homeless program is to provide a full range of services to medically underserved homeless persons and families in the greater Bridgeport area.

If you have any questions regarding this event please call Rick DeNisco or Betsy Baldwin at **203-330-6010**.

Sample State Proclamations



State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL DAY
DECEMBER 21, 2009

WHEREAS, the winter poses real hardship for inadequately housed, low-income men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the holiday season of giving provides an opportunity for affirmation and renewal regarding the commitment to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, December 21 – the longest night of the year – has been designated National Homeless Persons Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and is so recognized by cities and states across the country; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, North Dakota citizens are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we keep the cause of ending homelessness a priority and commit to doing our part to help our fellow citizens in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim December 21, 2009, **NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL DAY** in the state of North Dakota.


John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

600 E Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001
Phone: 701.328.2200
Fax: 701.328.2205
www.nd.gov

The State of New Hampshire

*State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor*

A Proclamation

**HOMELESS MEMORIAL DAY
DECEMBER 21, 2009**

WHEREAS, Adequate housing is essential for healthy families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Difficult economic times and a shortage of both rental and single-family housing stock make housing inaccessible to increasing numbers of New Hampshire residents, many of whom are working full-time; and

WHEREAS, Last year more than 5,209 people received shelter in a state-funded emergency shelter and more than 17 percent of those people were children; and

WHEREAS, On a cold winter night in January 2009, 1,461 people were in shelters, and last year the average length of stay in an emergency shelter was 50.5 nights; and

WHEREAS, Untold numbers of homeless families are living with relatives or friends; and

WHEREAS, December 21, 2009 is the 19th annual National Homeless Memorial Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **DECEMBER 21, 2009** as **HOMELESS MEMORIAL DAY** in New Hampshire, and urge all citizens to work together so that all of us have at least basic shelter.



Given at the Executive Chamber in Concord this 3rd day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and nine, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-four.


John H. Lynch

Sample City/County Resolutions

The City of Des Moines
Resolution

Des Moines City Council Resolution Designating December 21st as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

WHEREAS, the winter poses extreme hardship for unsheltered and inadequately housed low-income men, women and children in Des Moines; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the holiday season of giving provides an opportunity for affirmation and renewal regarding the commitment to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and is so recognized by cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, citizens of Des Moines are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, in remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the city's/county's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, That we hereby declare December 21st as

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

in recognition of the people who have died homeless in and around Des Moines, and we hereby ask all citizens to take a moment of silence in remembrance and encourage our citizens to support all local efforts to eliminate homelessness in our community.

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

P R O C L A M A T I O N

HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

December 21, 2009

WHEREAS, every member of society, including individuals experiencing homelessness, deserves the dignity of safe, decent, accessible and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, winter poses extreme hardship for inadequately housed low-income men, women and children in Albany; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, citizens of Albany are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all people, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, in remembering those who have died without homes, the cause of ending homelessness remains urgent to prevent such deaths in the future; and

WHEREAS, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and is so recognized by cities nationwide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sharon Konopa, Mayor of the City of Albany, Oregon, do hereby proclaim December 21, 2009, as

HOMLESSESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

In the City of Albany in recognition of the people who have died on our streets, in our emergency shelters, and in condemned or abandoned properties, from ailments or conditions directly related to homelessness. I hereby ask all citizens to take a moment of silence in remembering those who have died homeless and encourage our citizens to support local efforts to eliminate homelessness here.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto placed
my hand and caused the seal of the City of
Albany to be affixed this 16th day of
December, 2009

Sharon Konopa, Mayor

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

_____ **City Council/County Commission Resolution**
Designating December 21, 2007 as
National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

WHEREAS, the winter poses extreme hardship for inadequately housed low-income men, women, and children in _____; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the holiday season of giving provides an opportunity for affirmation and renewal regarding the commitment to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, December 21st has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and is so recognized by cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, citizens of _____ are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, In remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the city's/county's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future, now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL/COUNTY COMMISSION OF _____,
That we hereby declare December 21, 2007 National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, in recognition of the people who have died on our streets, in our emergency shelters, and in condemned or abandoned properties, from ailments or conditions directly related to homelessness.

President of City Council/County
Commission

Introduced by: _____

Sponsored by Council Members: _____

Highlights of 2008 Memorial Day Events

ALASKA

JUNEAU—A candlelight vigil, attended by 20 people, was held at Marine Park for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. The event was sponsored by the Juneau Homeless Coalition. There were 400 homeless adults, young adults, and children living in Juneau in 2009.

ARIZONA

FLAGSTAFF—The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness held an event on Monday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. A memorial service took place, and then a candlelight walk was held to Heritage Square, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

PHOENIX—An event sponsored by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness was held in Phoenix on Monday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m. The event consisted of a candlelight vigil at Albright United Methodist Church.

TEMPE—The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness held a commemoration service on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Tempe United Methodist Church.

TUCSON—Over 100 people attended an interfaith remembrance service was held at the West end county plot in Evergreen Cemetery on Friday, December 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30pm. The event was sponsored by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. There were 128 deaths in Tucson. 45 of the people died without a name or family, 30 people with names and family, and 53 people with only names but no family. The Primavera Foundation, Inc. organized the event, and Trinity Presbyterian, Evergreen Cemetery and Mortuary, and Throop Florist were cited as “key sponsors” of the event in what appears to be a memorial program.

CALIFORNIA

GLENDALE—Dozens of people held candles outside of the National Guard Armory to honor 417 homeless people, 3 from the Glendale area. The event was held on Monday, December 21 at around 5 p.m. outside the Glendale National Guard Armory. The event, a candlelight vigil, and was organized by PATH Achieve Glendale, and this was the 3rd annual event.

MODESTO—An event was held at the Salvation Army Shelter on Monday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. Clothing donations for such things as rain ponchos, jackets, and hats were collected. Sponsors of the event included The Salvation Army, Corner of Hope: Golden Valley Health Center, The Empowerment Center, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

REDDING—50 people attended a memorial ceremony sponsored by the City of Redding & Shasta County, Homeless Continuum of Care. The event was held at the Good News

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Rescue Mission on December 21. There were 8 deaths in Redding in 2009. One such death was that of Timothy Lee Alcorn, who was beaten to death by teenagers at the age of 48.

SAN FRANCISCO—Network Ministries held a memorial event in Civic Center Plaza on December 21. The Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, had said that they would be doing something on December 21 in Civic Center Plaza as that is what occurs every year, and Jennifer Friedenbach, the Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, said that the central contact was Network Ministries.

SANTA BARBARA—A memorial service was held on July 13, 2009, which another also planned on being held. The Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association and many other people and organizations such as Casa Esperanza Homeless Center Community Kitchen and Bringing our Community Home helped make the event possible. As of July 13, 17 homeless people had died in 2009, while on August 14, that number had risen to 18. During the whole year of 2008, there were 18 homeless deaths. The service happened outside of the East Beach restroom, where Ross Stiles, a homeless man, was killed on February 3. Three clergy members alternated reading the names of those who passed away homeless. After the reading of each name, a bell was rung, and some people at the event sobbed. Morris Bear, an artist, made a sculpture to commemorate the lives lost. On July 24, Casa Esperanza was set to have an auction for the sculpture. In *Noozhawk*, Ken Williams, a social worker in Santa Barbara County, said, “We are all less for the untimely passing of our homeless friends. I deeply miss them all.”

SANTA CRUZ—Santa Cruz held their 11th annual event on December 22 at 10 a.m. at the Homeless Services Center. The event was organized by the Homeless Services Center and Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons' Health Project, provided through the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Public Health Department. The event began in 1998, and since then, 400 homeless people have been remembered from Santa Cruz County. 2009 was a year of a high number of homeless deaths for Santa Cruz. There were 47 deaths in 2009, the highest number of homeless deaths in the county since 1999. In 2008, there were 20 people who died.

SANTA ROSA—A vigil was held on November 15.

VENTURA—Ventura held its 2nd annual event at Plaza Park at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. This event was organized and sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura's “Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness,” which seeks to bring faith communities together to end homelessness. The McCune Foundation and the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility provided funding for the event. Names were read and music and readings were performed from various religious backgrounds. Items such as blankets, jackets, and bedrolls were collected. The youth group of the church made hot drinks, cookies, and bags of personal items available. Besides the memorial service, the church helped organize 2 “Hidden Ventura” tours, where homeless or previously homeless people showed people the city from their point of view. There were at least 21 deaths; the youngest person was 36 and the oldest person was 71.

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COLORADO

BOULDER—Boulder hosted its 2nd annual event for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on Monday, December 21. Carriage House Community Table sponsored the event, which was held in Boulder's Central Park with 60 people in attendance. The event remembered the deaths of 20 people.

COLORADO SPRINGS—100 people attended the Longest Night of the Year Memorial Service in Colorado Springs on the night of December 21 at 5:15 p.m. The event began with a dinner at the Salvation Army Soup Run. Candles were held and the people walked to Bijou House after the dinner. Dozens of names were read, yet the organizers said that it is impossible to know the number of deaths. Prayers, singing, and reflection at the Memorial Wall were also parts of the event. Organizers of the event were Springs Rescue Mission, The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs, and First Presbyterian Church. 170 people passed away homeless in 2009 in Colorado; 13 from Colorado Springs.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, December 20 at 4 p.m. hosted by The Street Church at Antler's Park. The service included music, a free dinner, and a candlelight vigil. People from the Colorado Springs Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team spoke at the service.

On December 26 at noon, Stay human, benefit for the homeless was held at Rick's Piano Warehouse. Clothing and other necessities were taken as donations. Admission was free, yet donations were accepted and an action was to be held to gain more funds. The event included music and storytelling, as well as poetry and performance art. People were asked to come to the event with ideas on how the issue of homelessness should be attended to.

On January 18 and 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., forums were held for the public to talk about homeless camping in Colorado Springs. At the forums, organizations working with the homeless conversed about proposals from several interagency meetings. Both meetings were held at Marian House.

DENVER—Several hundred people gathered outside the Denver City and County Building on the night of December 16 at 5:30 p.m. for the 24th year of the Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil. The Mayor of Denver, John Hickenlooper, read a list of names. According to examiner.com, after the reading of each name, the crowd said, "We will remember." The event remembered the deaths of 154 men, women, and children in the Denver metropolitan region. There were 38 women and 116 men who were remembered. Their ages ranged from 3 months to 73 years of age. One of the most common causes of death was illness because of chronic disease. The memorial included a candlelight vigil in addition to the reading of the names. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless hosted the event.

CONNECTICUT

FAIRFIELD GREEN—Fairfield Green held their 5th annual event for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. State Senator John McKinney spoke at the event sponsored by Southwest Community Health Center McKinney Health Care and Operation Hope of Fairfield, Inc. A

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proclamation from the Governor's office was made. Names were read and a flower was placed in the commemorative wreath. The event was held at noon on Monday, December 21 at the Town Hall Green, Fairfield.

HARTFORD—200 homeless people and 50 volunteers attended a homeless memorial event at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 21 at 11:00 a.m. A local cardiologist and head of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut began the memorial with a traditional Muslim call to service. Guests at the service stood and said the names of loved ones who had passed



Homeless Memorial, Meriden, CT, Dec 18, 2009
*Photo Courtesy of Johnathon Henninger,
Record-Journal*

away. 40 churches and organizations helped put the event together.

Donations of socks, gloves, and hats were collected. After the service, a Thanksgiving-style meal was served.

MERIDEN—An event sponsored by the Community Health Center at the Center Congregational Church was held on December 18 at 1 p.m. Gift bags with gift cards, toiletries, and gloves were collected at the event.

There was a 33% increase in homelessness in the state in 2009.

MIDDLETOWN—A memorial service was held at the Church of the Holy Trinity on December 21 at 4 p.m. It was sponsored by the Community Health Center's Wherever You Are program. Speakers included previously or currently homeless people. Middlesex County is 2 years into a 10-year plan to end homelessness. Connecticut's governor issued a proclamation.

NEW BRITAIN—New Britain held its 3rd annual event for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on December 21 at 1 p. m. The chapel was filled with state and local officials, community activists, and clients of various shelters. They were there to remember 2 men who died. Mayor Timothy Stewart and U.S. Representative Chris Murphy vowed to keep pursuing methods to help people get supportive housing and jobs. The event was organized by the Community Health Center at Erwin Chapel.

NEW LONDON—An event was held at All Souls Unitarian Universalist on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. to commemorate the lives of 9 people, possibly 10. There were open microphones so that people who knew the deceased could speak about them. Sponsors and organizers included All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation, St. Francis House, and New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Inc.

NORWICH—The St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen hosted a spaghetti dinner on December 21 at 4:30 p.m. to benefit the city's Hospitality Center in honor of Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON—An event was held in front of Union Station at 6 p.m. with 80 people in attendance on December 21. The event was sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Health Care for the Homeless Coalition, and National Consumer Advisory Board. The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless also helped out with the event. Speakers at the event included Alan Banks, David Pirtle, and Neil Donovan, National Coalition for the Homeless; DC City Councilmember Tommy Wells; Maryland State Senator Alex X. Mooney; Mary Ann Luby of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless; Dr. Janelle Goetcheus of Unity Health Care; and Bishop Imogene B. Stewart. Maryland State Senator Alex Mooney was successful in getting homeless people added as a category to hate crimes in Maryland. Washington, DC followed Maryland and passed a similar law in August. The Church of the Epiphany's Welcome Table Choir and Tom Goss supplied the music. The event remembered 74 or 75 people.

Another event was sponsored by the Steinbruck Center the day before on December 20 at the Luther Place Memorial Church. The service was based on the Mexican Christmas tradition of Las Posadas. Every night starting nine nights before Christmas, the posadas are a collection of celebrations held that remember the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph in finding a place to stay. The service includes song, prayer, and thought and finally joy as the holy pilgrims are received into the home and hearts of participants.

FLORIDA

BREVARD COUNTY (MELBOURNE)—20 clients were remembered at the Daily Bread facility in Melbourne, FL. Services like this were held in other places in the county. In 2008, Brevard County had 1,204 people either residing on the streets or in shelters. Rosa Reich from Brevard County Housing and Human Services read the names of the people known to have passed away homeless in 2009 in the county. Back in August of 2009, National Veterans Homeless Support Inc. planned a golf fundraiser and was assisting in planning the 11th annual Homeless Stand Down at the Disabled American Veterans in Titusville. The event was held on December 21 at 3 p.m.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY— Over 50 homeless people and Coalition staff came together on December 21 for a candlelight vigil remembering 2 people who passed away homeless in 2009. Stories were told about the 2 who died homeless. The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, Inc., based in Murdock, FL, held the event.

CLEARWATER—The weather prevented the event from being a candlelight vigil. Some that drove by the wreath and banner honked their horns. A mock homeless camp was set up and volunteers gave out flyers to people who passed by. The event was to remember the lives of 33 people who passed away homeless in Pinellas County. In Clearwater, people congregated outside the Pinellas County Courthouse. The memorial vigil was held on December 21 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and was to honor those who passed away homeless in Pinellas County. According to tampabay.com, George N. Bolden Jr., a director of the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, stated, "We don't want these people to die and nobody take notice. The whole idea is to bring dignity to lives that have been overlooked."

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A candlelight memorial was to be held at dusk. A resolution was passed in Clearwater to acknowledge the day.

Another event was held in the Clearwater Area on December 20 at 3 p.m. The Clearwater Area was one of four events held in Pinellas County on December 20. The event remembered 33 people who passed away homeless in Pinellas County in 2009. Music, sacred readings, and personal reflections were highlights of the event. After the service, a hot meal was provided. Instead of flowers, non-perishable good donations were accepted. The event was sponsored by the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless and was held at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

FORT MYERS—An event was held and Lee County Homeless Coalition may have been involved in some way.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY—An event was held in the Joe Chillura Courthouse Square in Tampa on December 21 at 6 p.m. Names of those who passed away were typed on slips of paper and given out to people who attended. 48 deaths were remembered at the event, 40 men and 8 women. The youngest person who passed away was 33 years of age. A candle was lit with the reading of each name. There were various reasons for why people died, including being hit by cars, beatings, drowning, cancer, untreated medical problems, and suicide. In 2008, there were 53 deaths. Since 2004, there have been 284. The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County said that the county has the largest homeless population in Florida.

HOLLYWOOD—An event was held on December 21 at 6:30 p.m. and was sponsored by New Beginnings Ministry and Temple Maranatha.

JACKSONVILLE—8 years ago Stan Green, a minister and outreach worker, established the Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil to commemorate a man he had helped. In 2009, it was put together by the Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville and was held on December 21 at noon in Hemming Plaza. The event included prayers, music, and memories of people who passed away homeless in 2009. Examples of incidents occurring against the homeless include a young woman who was a victim of gun violence and one man who was run over while he was sleeping.

KEY WEST—A service was held at the Key West Cemetery on December 21 and presided over by Rev. Stephen Braddock. The service was arranged by the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League, Inc. The Key West event was one of three held in Monroe County.

LARGO—A resolution was passed acknowledging the day as Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

LAUDERHILL—An event, Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Party was held on December 18 at 11 a.m. in Central Broward Regional Park. It was hosted by the Coalition to End Homelessness from Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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MARATHON—A dinner was served prior to a service. The event was held on December 21, with the dinner at 6 p.m. and the service at 7 p.m. The event was put together by the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League. The event was one of three held in Monroe County.

NAPLES—Several dozen people came to the courtyard of St. Matthew's House for the annual candlelight vigil. The names of 21 people were read. The event was held on December 21 at 6 p.m.

PENSACOLA—A vigil was held on November 19.

PINELLAS PARK AREA—An event was held on December 20 at 4 p.m. at Pinellas Hope. The event remembered 33 people who passed away homeless in Pinellas County in 2009. Highlights of the event included music, sacred readings, and personal thoughts. After the service, a hot meal was served. Donations of non-perishable goods were accepted instead of flowers. The Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless sponsored the event, and was one of four memorials held in Pinellas County on December 20. The City Council from Pinellas Park did not pass a resolution to acknowledge the day, though the County Commission did.

ST. PETERSBURG—The Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless sponsored an event, held on December 20 on 6 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral. It was one of four memorial services held in Pinellas County on December 20. The event remembered 33 people who passed away homeless in Pinellas County in 2009. Highlights of the event included music, sacred readings, and personal thoughts. After the service, a hot meal was served. Donations of non-perishable goods were accepted instead of flowers. The county has seen a 20% increase in the number of homeless persons and families from 2007. A resolution was passed to acknowledge the day.

TALLAHASSEE—A Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event was held in Carter-Howell-Strong Park on December 21 at 5 p.m. and remembered the deaths of 11 people. The event was sponsored by 23 local agencies, including The Shelter, the Big Bend Homeless Coalition, and the Tallahassee Homeless Speakers Bureau. A light dinner and refreshments followed the service.

TARPON SPRINGS AREA—The Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless sponsored an event held on December 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. It was one of four events held in Pinellas County on December 20. The event remembered 33 people who passed away homeless in Pinellas County in 2009. Highlights of the event included music, sacred readings, and personal reflections. After the service, a hot meal was served. Donations of non-perishable goods were accepted instead of flowers.

TAVERNIER—A service was held by Rev. Pam Feeser at Settlers Park on December 21 in the afternoon. The service was organized by the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League. It was one of three events held in Monroe County.

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GEORGIA

ATLANTA—Two events were held in Atlanta:

All Saints' Day takes place on Nov. 1. On the closest weekday to November 1, Atlanta's event is held. November 2 marked the 21st annual Homeless Memorial Day and Requiem for Homeless People Who Died. The Metro Atlanta Task Force invited groups to take part in making signs and banners at the Peachtree-Pine Shelter for the Memorial Day and for the march to City Hall on the day the memorial. Entities such as the International Action Center, student groups, and AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers took part in making signs and banners.

The day began with coffee and donuts at Peachtree-Pine, a tradition. A Funeral March with coffins followed. 250 people walked somberly down Peachtree Street to City Hall. Solemn litany was held for those who died. Crosses and markers were situated in the



Atlanta, GA Memorial Event, Nov. 2, 2009

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Riley

ground to remember their lives. 54 people died in 2009. Speakers such as former City Councilmember Derrick Boazman, "Able" Mable Thomas, State Senator Vincent Fort, and many others pledged "not another death!" The marchers went down to the City Council meeting to talk about the city's procedures that close shelters and cost lives. The marchers sought new directions after the election, such as housing for all and no foreclosures. Lunch was served by Cascade United Methodist Church, one of the 42 faith communities serving people at Peachtree-Pine.

Buses started leaving Peachtree-Pine at 3:30 and they went to other facilities in Atlanta to bring homeless people to the Cathedral of St. Philip in Buckhead. At 5:30 there was a hot dinner for everyone and at 7 p.m. a Requiem Eucharist with a famous civil rights leader, Dr. Joseph Lowery. There were more than 1,000 people at the service. Each time Dr. Jim Beaty read a name during the candlelit point of the service, a bell sounded and that person's cross was taken to the altar by a friend or acquaintance. All 54 crosses were laid on the altar joining the hundreds from previous years.

The second event was the 4th annual event held in a downtown parking lot on December 21. It was sponsored by St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services. The event's attendees included homeless people, people from local agencies, churches, people of St. Joseph's Health System, and government. According to *The Weekly*, Robert Mason, the Community Relations Director of Mercy Care Services, stated, "We light candles and call the names

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out for the last time of those homeless persons who lived 'invisible' lives and died unnoticed and unrecognized.”



Honolulu Homeless Memorial, Dec. 21, 2009
Photo Courtesy of Marcia Hamilton

the event. There were some individuals who helped out the organizations listed above, and there were various other organizations and people who that helped out with the memorial that are not listed here.

IDAHO

COEUR D'ALENE—A mayoral proclamation was issued for December 21. The memorial included candlelight and flashlight memorial vigils. Participants were asked to buy or bring a used flashlight to the event. Homeless people were also a part of the service. At the end of the service, flashlights were given to the homeless. The memorial was held on December 21 at 6 p.m.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—An event was held in the Truman College cafeteria to remember 24 deaths in 2009. Heartland Health Outreach, a part of Heartland Alliance, sponsored the event, held on December 18 at 4 p.m. The staff lit candles at the front of the Truman College cafeteria for those who were known to have passed away homeless in the Chicago area in 2009.

INDIANA

EVANSVILLE—A candlelight memorial was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on December 17 at 10 a.m. to remember the 7 known homeless deaths that occurred in 2009.

COLUMBUS—An event was held on December 21 at 5:30 p.m.

SAVANNAH—An event was held on December 21 at 6 p.m.

HAWAII

HONOLULU—300 “houseless” people and their supporters gathered for a candlelight observance and dinner on December 21 at Street Beat. A free lunch was also given to the homeless. Free clothes from the Salvation Army and free toys from St. Ann’s in Kaneohe and Word of Life on Sand Island were given out. Hepatitis Network passed out razors to keep people from sharing razors and getting Hepatitis C. St. Clements helped area churches put together activities for houseless children. Groceries for families were passed out by Central Union Church for use over the holidays. Numerous people from Street Beat, Hawaii’s street newspaper, volunteered at the event. Music was also at

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A new 8th candle was lit to recognize those who may have been overlooked. The names of the 7 who died were read. One man was murdered in his sleep. There have been 71 deaths in total since 1990. The city has taken part in nationwide homeless memorial ceremonies for the past 9 years. The city is halfway through a 10-year plan to end homelessness. According to *Evansville Courier & Press*, a homeless outreach organization, Aurora, is using the approach of “supportive housing projects” to enable more permanent housing prospects for people whose only sources of housing are shelters.

INDIANAPOLIS— The event in Indianapolis has been an annual one since 1996, 2009 being their 13th event. An 11 a.m. service was held on December 21 at Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle to remember the homeless deaths in 2009. *indystar.com* reports 50 homeless deaths in 2009, while *chicagotribune.com/Associated Press* reports 37 homeless deaths in 2009. 300 people were in the pews and another 100 were standing in the back and on the sides. 50 gongs rang for each homeless person who died. The names were also put on a screen in front of the church in Monument Circle. A bookmark was placed in the programs with a name of a person who had died homeless. When a person's name was read, the person with that bookmark would stand. Finally, all people 300 people anticipated to attend would be standing. The Coalition for Homeless Intervention and Prevention sponsored the event. According to their census in January, the number of people on the streets or in shelters is 1,454, which is a little lower the prior year. However, the 50 deaths reported by *indystar.com* were higher than 2008's total of 38. The total number of homeless deaths from 1996-2009 is 367. The memorial service included speaking from Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and 2 formerly homeless people who live in transitional housing. The memorial also included a moment of silence and a responsive reading of “We will remember you,” according to *indystar.com*. There was also a poem for those who passed away, which was recited by a previously homeless advocate, and music. After the service, a free lunch was given to the homeless, previously homeless, service providers, and volunteers.

JEFFERSONVILLE—50 people gathered just off the Exit 0 ramp on December 21 to commemorate the homeless deaths in 2009. 14 names were read, and there were 15 homeless deaths in 2009. Organizations that attended the candlelight vigil include Haven House Services, Inc., Jesus Cares at Exit 0, a chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists of America, and churches. One speaker reminded the crowd to remember not only those who passed away, but every person who died living without a home whose names we might not know. Stockings full of necessities were handed out. Four days later on Christmas Day, a 50-year-old homeless person was found dead at a camp site.

KOKOMO—A candlelight prayer vigil was held for Coordinated Assistance Ministries, Inc. (CAM) clients and staff on the CAM porch on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. This is the 12th annual event. On November 20, CAM held the Grate American Sleepout, where people lived like the homeless.

IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS (POTTOWATTAMIE COUNTY)—6 different shelters and organizations dedicated to ending homelessness held events for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on December 21; 4 were held in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska and 2 in Council Bluffs,

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Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Omaha Mayor Jim Shuttle planned to speak at one event. These events were to remember the 36 homeless people who died in 2009, who went from 2 years of age to 73 years of age. The names of 3 service providers who passed away in 2009 were read. The event was sponsored by the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH). MACCH works to prevent and end homelessness and works with service providers. They help people in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties.

DAVENPORT—A candlelight vigil was held at the gazebo at the Marquette Street Landing on December 22 at 1:30 p.m. The memorial commemorated those who experience homelessness in the Quad City area and across the nation. The memorial included songs, readings, quiet contemplation, and a prayer. *Quad-Cities Online* said to contact Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. for more information regarding this vigil.

DES MOINES—Des Moines held an event on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. on the West Capitol Terrace at the State Capitol. The event remembered the homeless who passed away in 2009 in the Des Moines Metro Area and Polk County. Joppa Outreach and Joe Stevens, cofounder of Joppa Outreach, organized the First Annual Iowa Homeless Persons' Memorial. A candlelight vigil, music, poetry, and prayer were included in the memorial, with Tom Schenk Sr., the Mayor of Granger and board member from Joppa Outreach, reading the names of those who passed away. There was a Christmas celebration held for people experiencing homelessness and for the people who serve the homeless after the candlelight event at the State Capitol. Joe Stevens, the Joppa Outreach cofounder, put forth a resolution to the Des Moines City Council to affirm December 21 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in Des Moines. Several hundred people were anticipated to come to the event, and they were encouraged to bring supplies such as candles, sleeping bags, and 20 lb. propane tanks. According to radioiowa.com, Joe Stevens, cofounder of Joppa Outreach, stated, "We have about 40 names we've been able to identify with a lot of cooperation from other agencies, but we know we've missed a number of names."

KANSAS

WICHITA—Wichita held its memorial the evening of December 21. The event was the 3rd time that the Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness have sponsored it. It took place at the First Metropolitan Community Church. The church also sponsored the Warming Souls Overflow shelter in December 2009. About 75 people were present at the event. *The Wichita Eagle* quotes minister at First Metropolitan Community Church Jackie Carter as saying, "But we hold them up tonight so we may remember their names."

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—An event was held on the courthouse steps on December 21 to remember the 27 homeless deaths that occurred in 2009, from ages 37 to 87. Many were clients of Wayside Christian Mission until they died or at some point in their lives. An empty casket was supplied by a local funeral home, Arch L. Heady & Son, used to represent those who died. It was carried by participants to the top of the courthouse steps as representative of a funeral procession. As the pall bearers climbed the steps, they were joined in song by the crowd. The Rev. Joe Phelps of Highland Baptist Church spoke about how homelessness in Louisville needs to be attended to. According to *The Courier-Journal*, Sister Mary Francis Shafer of the Coalition for the Homeless said, "As we remember those who have died in

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the last 12 months let us also remember those who are still here and walking our streets.” She also spoke at the event. Some groups that took part in the memorial include the St. John Center and the Salvation Army. The memorial ended with a song from the Down by the Wayside Choir.

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS—An event was organized by the City of New Orleans Health Department Healthcare for the Homeless Program on the night of December 18 to observe the deaths of 14 homeless people. Both Flu shots and H1N1 shots were available at the event. Over time, “homelessness kills people,” said Martha Kegel, director of Unity of Greater New Orleans, according to a nola.com article. Several names were unknown and two were known only by their nicknames. Days before the event, Unity outreach workers spent time determining which of the homeless people who sleep in front of the New Orleans Mission were most likely to die without housing.

SHREVEPORT—The 1st annual event was held in Shreveport on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. It was sponsored by the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission. The names were read of the 40 homeless people who died over the past 2 years. The Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission had names of those who utilized the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission at some point in their lives, either in the past or up until their death. The Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission allowed other organizations and people to add in names if they wished to, and/or people could come forward to say a name and light a candle during the actual memorial.

MAINE

AUBURN—Homeless Persons' Memorial Day events have been held in Lewiston for a decade, but in 2009 it was held in Auburn. The event was sponsored by the Lewiston Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH) in remembrance of the homeless and those who passed away homeless. The event was held on the corner of Court and Turner Streets across from Auburn Hall and the Androscoggin County Courthouse on December 21 at 4:30 p.m. Both cities and LAASH have recent 10-year plans to end homelessness. John O'Brien from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness was set to speak.

BANGOR—This was the 4th annual event in Bangor. The memorial was held on December 21. Over 100 people were present at the event. The event started with a candlelight walk from the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter to the Hammond Street Congregational Church. 51 candles were lit inside the church, one for each person who died homeless during the last decade in the Bangor area. The church bells tolled 51 times. Of the 51 people remembered at the memorial, 8 were those who passed away homeless in 2009. In a *Bangor Daily News* article, Michael Andrick, a therapist at the Summer Street Community Clinic, said, “To provide services to the homeless is not an act of mercy, but an act of justice.” The event was organized by Penobscot Community Health Care in collaboration with its Summer Street Community Clinic, Hammond Street Congregational Church, the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, Manna Ministries, and the Eastern Maine Peace and Justice Center. Other volunteers supplied music, refreshments, and other services.

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BRUNSWICK—An event hosted by Tedford Housing was held on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Curtis Memorial Library's Morrell Meeting Room. The service was led by Pastor Ron McLaughlin from the United Baptist Church in Topsham. A candlelight walk was held following the service and refreshments were given after the walk.

PORTLAND— An event was organized by Health Care for the Homeless on December 21 at 4 p.m. It was a candlelight walk beginning at Preble Street and ending at Monument Square. A ceremony was held at 4:30 p.m. devoted to those who passed away homeless in the community. The Preble Street Resource Center may have played a role with the event.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE—About 150 people attended an interfaith memorial event in Baltimore on the night of December 21. Each person's name was written on a "luminary," a gallon milk jug with a candle inside, and the names were read. The event remembered over 50 men and women who are known to have passed away homeless in 2009. Mayor Sheila Dixon issued a mayoral proclamation. She also spoke and repeated that she would supply sufficient shelter and services for the homeless. Sponsors of, organizers of, and/or those involved in the event include Human Services Baltimore, a sector of the mayor's office, Project PLASE (People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment), SHARP (Stop Homelessness and Reduce Poverty), Health Care for the Homeless, Inc. (HCHMD), and GEDCO (Govans Ecumenical Development Corp.). Some of the religious groups that took part in the interfaith event include Chesapeake Association, United Church of Christ and Immanuel United Church of Christ, from Catonsville. People from organizations such as B'More Housing For All and Institute of Notre Dame took part in the event. Many more organizations, groups, and people supported or took part in the event.

BALTIMORE COUNTY—Baltimore County's event was held in Towson. This was the county's 2nd annual event, and it commemorated the 12 homeless deaths in 2009. The event included prayer, Scripture listening, poetry, and songs from church choirs, and a meal. Toward the end of the evening, the group walked to a memorial wall, each person holding a candle. The memorial wall was the idea of Greg Noplos, a 16-year-old who built a 5-foot-high brick wall as part of his Eagle Scout project. The memorial event in 2008 and his volunteer work at a soup kitchen inspired him. He raised around \$600 for the wall project and the Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless gave him a grant of \$1,500. He plans to include a plaque to put the year and the number of homeless who passed away. Some county officials were anticipated to be at the event. It was held on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, with a reception to follow at Calvary Baptist Church. Franklin Square Hospital Center may have helped with the event.

CALVERT COUNTY—An event entitled *In from the Cold: a Homelessness Awareness Event and Vigil* was held in Prince Frederick on February 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at St. John Vianney Family Life Center. It was sponsored by Safe Nights of St. John Vianney Catholic Church with Project Echo. The event was focused on small town and/or homelessness in rural areas. Stories were told about homelessness in Calvert County and information about programs and services was given. After, there was an outdoor vigil. People were asked to name those who died or those whose locations of residing are unknown. A moment of silence was also included in the memorial service. The Calvert County Board of

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Commissioners issued a resolution declaring February 21 “Calvert County Homelessness Awareness Day.”

HARFORD COUNTY—Harford County’s event was held in Bel Air and was the 3rd annual memorial day, originally put forth in 2007 by Harford County’s Health Care for the Homeless Project (HCH), Faith Communities and Civic Agencies United, Inc. (FCCAUI), and Harford County’s Department of Social Services Adult Services Division. The Sharing Hope Foundation joined in 2009 to assist with the event. This year’s event was held on December 21 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON—The 20th annual Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service was held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on December 21 at 1:00 p.m. Tombstones were arranged with the names of those who passed away. The Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance may have assisted with the event.

HYANNIS (CAPE COD)—A memorial service was held by the Federated Church of Hyannis on December 21 at 6 p.m. to remember the lives of 9 in the Hyannis Area (According to *Wicked Local, Barnstable*) or 10 homeless people (According to *barnstablepatriot.com*) that died in 2009. Because of the implementation of Housing First, a program of Duffy Health Center, the number of homeless deaths has significantly declined over the past few years. The event was organized by Adrienne Boles of Lead Staff-Housing Support of Duffy Health Center. The event was a candlelight service and included personal memories that friends wrote. Before the event, from December 18 to 19, an imitation homeless camp was put forth by the Federated Church of Hyannis. People were asked to bring donations of items such as new hats and scarves.

SPRINGFIELD—An event was held at Christ Church Cathedral on December 21 at 1 p.m. The event was sponsored by the Health Care for the Homeless Program at Mercy Hospital.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT—An event was held on December 21 at 1 p.m. by the Detroit Healthcare for the Homeless (Advantage Health Centers) with the Cathedral of St. Paul. The event included an ecumenical service, a meal, and warming gifts.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS—Minneapolis hosted their 25th annual event on December 17. This was the largest event. The event was sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Simpson United Methodist Church, and Simpson Housing Services. It remembered the lives of the 119 homeless people who died in 2009. 400 mourners marched in a quiet group through the streets of Minneapolis, from the Hennepin County Government Center to Simpson United Methodist Church. Many people carried signs with names on them, such as “Gary, 54, St. Paul,” or “Unknown man, Minneapolis.” Over 700 people were present at the indoor memorial service. The number of deaths rose in 2009 compared to 131 deaths in 2008. Mourners were concerned that the list of deaths would be even longer next year due to the economy. Simpson United Methodist Church started the event 25 years ago.

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Minneapolis Memorial March and Service, Dec. 17, 2009
Photo Courtesy of Simpson Housing Services

MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON—James Ivory Homeless Persons' Memorial Day has been observed since 1992. It was held on December 18 at 9:30 a.m. in 2009. Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr. issued a proclamation. The event is named for the late James Ivory, a former director of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center's Homeless Clinic and advocate for the homeless. The event included a performance of "Boxmen," a dramatic reading of a one-act play about two homeless men who inhabit an intricate cardboard box in an un-named southern city. The event also included music and a memorial drumming session. Heather Ivery, the city's homeless coordinator, asked for people to have more to do with homeless issues, including the homeless themselves. She also gave an update on Jackson's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which started four years ago. In January 2009, there were 699 homeless people in Jackson, while there were 675 homeless people in Jackson in 2007. The event in Jackson was sponsored by the Mississippi State Hospital Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program, Partners to End Homelessness, and Stewpot Community Services.

MISSOURI

ST. JOSEPH—About 50 people were present at the memorial event in St. Joseph on the night of December 21. It was hosted by the St. Joseph Continuum of Care for Homeless Services and was held at the YWCA. According to stjoenews.net, Randy Sharp, chairman of the St. Joseph Continuum of Care, said, "It speaks to the tragedy of a lot of the faceless, nameless folks that become homeless and then perish. They're still somebody's son or daughter; they're still somebody's friend or family." Community Missions Corporation may have also played a role in the event.

ST. LOUIS—The event in St. Louis, held on December 21 at 4 p.m. at Centenary Church, was supported by Community Alternatives and more than 50 partnering agencies and

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programs. It was hosted by The Bridge of Centenary Church, a daily drop in center for the homeless and food insecure. The event was established originally by Dr. Gary Morse of Community Alternatives. The event included ecumenical worship service, music, and personal homage and memories of those who have passed. 28 names were read of those who passed away homeless, followed by a bell ringing. A candlelight moment of silence concluded the service. After the service, a holiday dinner was obtainable. About 250 people came to the event. There will be a memorial garden at Centenary Church as a permanent reminder of those who passed away homeless.

MONTANA

BILLINGS (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)—The December 21 event is the 16th Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in Billings. An event was held outside of the Yellowstone County Courthouse at noon. The ceremony involved prayer and candles. It was sponsored by the Healthcare for the Homeless Program at RiverStone Health. According to a KTVQ.com article, Clarence Salley from RiverStone Health says that "It's a prevalent problem in Billings and in most cities. It's just kind of hidden. A lot of homeless want to remain invisible." The number of homeless students has risen in the past few years, and the response from the community has risen, too. The Billings Senior High Booster Club has been helping in the fight against homelessness. In January, RiverStone Health was set to put forth a free healthcare, food, and shelter event.

HELENA—70 people attended an event on December 21 to remember the lives of 28 people from 4 cities who passed away in 2009 due to issue relating to homelessness, though the number may be higher. This was the 5th annual event and was held in Women's Park. Several organizations provided aid that would help people with the cold winter weather. The mayor of Helena, Jim Smith, spoke at the event. Earlier in 2009, in September, Helena held its 5th Way Home Stand Down and Access Fair, which provided food, supplies, and access to services. 214 people from Helena received aid that they needed.

NEBRASKA

OMAHA (DOUGLAS COUNTY)—6 different shelters and organizations dedicated to ending homelessness held events for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on December 21; 4 were held in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska and 2 in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Omaha Mayor Jim Shuttle planned to speak at one event. These events were to remember the 36 homeless people who died in 2009, who went from 2 years of age to 73 years of age. The names of 3 service providers who passed away in 2009 were read. The event was sponsored by the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH). MACCH works to prevent and end homelessness and works with service providers. They help people in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties.

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—An event, sponsored by HELP of Southern Nevada, was held on December 17 and non-perishable food items were collected. The event remembered the lives of 42 people who died in 2009. 39 of these people were men, while 3 were women. Most of them were in their 40s or 50s. 13 died of the people died of natural causes, while drugs or

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alcohol were related in the deaths of 11 people. 4 were homicides and 5 were due to exposure to the elements. The cause of death for the other 9 people is still being awaited.

RENO—40 people attended a church service at Reno First United Methodist Church on December 21 to remember the 34 homeless people who lost their lives in 2009.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD—An event organized by the American Friends Service Committee was held at State House Plaza on December 21 at 4 p.m. and canned food items were collected. A proclamation was given by Governor John Lynch.

KEENE—The event was held on the Keene Central Square on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. and remembered over 10 men and women who died homeless in New Hampshire in 2009. Donations were collected for local service organizations. Co-sponsors of the event were Working Families Win, The Community Kitchen, Southwestern Community Services Homeless Services Program, the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention, and the Monadnock Family Services. Jaime J. Contois, member of Working Families Win, led the memorial. According to *The Keene Sentinel*, Don Primrose of Sullivan, who was creating an emergency shelter named either One Hundred Nights or Hundred Nights Shelter, said, “When you put your head on your pillow tonight, think of those who are homeless who have no bed and pillow, who have nowhere to sleep.”

LACONIA—A candlelight vigil was held at Veterans Square on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. Someone from New Hampshire Catholic Charities was a point of contact for the event.

LEBANON—The event included a candlelight vigil held in front of the 1st Congregational Church of Lebanon on December 21 at 5:15 p.m. Sponsors and/or organizers of the event were 10 Bricks and The Upper Valley Haven. Canned food items were collected.

MANCHESTER—A candlelight vigil was held in Veterans Park on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. to remember over 10 people who died homeless in 2009. The NH Under the Bridge Project was involved with the event.

NASHUA—An event was held in front of Nashua City Hall on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. Candles were burned and the names of the deceased were read. There were also short explanations of some of their deaths. The event was organized by the American Friends Service Committee.

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC COUNTY—The event was held at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission on December 21 at 3 p.m. It was sponsored by Mission HealthCare-Atlanticare Health Services.

BERGEN COUNTY—Bergen County held their 1st annual event at the Bergen County Housing, Health, and Human Services Center on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. It was

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sponsored by Bergen Center Advance Housing. The Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney was present at the event.

CAMDEN COUNTY—POSTPONED. The event was to be held on December 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church but was postponed due to the weather. Project HOPE was to sponsor the event.

HUDSON COUNTY—This was the 1st interfaith Homeless Persons' Memorial Day put forth by the Jersey City Episcopal Community Development Corporation and the Church of the Incarnation, held on December 21 at 1 p.m. The event was held at the Church of the Incarnation. Various clothing items were collected and given out. There was homage to the late Roman Catholic Deacon Joe Del Monte, who fed many homeless on the Jersey City streets each week. He was also the founder of St. Francis Workshop which aided those in need in terms of providing food and clothing. He was also the 1st recipient of The Jersey Journal's Foley Memorial Everyday Hero Award. A woman, "Maria," lived on the streets of Hoboken for about 20 years and passed away on November 28.

MERCER COUNTY—An event was held outside the statehouse on December 21 in Trenton to remember the 45 people who are known to have passed away in the last 5 years due to homelessness or not enough care. It was hosted by the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness. The service included readings, prayers, music, and a reading of the names. Governor Jon S. Corzine issued a proclamation. According to an article from *The Times of Trenton*, Rev. Bruce Davidson, Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New Jersey, said, "We mark this day with sadness for the lives that have been lost, but we celebrate the fact that those we remember today have been remembered and not forgotten."

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—The event was originally supposed to take place in Monument Square, but had to be moved inside the United Methodist Church due to the snow and cold. It took place on December 21 at 5 p.m. in New Brunswick and was sponsored by Elijah's Promise. There were many supporting organizations. The event remembered the 14 people who recently died homeless in the community in 2009. Comments were made by government officials, community leaders, and those who had been through the troubles of homelessness. There was also poetry, songs, and readings from various religious texts. A moment of silence was held for the 14 people. Candle lighting also took place, in memory of the 14 people.

MONMOUTH COUNTY—CANCELLED. The event was supposed to be held on December 21st from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph R.C. Church. The sponsor was the Catholic Charities Reduce Poverty Initiative. The event was cancelled because of the weather.

OCEAN COUNTY—An event was put forth by the NJ Advocacy to End Homelessness, and was a partnership of Pastor Applegate, her Lacey United Methodist Church congregation, the SHALOM Ministry, a "homeless outreach project" put forth by United Methodist Church, according to NJ Advocacy Network to End Homelessness, and the sponsor, Journey to Wellness Thru Mental Health Association of NJ. The event was held at Lacey

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United Methodist Church on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. and included a dinner and a service dedicated to the homeless by Pastor Linda Applegate. Poems were read and one woman spoke about her homelessness experience. A candlelight vigil ended the memorial.

PASSAIC COUNTY—The event was held on December 21 in Paterson, sponsored by and held at Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs and coordinated by Barbara Niziol of Eva's Village. The memorial remembered the lives of those who passed away at Eva's Village. Around 150 people came to the event. Mayor Joey Torres issued a proclamation. Passaic County had plans to introduce a "10-Year Plan to End Homelessness". The county is also the first in New Jersey to establish a Trust Fund for the Homeless.

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE—A short ceremony was held at a Homeless "Memorial Wall" on December 10. People marched from the Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless to a church. Donations of socks and gloves were collected. The event was sponsored by the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness.

LAS CRUCES—An event was held on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. El Caldito Soup Kitchen may have been involved with the memorial in some way.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO—A memorial service and candlelight vigil were held at Buffalo City Hall on December 21. About 2-3 dozen are dying a year from the cold or complications. Over 300 blankets were collected at the event. It was planned by the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless and the Homeless Alliance of Western New York.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY—A vigil and service were held at the St. Susan Center on December 21 in Jamestown. Speakers were from Park Methodist Church, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Sheriff's Office.

NEW YORK CITY—Picture the Homeless, a homeless self-help/advocacy group, organized their annual interfaith memorial service hosted by Judson Memorial Church on December 21 at 6 p.m. After the service, food and drink and fellowship were provided.

ROCHESTER—The Friends of St. Bridget's, a small faith community, was interested in sponsoring candlelight vigils. They wanted to sponsor these vigils on December 21 at three homeless shelters: House of Mercy, Dimitri House, and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The Friends of St. Bridget's were also working on the 2010 Super Bowl Party for the Homeless which first started over than 20 years ago. They were working with Dimitri House, Spiritus Christi, and St. Mary's on this party. The 2010 party was to be a memorial party for Peter Hahn, the creator of the party and advocate for the homeless, who passed away in 2009. The Friends of St. Bridget's is also working with other people to put forth "sub-affordable housing" and a housing cooperative for long-term clients as something other than a homeless shelter.

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NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE—After two cancelled events due to snow, an event was held on April 3 at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville. Co-sponsors of the event were the Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville's Social Justice Council and Human Rights Team. Music was played at the event, and candles were lit. After the service, a free potluck dinner was available, hosted by the church. The memorial event remembered 20 people who passed away homeless in 2009, as well as 6 who passed away homeless so far in 2010. According to *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Rick Johnson, a case manager from Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry's Veterans Restoration Quarters in Oteen, NC, said, "These are people with dreams and hopes and relationships." 7 of those remembered were from the aforementioned Veterans Restoration Quarters.

CHARLOTTE—A candlelight vigil with songs was held on the night of November 16 to remember the 20 people who died homeless in 2009. A local politician spoke at the vigil. Urban Ministry Center organized the event. It was held in front of the government building at 700 N. Tryon St., and commemorated those who were homeless or had been homeless in the year preceding their death. Many at the vigil were homeless or previously homeless.

DURHAM—A service was held in CCB Plaza on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. to remember the 12 people who died homeless in 2009. The interfaith prayer service was led by the Rev. Herbert Davis, pastor of Nehemiah Christian Center and outgoing chairman of the Executive Team of Durham's Ten Year Plan to End (long term) Homelessness. According to durhamcounty.mync.com, Lloyd Schmeidler, Community Education Specialist for Durham's 10 Year Plan to End (long term) Homelessness, stated, "We gather to pray for those who have died homeless, often far too young, and to recommit ourselves to the work of ensuring that all of Durham's people have a place to call home. As winter begins and in a struggling economy, the work has renewed urgency!"

GREENSBORO—A memorial was held on the night of December 16 to remember the 10 people who died homeless in 2009. A Homeless Memorial Walk took place as well as a worship service. For the memorial, 10 names were placed on chairs organized across the stage of Grace Community Church. "Unknown" was set on an 11th chair to symbolize that there could be more people who passed away homeless. 50 people walked from Greensboro Urban Ministry to the church, where a dinner was served for the homeless. The event was sponsored by the Homeless Prevention Coalition of Guilford County. The governor issued a proclamation.

NORTH DAKOTA

BISMARCK—A candlelight vigil was held at the McCabe United Methodist Church on December 21 at 4 p.m. to remember the 11 homeless deaths that occurred in 2009. A small group held a prayer vigil and talked about the issue of homelessness. The event was sponsored by the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. There was also a presentation at the state Capitol on December 23. The Governor issued a proclamation, thus signifying the first time the state has recognized Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. In North Dakota, 987 people are homeless on any particular day. December 21, 2009 also marked the day in which the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc. put forth

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their community crisis response plan to give shelter to people in severe weather conditions. The plan will use the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House as the single point of access for the homeless or those who are in danger of becoming homeless. This plan was just one part of a 10-year plan to end long-term homelessness in the area.

OHIO

AKRON—An event was hosted by Michelle Whitely.

CINCINNATI—An event was held in Washington Park on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. and was sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. Names were read and candles were lit for those who passed away homeless in 2009.

CLEVELAND—175 people attended an event to remember the lives of 47 people who died homeless. State Representative Mike Skindell spoke at the event, and Rev. Kelly Burd, Larry Davis, and Rabbi Joshua Caruso gave prayers. The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) sponsored the event, held on December 21 at 5:15 p.m. Ohio passed legislation recognizing the memorial.



Cleveland, OH Memorial Event, Dec. 21, 2009

Photo Courtesy of Rosie Palfy

COLUMBUS—An interfaith memorial service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. It ended with a candle lighting ceremony. It was sponsored by the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless and was put on by Jim Rose.

DAYTON—Dayton put forth its 11th annual memorial on December 21 at noon to remember 18 people who died homeless in 2009. Their first names and ages of those who passed away were read at an event at Courthouse Square Plaza where about 100 people were present. Following the reading of each name, a hand bell rang in the silence. The event was an outdoor vigil. The Emergency Housing Coalition organized the event. The President of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, Dan Foley, was one of the speakers. According to *Dayton Daily News* he stated, “The...people who passed away this year were human beings. ...The best thing we can do to honor them is to continue to improve the lives of the homeless.”

TOLEDO—An event was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. to remember 11 who died homeless, on the streets or in shelters, in 2009. Names were read of those who passed away. Personal homage and candle-lighting were also part of the event. Friends and family of those who passed away were there to pay respect to their loved ones. After the memorial, fellowship and refreshments were held at My Brother's Place,

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Trinity's new restaurant which helps local outreach. In addition to remembering the 11, the memorial also remembered Ruth Arden, the longtime executive director of St. Paul's Community Center who retired in May of 2009. 1matters.org sponsored the event.

OREGON

ALBANY—Albany observed its 1st Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at the Albany City Hall Plaza on December 21 at 2:00 p.m. There were 12 deaths in 2009. The event remembered the lives of people who died on the streets of Albany, in vacant residents or open areas, or in other places in Linn County. Mayor Sharon Konopa issued a mayoral proclamation. The memorial include candle-lighting for those who passed away in recent years, name reading, words in memory of people, and a 21-gun salute by the American Legion Post 10 Honor Guard. Various clothing items were donated and collected. The memorial event was sponsored by the City of Albany, the Homeless Enrichment and Rehabilitation Team (HEART), American Legion Post 10, Community Services Consortium, and Samaritan Health Services.

THE DALLES—The event was held on the front steps of the Wasco County Courthouse on December 21 at 5:15 p.m. Sponsors of the event included Wasco County Court, the City of The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Health Services, Mid-Columbia Community Action Agency, and American Legion Post 19. The city and the county issued proclamations.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—Around 200 people attended an event at the City Hall courtyard on December 21 at 4:30 p.m. The event remembered homeless and previously homeless people from Philadelphia who passed away in 2009. The event also called for a restored vow to end homelessness. After the event, a smaller group of people laid a wreath close to the Municipal Building. The Municipal Building was the location of where police killed a homeless man, aged 60. The event was in observance of the 87 homeless deaths that occurred in 2009, 70 of them men and 17 of them women, of people who passed away on the streets or in shelters. According to a philly.com article, Mayor Nutter spoke to the crowd and said, "There is no good God-given reason for anyone to suffer without a roof over his head." Several people and organizations helped out with the memorial and many organizations participated in the memorial. Project H.O.M.E. put forth the event with many other organizations, including Project H.O.M.E., participating in the memorial.

PITTSBURGH—For 2009, Pittsburgh remembered 10, or 11, according to *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, people who died homeless. The event was sponsored by Operation Safety Net and Pittsburgh Mercy Health System was held on December 21 at 6 p.m. About 50 people congregated under a bypass ramp while holding candles. Under the ramp, plaques with each person's name who passed away homeless are permanently placed. As of 2009, there are over 100 plaques listing people who have died over the past 12 years. Pittsburgh has been holding memorials for the past 12 years. Participants in the memorial, many who were homeless street outreach workers, recollected memories they had of people who passed away homeless. They talked about the kind spirits and hearts the people possessed, as well as the difficulties people had. Some causes of death include hypothermia, drowning, or being hit by a train. Dr. Jim Withers, founder and medical director of

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Operation Safety Net, led the service, which included prayer and song. 116 people have passed away homeless since 1991.

WILKES-BARRE (LUZERNE COUNTY)—2009 is Wilkes-Barre's 4th annual memorial event. It was held on December 21. The number of deaths in 2009 decreased from 10 in 2008 to 8 in 2009. According to *The Times Leader*, Stefanie Wolownik, director of the Reach program of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, said "We have fewer deaths, but we have more homeless people." St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the Luzerne County Homeless Coalition co-sponsored the event. It included readings, reflection, a hymn, and a candlelight walk to the courtyard where the names were read. A light dinner was available after the service.

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE—Around 150 people attended a memorial service held at Beneficent Congregational Church on the morning of January 20, 2010 to remember the 18 known homeless deaths that occurred in 2009. Candles were lit and names were read. Carleton Freese, who was previously homeless, was the highlighted singer at the event. Freese became homeless due to medical problems. The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless helped with the event. Executive Director of the Rhode Island Coalition the Homeless Jim Ryczek lit another candle for those whose names were unknown and not read at the memorial. Eric Hirsch, a professor at Providence College, said that the number of people who are homeless in Rhode Island has been increasing since 2007. Many people and groups were responsible for making the event happen.

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON—Crisis Ministries held their 5th annual memorial service for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. The event took place at Marion Square on the evening of December 17 at 5:30 p.m. to remember the lives of 12 people who died homeless in 2009. The memorial featured prayer and candles.

MYRTLE BEACH—Myrtle Beach hosted their 1st Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event on December 17. The event was sponsored in part by Swash Park Ministry and the Community Kitchen of Myrtle Beach. The number of people who died homeless in 2009 was the highest it has been in the past 9 years. There were 18 homeless deaths in 2009, and up until this year, the highest number of homeless deaths had been 12 in 2007. Of the 18 homeless deaths, 7 died in their sleep, 3 died from heart attacks, 2 from cancer, and 2 were stabbed. One person was burned in a tent fire, one person was found beaten to death close to a tent, one person died from a seizure, and one person was found frozen.

TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA—An event was held at the Day Center of Chattanooga Community Kitchen on December 21 at 10:15 a.m. to remember the 30 people who lost their lives while homeless in 2009. Each person was recognized with an empty tray at the table to indicate the space that person would have occupied.

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JACKSON—An event was held for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day at St. Luke's Area Relief Ministries on December 21 at 5 p.m.

KNOXVILLE—Knoxville hosted their 1st annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event on December 21 at 6 p.m. The event was hosted by the Cherokee Health Systems Broadway Homeless Clinic and featured a candlelight walk from the Broadway Clinic to a Lutheran church. There were about 15 homeless death; 11 of these were identified, while there were at least 4 other homeless deaths where the names of those who died were unknown. A mayoral proclamation was given.



Chattanooga, TN Memorial, Dec. 21, 2009

Photo Courtesy of WRCBtv.com

NASHVILLE—An event was held on December 12 and the Nashville Homeless Power Project may have played a role in the event. It may have been the 19th event in Nashville and it may have been the 8th organized by the Nashville Homeless Power Project.

TEXAS

AUSTIN—Austin held a Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event on the morning of November 22, 2009. This event was the city's 17th annual event, sponsored by House the Homeless. The ceremony took place beneath the homeless memorial tree at Auditorium Shores. The event remembered the 158 deaths of those who died homeless or in poverty that occurred in 2009. 156 of the people were adults, while 2 were infants. Names were read for those who passed away and origami swans were hung on the tree for them. Councilwoman Randi Shade put forth a proclamation recognizing November 15-22 as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. On New Years Day 2010, the city hosted its 10th annual House the Homeless Thermal Underwear Party, where clothes were handed out and a lunch was served.

BRYAN—Bryan hosted their 2nd annual event on December 20 at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Brazos Valley Homeless Coalition. The event was held at Twin City Mission Shelter and warm socks, gloves, and caps were collected.

CALDWELL—An event was held on Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m.

HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY—Houston held an event on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. at Hermann Square at City Hall. Blankets, winter coats, and food were distributed. Sponsors of the event were Senator Rodney Ellis, The DeGeorge, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Christway Ministries, New Beginnings House of Prayer, Mercy Street, and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County. U.S. Vets and Ignatian (Or Ignation) Spirituality Project may have been sponsors as well.

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LUBBOCK—Lubbock hosted their 4th annual event at Mahon Library on December 21. The event was organized by the Community Health Center of Lubbock and the South Plains Homeless Consortium of the City of Lubbock Community Development. According to *Avalanche-Journal* from Lubbock, Stella Ferrer of the Community Health Center of Lubbock stated, “Many who have passed away on the street never had a respectful memorial service. Hopefully, the people will realize the tragedy behind this.” City Council members, church groups, and other community organizations were present at the event. The memorial included candles and the singing of worship songs. A mother and her children went around their neighborhood to collect coats and blankets. Some students from a middle school passed out food, drink, clothing, and blankets to homeless people staying on the steps of the library. When the memorial ended, homeless people were able to pick up bags of various donated items.

SAN ANTONIO—Navarra Williams of SAMMinistries read off 75 names of those who died homeless in 2009. In 2008, there were 45 homeless deaths. Other organizations hosted the December 21 at 6:30 p.m. event along with SAMMinistries.

UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY—About 200 people were present at an event on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. in Pioneer Park sponsored by the Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council and Fourth Street Clinic. The event included a memorial service and candlelight vigil. There were several speakers at the event, including Governor Gary Herbert, City Mayor Ralph Becker, County Mayor Peter Corroon, and Homeless Advocate Pamela Atkinson. Amy Nissen, a formerly homeless person, told her personal story of difficulties she had while homeless. She read the 58 names of those who died homeless in Utah in 2009. According to *Desert News*, Mayor Corroon said, “On this longest night of the year we are reminded just how difficult life is without a home.” Also according to *Desert News*, Governor Herbert said, “In this season of generosity, citizens of Utah are encouraged to commit themselves to promote compassion for all. Especially those who are less fortunate and homeless.” The ceremony ended with singing from the East High School Choir.

VERMONT

BURLINGTON—The Community Health Center of Burlington and Uncommon Grounds observed Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on December 21. The Community Health Center of Burlington has Safe Harbor Clinic and Pearl Street Clinic as parts of their Homeless Health Care Program. Uncommon Grounds collected donations of warm clothing items from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on December 21 in exchange for coffee. Hot coffee was also provided to the homeless. A large purple ribbon was put on the memorial tree on the Fletcher Free Library lawn. According to a post from the Community Health Center of Burlington, Erin Ahearn, MSW, a social worker at Safe Harbor, said, “Warm weather gear or dry socks can mean the prevention of a health crisis for many of our folks during the cold winter months.”

In either a related or unrelated story from *The Burlington Free Press*, a clinic received donations on December 21 for items including boots, hats, and other items for the homeless to be warm.

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Another memorial service remembered those who utilized the assistance of the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS). COTS' annual candlelight vigil took place outside City Hall on December 16 at 5:30 p.m. where names, ages, and information about some of those who passed away homeless were read. This was followed by songs and food and drink inside City Hall.

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE—A Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event was held beginning at Charlottesville Ice Park on December 21 at 5:30 p.m. From there, there was a candlelit walk which ended at the City Space on the Downtown Mall with a memorial service at 6 p.m. There are approximations that 1,000 people are homeless in the area. Kaki Dimock of the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless stated, according to *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, that "This memorial is the community recognizing that someone was here, someone lived. This is recognizing the human being in all of us." The event was put forth by Marnie Allen of Hope House, Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA). This was the plan for the event, yet it may have been postponed due to the weather.

NORFOLK—Norfolk held a candlelight vigil event where there was a walk through downtown Norfolk on December 21 attended by dozens. 49 homeless people have died since 1990 in either Norfolk or Virginia Beach, one of those cities. There was a 15% increase in general homelessness in Norfolk. Norfolk put forth the Office to End Homelessness four years ago which has had triumphs in getting hundreds off the streets.

PORTSMOUTH—The Portsmouth Homeless Action Consortium (PHAC) honored 6 homeless or previously homeless people who passed away in 2009. The event was held on December 21. The names of those who passed away were read as the bells from Trinity Episcopal Church sounded. Portsmouth had taken on plans to supply more shelter for homeless people.

VIRGINIA BEACH—Virginia Beach has hosted memorial events for the past few years. The event was held in the parking lot of The Lighthouse Center on December 21 at 7 p.m. The event was sponsored by Volunteers of America, Chesapeake and Friends of the Lighthouse Center. Living Again Ministries works with Lighthouse. There have been 49 homeless deaths since 1990 and around 7 in 2009. Virginia Beach took on plans to supply more shelter for homeless people.

WASHINGTON

KITSAP COUNTY—An event was held at First Christian Church of Bremerton, Disciples of Christ on December 21 at 6 p.m. in Bremerton to remember 4 homeless deaths in 2009 and was organized by the Kitsap Interfaith Network. Various donations of food were made and collected at the event.

SPOKANE—An event was hosted by Community Health Association of Spokane at CHAS Denny Murphy Clinic on December 21. Balloons were released at the event in honor of those who passed away homeless in 2009. 23 people were remembered at the memorial.

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YAKIMA—Yakima hosted their 5th annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event, sponsored by the Homeless Network of Yakima County, in Millennium Plaza on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. The city of Yakima issued a proclamation. There were 17 homeless deaths in 2009—9 men and 8 women. Candles were lit at the event.



Spokane, WA, Homeless Memorial, Dec. 21, 2009
Photo Courtesy of Jon Snyder

WISCONSIN

KENOSHA—Kenosha held their 3rd annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day event at Veteran's Memorial Park on December 21

at 3 p.m. The event was sponsored by Walkin' in My Shoes, an organization that provides aid for the homeless. Balloons were released for those who have passed away homeless and several people were acknowledged for recently moving into housing. There were 3 deaths in 2009; one was a veteran. According to *Kenosha News*, Patricia Woods-Clark, pastor for Straitway Ministry, stated, "There is no hope out there. There is no hope on the streets. The winter is no joke in Kenosha." Also according to *Kenosha News*, Jo Wynn, founder of Walkin' in My Shoes, said, "It is up to you to want to change your life. There is a way out of here, but you have to have the will."

LACROSSE—The Salvation Army held their 1st memorial for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in LaCrosse on December 21 at sunset, 4:31 p.m., in The Salvation Army Parking Lot. 104 people attended the event, and blankets and 1 sleeping bag were collected. The event remembered 7 people who died homeless, and was a candlelight memorial. The names were read and candles were lit, and an 8th candle was lit for the unknown. "Silent Night" was played during a moment of silence and participants in the memorial lit their candles. The memorial service included prayer and food and fellowship were given after in the Cafeteria. Mayor Mathias Harter issued a mayoral proclamation. According to The Salvation Army press release, Major Curtiss Hartley with The Salvation Army stated, "It is important for us to be reminded that homelessness is a real need in our area. We talk about numbers, but we must never forget that each statistic is a person; a son, a daughter, a dad, a mom that life has knocked down. As a community we can help them up. We must help them up."

MADISON—The Madison-area Urban Ministry sponsored an event on the night of December 21. Around 30 people congregated at the Madison Public Library-Central Library, a place where men meet each night preceding their walk to the all-male shelter located in Grace Episcopal Church. The group made their way over to the shelter. They recited a demand for affordable housing then marched to a bench in Capitol Square. There they held a short service at the bench where a Dwayne Warren, a homeless man, was found dead last summer. The man died of natural causes. His death drew notice because of the

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

fact that it happened in a public place. People questioned whether there could have been more done to prevent his death.

WYOMING

CHEYENNE—A dozen people gathered at the steps of the State Capitol Building at noon on December 21 as a part of Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. The event remembered the lives of 9 people who died homeless in 2009. The Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless sponsored the event.

CANADA

ALBERTA

EDMONTON—A memorial with candle lighting was held at the Boyle Street Community Services' 5th Annual Memorial for Homeless People. The event occurred on January 23, 2010. Around 170 people attended the event to remember the 46 homeless deaths that occurred in 2009. About 200 homeless deaths occurred in the last 5 years. Edmonton is 2 years into a 10-year plan to address homelessness. According to an article from edmontonjournal.com, Lorette Garrick from the George Spady Centre said that "We don't need to name names because the people here today know who passed away."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VICTORIA—An event for Homeless Persons' Memorial Day has been going on in Victoria for the past 2 years. The event, sponsored by the Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria, was held at Whale Wall Park on December 21 at 4 p.m. A proclamation was issued.

ONTARIO

TORONTO—A memorial vigil was held on December 8 at noon to remember 3 homeless deaths. Events like this take place monthly. The December 8 event took place outside of the Church of the Holy Trinity. Over 30 people attended the event and held candles. A homeless memorial fixture contains more than 600 names of those who have passed away homeless since 1990. The Toronto Disaster Relief Committee (TDRC) organized this event and has held an event every month for the past 10 years. They also keep track of homeless deaths in Toronto. According to Phoenix Community Works Foundation, Tanya Gulliver of TDRC stated, "We also know we are not capturing the true devastation of the death totals. There may be as many as 4 per week." 29 names were added to the memorial in 2009. This event included a reading and tribute to those who passed away in 2009.

A memorial event and Federal Town Hall meeting were held on February 9, 2010. It was hosted by the Recession Relief Coalition (RRC) at Church of the Holy Trinity. RRC founder John Andras organized the event. Representatives from varying political parties attended the meeting. Once Parliament returned, MP Tony Martin would put forth a Private Member's bill named the Poverty Elimination Act.

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Nationwide List of Homeless Persons Who Died in 2009

Below is a list of individuals who were honored or remembered at services and vigils around the country in 2009. The numbers attached to each location represent only those who were currently homeless and who died in 2009, but names of others—including formerly homeless individuals or advocates for the homeless—who were also remembered at the memorials were included if provided by the local community. Some communities did not release the names of the people honored for privacy reasons. In many cases, the numbers of those who died homeless are estimates or the number of people who they know definitely died. Some of the homeless who died may not be included as it is difficult to gain information on all who died. Some may have been overlooked, a sad reality of homelessness, while some may have names that were unknown.

ALASKA

BETHEL

JUNEAU

ARIZONA

FLAGSTAFF

PHOENIX

TEMPE

TUCSON (128)

CALIFORNIA

GLENDALE (417 HOMELESS HONORED, 3 FROM GLENDALE AREA)

MODESTO

REDDING (8)

Timothy Lee Alcorn, 48

Linda Carey

Robert Hundley

Karen "Gypsy" Johnson

Brian Peterson

Norman Pine

John Whitman

Isamu Yanuchi

SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA (17 AS OF JULY 14, 2009, 18 AS OF AUGUST 14, 2009)

Alan

Anita

Chris

Damon

EZ

Gayle

Jeremy

Joe

"Michael" (military veteran)

Robert (military veteran)

Ron

Ronald

Rose

Stephanie

Gregory Ghan

Ross Stiles, 43

Man, 50s

Man found dead across street from the Santa Barbara Family YMCA

Man who passed away in Montecito

Unknown body, Found at Milpas St.

Alexander Mansfield (as of July 13, was comatose)

SANTA CRUZ (47)

SANTA ROSA

VENTURA COUNTY (AT LEAST 21)

COLORADO

BOULDER (20)

Bill Andrews

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Mel Carpenter
Amory Feltes
Jeanette Greene
Lisa Grisham
Robert Hawken Smith
Scott Innes
Nick Kidwell
Terry Kramer
Kurt Lawson
Lawrence Lovenstein
Leslie Martin
William Meeks
Dennis Nelson
Melissa Rea, 35
Harold Sisner
Logan Sisson
Curtis Thomas
Edward Valdez
Steven Vanner

COLORADO SPRINGS (13, 170 IN COLORADO)

Ashley Burleson
Mark Chandler
David Doyle
Anthony Ingersoll
Shelley Knight
Ray Medina
John Morrow
Thomas Nash
Anthony Nowlin
Ronald Redman
Thomas Roark

DENVER (154 IN DENVER METROPOLITAN AREA)

Grover Anderson
Tom Anderson, 46
Tina Applegate, 56
Bryan Armstrong, 53
Ronald Fred Atencio, 54
Judy Atkinson
Marilyn Bakal, 72
Valerie Ballast, 25
Amy Banks, 39
Shane Barthel, 33

Thomas Beck, 40
William Bentz, 62
James Berry, 57
John "Elwood" Bienick
Donna Blevins, 44
Michael Bochert
Travis Bordelon, 34
Annette Boyle, 40
Joseph Bryant, 51
Mary Bueno, 51
Patricia Bush, 50
Geno Calabrese, 44
Joseph Calderon, 65
Roger Calhoun, 66
Mel Carpenter
Tighe Chamberlain, 59
Carrie Chavez-Johnson, 48
Sandy Cowan, 48
Chantell Curry, 34
Danny Daily, 57
Jeff Davis, 42
Linn Decker, 46
Melissa Deeter, 46
Roberto Diaz DeLeon, 39
Mark Dorak, 40
Adam Earley, 20
Tina Edwards, 50
Amory Feltes
Erick Bradley Ferguson, 38
Carrie Fillis, 49
Beverly Fry, 74
Paul Garcia, 37
Ronald Garcia, 46
John Gardner, 62
Alfonso George
Nancy Gilmore
Patrick Gleason, 28
Judith Goering, 56
Miguel Ruiz Gomez, 50
Tomas Gomez
Alfonso Gonzalez, 23
Gustave Gourdin, 48
Bob Grau, 48
Dale Gustave
Frederick Hammer, 52
Michael Hannon, 55

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Kenneth Harlan, 56
Coraletta Harris
Roger Harris
Rene Hickey
Carlos Higuera-Rubio, 72
Geoff Hitchcock, 57
Janet Hodgson, 52
Brandon Howse, 27
Ricky Lee Iko, 48
Herschel Johnson
Richard Allen Johnson, 55
Russ Johnson, 55
Mark Keener, 51
Ryan Keith, 59
Jon Kemp, 41
Nick Kidwell
Michael Klasen, 51
Steve Komives, 57
Christopher Kvien, 33
Michael Ray Lambert, 56
Reginal Lankster, 55
Sarah Lawler
Suki Lay
Gary Lee Lewis, 55
Matt Maez, 18
Daniel Marquez
David Marquez, 42
Ranette Marquez, 56
Richard "Leslie" Martin
Joe Martinez, 51
Jerome Massey, 57
Roger May
Dreja'nae McHenry, 3 months
Mary McKinney
William Means, 44
William Meeks
Robert Miner, 68
David Moeller, 45
Ron Mondragon, 51
Mark Murphey
Ronnie Lee Neely, 48
Dennis Nelson
David Nevill, 52
Grady Nicholson, 57
Stephanie Nickson, 41
Tracy Oppenheimer

Manuel Pacheco
Nathaniel Passarello, 26
Valerie "Allie" Perea
Steve Pitman, 54
Mike Radtke, 46
Lisa Ragsdale, 47
Christopher Razze, 35
Melissa Rea, 35
Henry Renfrow, 40
Delayne Richard
Johnny Rivera
Lettimae Robertson, 52
Russell Robey, 60
Richard Rondeau, 53
Theodore Rueda, 30
Keith Ryan, 58
Reyes Salazar
Art Sena, 73
Armond Serracino, 45
Daud Shah, 33
Marvin Shappart, 45
Robert Sheneman, Jr., 42
Matthew Shoop, 28
Logan Sisson
Edward Smith, 61
Jake Smith, 41
Lee Smith, Jr.
Rickey Ray Smith, 54
Thomas Smith, 61
Andrew Sosis, 31
Michelle Sterud, 57
Daniel Stewart, 45
John Stone, 50
Henry Summers, 63
Kurt Swann
Louise Taylor-Davis, 54
Kenneth Thigpen
Curtis Thomas
Joseph Torres, 47
Anthony Valdez, 60
Eddie Valdez
Patrick Valdez
Glen Vavarek
Reggie Verge, 53
Silvia Vigil, 51
Lanny Waldon

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Jerry Wesland, 56
Dana White Calf, 34
David Wilson, 61
Gerald Wingerter, 53
Norman Wright, 46
King "Kennie" Yazzie, 69

CONNECTICUT

FAIRFIELD GREEN

HARTFORD (19)
Oscar Antuñez (McKinney Shelter)
Michael Colmer
Mike Cullner (House of Bread)
William Delgado (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Marion Draka (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
John Dudley (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Terence Green (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Willie Henderson (House of Bread)
Denzil Howell (House of Bread)
Rodney "Gary" Levesque
(Immaculate Conception Shelter)
George Lewis (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Jeffrey Lundy (Mercy Housing and
Shelter Corporation)
Antonio Melendez (Open Hearth)
Isabello Montanez (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Jeffrey Pounds (House of Bread)
Eduardo Resto (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Samuel Rosario (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Vincent Ulmer (Immaculate
Conception Shelter)
Tim Watkins-2007

MERIDEN

Gale
Jason
Wanda

MIDDLETOWN

NEW BRITAIN (2)

NEW LONDON (9-10)

Ron Backus
Richard Danko
Emanuel Diggs
Mark A. Galvin (Died after getting
an apartment)
Frank Hempstead
Louis Hernandez
Chris Machaud
David Price
Tom Robert

NORWICH

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON (75)

Joyce
Oscar
Jefferson Adelle
Byron Alexander
Gene Austin
Ken Ballard
Richard Bates
Catherine Bellamy
Linda Bouknight
William Bowie
Delores Bowser-Hill
Diane Bush
Clarence Calloway
Edward C. Carter
Darryl Chandler
Eugene Clay
Darlene Cooper
Leonel Cordera
Peter Cross
Rachael Culver
Gil Dean
Joe Dent
Sarah Douglas
Hazel Edmonds
John Farra
Zolie Fleetwood

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Martin Fox
James Glover
Ellen Gong
Norbert "doc" Grigsby
Carl R. Hatchett
Delores B. Hill
Earl Hudgens
Wilson Howard
Bobby Jenkins
John W. King
Shelby Lewis
Peter Lohot-Gros
Lindolph Marcellous
Cheryl McIlwain
Flora Miller
Charles Mills
Eunice Minor
Terry Monroe
William Morris
Robert Moten
Yoshio Nakada
Roger Negate
Renee Paige
Louis K. Pidgieri
Michael Prozano
Robert Pryor
George Pugh
George Reid
Richard Ridley
Archie Robinson
William Rucker
Larry Saunders
Alex Sibert
Brazil Smith
Paul Summers
Robert P. Thomas
Hannibal Tucker, Jr.
Harriet Tucker
Michael Tyree
Kathy Valentine
Roderick Valentine
Arthur Vaughn
Bernard Washington
Herbert Williams
Hilda Wilson
Angelia York

Bobby Young
Jane Doe
John Doe

FLORIDA

BRADENTON

**BREVARD COUNTY (20 CLIENTS
REMEMBERED AT THE DAILY
BREAD FACILITY, MANY MORE
REMEMBERED AT SERVICES ACROSS
BREVARD COUNTY)**

Mark
Ted Haag, 87
Larry Walker

CHARLOTTE COUNTY (2)
Catherine Rose Cala, 49
James Edward Taylor, 36

**CLEARWATER/CLEARWATER AREA
(33 IN PINELLAS COUNTY)**

FORT MYERS

HALLANDALE BEACH

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, EVENT
HELD IN TAMPA (48)**

Murphy
Greg Billings ("Crunchy")
Roosevelt L. Byrd, 61
Anthony Chatterton, 40
Stanley Morse, 56
Melissa Sjostrom, 33
Unidentified man, 63
John Doe

HOLLYWOOD

JACKSONVILLE

Barry
Maura
Young Woman (No name provided
in *The Florida Times-Union* article)

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Man (No name provided in *The Florida Times-Union* article)

TAVERNIER

KEY WEST

GEORGIA

ATLANTA (54)

LARGO

Orric

LAUDERHILL

Raymond

MARATHON

Steven

MILTON

James A.

NAPLES (21)

George Cloud

Michael Byrne (40)

Frank Duke

Angela Godfrey

Jerry Gravitt

Willie Jones

Henry M.

James M.

William Milstead

ORLANDO

Lloyd S.

PENSACOLA

Willie S.

Adam Scranton

Cornell Thomas

**PINELLAS PARK AREA (33 IN
PINELLAS COUNTY)**

COLUMBUS

SARASOTA

SAVANNAH

**ST. PETERSBURG (33 IN PINELLAS
COUNTY)**

HAWAII

Ferris

HONOLULU

TALLAHASSEE (11)

IDAHO

Carrol

COEUR D'ALENE

Stacey Bradish

Rocky Brown

Sharon K. Caponigro

Thelma Durant

Gloria James

David Oman

Stephen Lee Oresik

Hatti Phelps

Jerry Rich

Eva White

Jane Hunter Shaeffer (One of the
founders of The Shelter)

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO (24)

Andrew, 55

Androi, 59

Brian, 44

Christina, 74

Christopher, 43

Christopher, 53

Darnelle, 46

Freddie, 38

Freddie, 59

Greg, 45

John, 71

Jose, 58

**TARPON SPRINGS AREA (33 IN
PINELLAS COUNTY)**

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Joseph, 50
Kenneth, 54
Latrell, 51
Lavern, 50
Leonard, 56
Paul, 51
Reginald, 50
Rebecca, 52
Scott, 53
Venus, 43
Wanda, 47
William, 58

INDIANA

EVANSVILLE (7 KNOWN)

Bobby Beck
Charles Burns
Denny Burns
Dienido Castillo
Tammy Crowe
Jamison Williams
Kirk Williams

INDIANAPOLIS (37 ACCORDING TO CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ASSOCIATED PRESS, 50 ACCORDING TO INDYSTAR.COM)

Johnny Toles, 55

JEFFERSONVILLE (14 NAMES WERE READ, 15 HOMELESS DEATHS IN 2009)

Jaime Vidales, 50

KOKOMO

IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS (6 SHELTERS IN OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY IN NEBRASKA AND COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTOWATTAMIE COUNTY IN IOWA) (36)

3 service providers

DAVENPORT

DES MOINES (ABOUT 40 NAMED, ACCORDING TO RADIOIOWA.COM, JOE STEVENS, COFOUNDER OF JOPPA OUTREACH, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAVE MISSED SOME NAMES)

KANSAS

WICHITA

Bill
Charles
Jennifer
Kim
Pedro
Sonny
Steve
Terry
One Other, Body not identified

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE (27, MANY WERE CLIENTS OF WAYSIDE CHRISTIAN MISSION AT SOME TIME)

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS (14)

“Cherokee”
“Drunk Dave”
Trina Bryant
Larry Bumtas
Herbert Clark
Timothy Larson
Terry Lawhorn
Ralph McGee
Richard Peck
Debra Reed
Gary Sing
Others Unknown

SHREVEPORT (40) (THOSE WHO UTILIZED THE SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER RESCUE MISSION AT SOME TIME)

Past Two Years

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

MAINE

AUBURN

BANGOR (51 DURING THE LAST DECADE REMEMBERED AT MEMORIAL, 8 OF THOSE FROM 2009)

Bill

Ed

Frances

George

Mary Jane

Mike

Trevor

Richard Morgan

BRUNSWICK

PORTLAND

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE (50+)

BALTIMORE COUNTY (12)

CALVERT COUNTY

HARFORD COUNTY

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON

Frank B.

Thomas B.

Yvette B.

Frank D.

Edward G.

Rodney M.

Timothy M.

Bob W.

Stella May Brown Weaco (passed away New Year's Eve 2008 of cancer, Memorial and lunch in her honor held for her January 9, 2009)

Jane Doe

Many others

HYANNIS (9 IN THE HYANNIS AREA (ACCORDING TO *WICKED LOCAL, BARNSTABLE*) OR 10, MANY PREVIOUSLY HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO MOVED INTO HOMES AND THEN DIED)

SPRINGFIELD

MICHIGAN

DETROIT

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS (119 IN THE STATE)

Al, 47, Duluth

Albert, 35, Duluth

Gary, 54, St. Paul

"Hippie Al", Found dead in Duluth

Woman (Found in Mississippi River after jumping from bridge)

Jeffrey, 51, Minneapolis

Latrisha, 31, Minneapolis

Lester, 76, St. Paul

Matthew, 30, Hennepin County

Nancy, Minneapolis

Ray, 65, St. Paul

Osman Axmed Afrah, 48

Bret Asfeld, 46

Rural Bonner (Vietnam Veteran)

Lori Calcutt

Bruce "Little John" Down

Marty Roan Eagle, 50

Tyrone Hicks

Mario "Paco" Highler, 35 (Murdered in Duluth)

Robert Johnson

Robert Lee "Pops" Johnson, 73

Robert "Topper" Johnson, 55

Russell Lamp, 60

Sam Link

Samuel Montgomery, 32

Jeffrey Scott O'Donnell

Michael Palm

Michael Alan Palm, 41

Jahaia Parks, 33

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Emerson Parnacher (Korean War Veteran)
6-month-old boy
23-year-old
Man (Found hanged in Duluth)
"Unknown child" (Drake Hotel)
Unknown man, (shot to death, Minneapolis)

MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON

James Ivory (a former director of the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center's Homeless Clinic and advocate for the homeless)

MISSOURI

ST. JOSEPH

Joe, The late husband of Kathy Martinez
Sue Cockreil (advocate for the homeless, was on the board of the Open Door Food Kitchen)

ST. LOUIS (28)

MONTANA

BILLINGS

HELENA (READ 28 FROM 4 CITIES)

NEBRASKA

OMAHA (6 SHELTERS IN OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY IN NEBRASKA AND COUNCIL BLUFFS, POTTOWATTAMIE COUNTY IN IOWA) (36)
3 service providers

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS (42 AND OTHERS WHO WERE RESCUED BUT PASSED AWAY)
Bret Brennan, 48
Willie Danielson, 61

RENO (34)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD

KEENE (OVER 10 IN NEW HAMPSHIRE)

LACONIA

LEBANON

MANCHESTER (OVER 10)

Walter Bejourne
Michael Bernier
Henry Bowden
Nancy C.
Mark Caron
Karen Carter
Edgar Degrandmaison
Susan Dunmire
Howard E. Heselton (Heezy), b. June 20, 1950, died December 24, 2001
Jason "Moose" Jacklin
David Knowles
Sean Maynard
Bill Tinker (advocate for the homeless, founder of the New Hampshire Homeless Alliance)

NASHUA

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC COUNTY

BERGEN COUNTY

HUDSON COUNTY

"Maria" (lived on the streets of Hoboken for about 20 years)
Roman Catholic Deacon Joe Del Monte (fed many homeless people on Jersey City streets each week, founder of St. Francis Workshop, 1st recipient of The Jersey Journal's

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Foley Memorial Everyday Hero Award)

John Marlowe, 60 (veteran)
Greg Weaver

MERCER COUNTY (45 IN THE LAST 5 YEARS, DIED FROM HOMELESSNESS OR NOT ENOUGH CARE)

CHAPEL HILL

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (14 RECENTLY DIED HOMELESS IN COMMUNITY)

CHARLOTTE (20)
Johnnie Spears
Tigist Yemane

OCEAN COUNTY

DURHAM (12)
Raymond Denne
Walter "Frank" Grogan (b. 1959)
Robin Hughes (b. 1958)
Darnell Jackson
Abie Johnson (b. 1942)
Julie M. Leas (b. 1974)
Michael McManus (b. 1952)
Latarvio Lee Metts
Cheryl Oldham (b. 1958)
Hobart Smith (b. 1945)
Glynnis Whitley
Darrin Wilkinson (b. 1969)

PASSAIC COUNTY (LISTED: FROM PATERSON)

Thomas Combs
Millie Dollar
Wendy Hicks
Dale Piper
Hector Robles

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

LAS CRUCES

NEW YORK

BUFFALO (2-3 DOZEN)

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

NEW YORK CITY

ROCHESTER

Peter Hahn (advocate for the homeless, creator of the Super Bowl Party for the Homeless)

NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE (20 IN 2009, 6 SO FAR IN 2010)

Betty Lou Edgerton ("Baby Girl")
Donald Featherstone ("Hot Plate")
Angela Hart, 45 (veteran)
Means Laddie
David Ledford ("Papa")
Mike Malone

GREENSBORO (10)

Lee B.
Roscoe B.
Virgil B.
James "Turtle" D.
Randy F.
Irvin L.
Ayuub S.
Betty Ann S.
Libvey W.
Ron W.

NORTH DAKOTA

BISMARCK (11)

OHIO

AKRON

CINCINNATI

CLEVELAND (46 OR 47)

Anonymous
Andrew Bankey

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James Bennett
John Bozich
Orlando Burns
Lawrence Byrd
Tonia Carmichael
Brian Chalmers
Joe Clark
Nancy Cobbs
Tishana Culver
Gary Daly aka Battlecat
Twyla Dean
Crystal Dozier
Telacia Fortson
Linda Gozelinchick
Alvah Grays
Leslie Green
Nate Hairston
Kenny Hayes
Doug Haynes
Aaron Holland
Amelda Hunter
Dina Jackson
Lisa Jockel
Timothy Johnson
Lisa Johnston
Ken Klingbiel
Leshanda Long
Willie Maddox
Michelle Mason
Jack Mulhall
Christopher Perkins
Lemmet Pinkard, Jr.
Manuel Rivera
Dustin Rose
Dean Smith
Farooq Smith
Kim Yvette Smith
Mary Spriggs
George Sterling
Diane Synkowitz
Leonard Thornton
Raymond Vivier
Janice Webb
Nathaniel Wheeler
Chuck Whitlock

COLUMBUS

DAYTON (18)

Aaron, 57
Arthur, 39
Belinda, 42
Chris, 51
Darrell, 48
David, 50
David, 51
Eric, 45
Gerald, 54
Gregory, 50
Lowell, 51
Maria, 36
Mark, 53
Naomi, 51
Perdeathia, 39
Thomas, 30
Thomas, 62
Tommy, 47

TOLEDO (11)

David Alley
Justin Ashworth
John Hensley
Darren Manders
Ray Matta
H.L. Nobles
Roy Patten
James Schulte
Jennifer Shively
Leon Watts
April Nichole Wheeler
Ruth Arden (retired Executive
Director of St. Paul's Community
Center, spent 34 years with the
organization)

OREGON

ALBANY (12)--2008 and 2009

Jeffery Albin
Susan Carlson
Dan Coleman
Bradley Allen Davis
Joe Digby

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Anthony Lee Ewert
Ty Hoeffler
Jubentio Perez
Steve Revels
Michael George Sartory
Todd Scheibe
Bobby Shmidtke
Unnamed Individuals

THE DALLES

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA (87)

Peaches (lived in Love Park, moved to Baltimore, and died)
Henry James Abbott Jr. (veteran)
Unknown man
Unknown man, 60, killed by police

PITTSBURGH (10 OR 11)

Michael Branchen, 45
Charles Johnson, 67
Victor Kulcsar, 47
Debra Leonard
Kenneth Lindner, 55
Walter Loucks
Michael Mulvey
Curtis Mulvihill, 41
Terry Reynolds, 59

WILKES-BARRE (LUZERNE COUNTY) (8)

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE (18 KNOWN)

Laurine Ballou
Lewis Chicano
Jules Choate
Scott Denny
Danny Gagnan.
Jeannine Garcia
Gina Hall
Charles Hathaway
Mark Henry
Richard Machado
Kyle J. Mathew

Craig Nello
Tommy O'Donnell
Bob Pangborn
Moreen S.
Joe Scungio
Albert Vierra
Frank Wiley

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON (12)

MYRTLE BEACH (18)

TENNESSEE

CHATTANOOGA (30)

Harry Miller

JACKSON

KNOXVILLE (15, 11 OF THESE WERE IDENTIFIED, 4 WITH UNKNOWN NAMES)

NASHVILLE

TEXAS

AUSTIN (158 DEATHS OF THOSE WHO WERE HOMELESS OR IN POVERTY)

Josephine Aguilera
Felton Alexander
Brenda Algere
Larry Andrews
Mary Andrews
Roy Andrews
Jesse Armonta
Gregory Ash
Joseph Baca
Armondo Barron
Donald Bell
Guadaupe Bernal
Dorisa Birnell
Dolores Blackwell
Virgil Blevins
Alayzha Boyd
Frederick Bromley

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Rosanna Broussard
Paul Brumfield
Michael Byrd
Steve Byrd
Lee Carathers
Johnny Chambers
Thomas Clemens
Dolores Clonce
Alma Cockrell
Jimmy Colbert
Antoine Collins
James Collins
Audrey Cook
John Corner
Scott Corner
Robert Crabb
Van Dan
Margaret Davis
Victoria Davis
Richard Disher
Debra Dorman
Mike Emigh
Roy Evan
Nicholas Evans
Richard Fay
Ernest Feagan
Laura Flores
James Freeman
Phillip Freese
Joseph Freitag
Joseph Gage
Jennifer Gale
Russell Gillespie
Joshua Gremelsbacker
Tim Hanna
Lee Ann Harrington
Mark Hart
Alan Haskell
Joe Hastings
Donald Henderson
Shannon Henderson
Spencer Henderson
Jose Hernandez
Andrew Hill
Frank Hill
David Hoffman

Jeff Holley
Adam Holowiecki
Tammy Hood
Terrance Hornsby
Robert Horton
Michael Hudson
Yolanda Hurricks
David Hutcherson
Patrick Hynes
James Jackson
Leslie Jackson
Robert Jackson
Danny Jandle
Jordan Jimenez
Wihlea Jone
Shelton Jones
Evaleena Jordan
Olga Joya
Sandra Kinney
Alta Knapp
Mark Kroeney
Sherry Langston
Doris Laurence
Roger Laurence
Mark Lee
Michael Little
Billy Lloyd
Anthony Lyle
Anne Mahony
Jerry Marlow
Dwight Matthews
George McCollough
Christopher McHenry
Steven Meeks
Patricia Melton
Shavon Middleton
Gwendolyn Milligan
Larry Mitchell
Betty Mitsche
James Mosey
Mary Mullins
Alexander Munoz
Paul Murray
Ko Ne
Team Nhok
Alex Nixon

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Greely Pannell
Mary Ann Perez
Lester Radley
Antonio Ramirez
Draulio Ramirez
Jesse Ramirez
Benford Rhoden
Willie Mae Rivers
Jose Rocha
Richard Roland
Sophia Rosales-Flores
Robert Ruthewic
Donald Sam
Wilie Sampson
Steven Sanchez
Dale Sawn
William Sears
Jeffery Shankie
Charles Simmons
Paul Sims
Calvin Smith
Nicolas Stager
Michael Stamm
Christopher Standage
Frances Starks
Larry Starnes
Arthur Stewart
Phil Stewart
Harold Swain
Joe Tamayo
Ricky Townsend
Mamie Turman
Jerry Turner
Effie Tysinger
Francisco Valenciono
Fernie Walker
Edward Wells
Wiley Whittle
Allayha Williams
John Williams
Laura Williams
Ronnie Williams
Nadine Wisniewski
Horace Wright
Harold Zemer
Baby John Doe

Infant Donowho

BRYAN

CALDWELL

HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY (101 KNOWN TO HAVE DIED)

Mr. "21"
Brenna
Derrick
James
John
John
"Homeless" Randy
Robert
Terry
Wade Adams
Marilyn Akins
Roberto Aleman
Pricillia Armes
Thomas Balterra
Sammy Baltierra
Jacinto Barahona
John Berger
Bob Brown
Alvin Campbell
Thomas Carnline
Juan Casitllo
Gene Castillo
Juan Cavazos
Robert Cleveland
Patrick Criswell
An Dang
Danny Daniels
James Davis
Michael De Los Santos
Dell Delaney
Curtis Dubose
Donald Fosha
Darin Foster
Lawrence Fox
Ramon Gamino
Bobby Gipson
Gerald Glenn
Jesse Gonzales

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Billy Griffith
James Gurrero
Francisco Gurrero-Soliz
Joseph Haggerty
Thomas Hammack
Randy Hanson
Juan Harrelson
Marcos Hernandez
Linda Jacobs
Donald Jones
Kirk Krumrey
Jeffery Landon
Ernest Levey
"Michael" Lizagarra
Joel Maeby
Mohammed Marfani
Joseph Mathes
Samuel Matthews
Isaac Mayes
Steven McDonald
Barry McKensie
Jana Mendes
Jessie Morrison
Judy "China" Navarro
David Obialor
Emminson Obregon
Ralph Perkins
Ronnie Pete
Susanne Piekert
Michael Poe
Samuel Pollen
James Poole
Leonard Pulkrabek
Robert Quinn
Martin "Marty" Reiser
Richard Rickman—US Army
Joseph Rivas
Benjamin Rodgers
Alfonso Rodriguez
James Rood
Daniel Russey
Edris Saldana
Theodore K. Schmitz Jr.
Barbara Schrader
Larry Shepherd
Jarnil Singh

Willie Sneed
John Steinberg
Joe Stevens
Zachary Stringer
Cheryl Sublett
Joe Tall
Willie Tarver
Tommy Taylor
Douglas Terry
Francisco Torres
Jesse Valdez
Robert Venegas
Daniel Watson
James White
Luther Wilkinson
Lamar Young
Edward Zientek

LUBBOCK

SAN ANTONIO (75)

UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY (58 IN UTAH)

Mark Alford
Noe Arreola
Perry Shane Barney
Kelvin Black
Sonji Brazzell
Daniel Brooks
Rebecca Clayton
John Clore
Bruce Curley
James Richard Davis
Gary DeLullo
Alberto Enriquez
Robert Fritz
James Matt Fueston
Theresa Marie Galindo
Clifford W. Garcia
Shane Gleave
Dervo Hadarovic
Casey Keith Hall
Danny Hardman
Sharon Louise Hawkins
Jacqueline Holliday

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Steven Hunsaker
Brian Janusz
Dan C. Johnson
Edward King
Timothy Charles Lamb
Judy Layton
Orlando Pastrana Lopez
Teresa Lynn Lyons
Emil William Mach
Mario Maggio
Carl McCane
Michael Lewis Miller
Steven Nagel
Jim O'Leary
William Shawn Orphan
Paulla Oviatt
Kelvin Bode Park
Gary Pederson
Antonio Primero
Charles D. Reeves
Earl Robinson
Jay Allan Rodd
Esther Rodriguez
Greg Santiago Romero
Brett Franklin Rudy
Delores Sanchez
Richard Sellars
Brett Lee Shanks
Tracey Smith
Joseph Talbert
Jennifer Lynn Thamert
Anthony Theroit
Eldon Urban
Edmond Dee Wash
Colby Wells

VERMONT

BURLINGTON

*IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO
UTILIZED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER*

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Ed "the Tarotman"

**NORFOLK (3, 49 IN EITHER
NORFOLK OR VIRGINIA BEACH
[ONE OR THE OTHER] SINCE 1990)**
Yolanda Cluke's Daughter, 28

**PORTSMOUTH (6 HOMELESS OR
PREVIOUSLY HOMELESS)**
Henry Blount, 68
Tony Anderson, 53

**VIRGINIA BEACH (AROUND 7, 49 IN
EITHER NORFOLK OR VIRGINIA
BEACH [ONE OR THE OTHER] SINCE
1990)**
Bill Mahoney (veteran)
Demetria Grier, 28 (Yolanda Cluke's
Daughter, see above)
Karen Francis (passed away about 5
years ago)

WASHINGTON

KITSAP COUNTY (4)

Victor Baca
Joseph Jackson
Sidney Lofthus
William "Mick" Mickelson

SPOKANE (23)

Mary Adams
Robert T. Andreson
Shelia Bishop
Althrea Carlie-Hemmer
Matt Clark
Joshua Shad Fisher
Willie Green
Larry Hardaway
Albion Hettich
Gene Hostler
Dewey Hudson
Johanna Hutchins
Theresa Jefferson
Randall Jerred
Gary Johnson
Robert McDonald
Kimberly McNight
Kevin Mitchell

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Edie Mosley
Milburn Samuels
Steve Tower
Jeff Weinandt
Sheryl Lyn Whitlekind

YAKIMA (17)

Darla Lorraine Atkins (b. 1968)
Leo Billy (b. 1940)
Michael Lee Davis (b. 1952)
Corrine Elwell (b. 1957)
Dewayne Elwell (b. 1954)
Geneva Franklin (b. 1962)
Barry Gunn (b. 1949)
Leonard Hansen Sr. (b. 1964)
Forrest Benedict Howard (Koomish)
(b. 1966)
Colleen Jaramillo (b. 1974)
Shelly Jean Kinter (b. 1966)
Madeline O. Long (b. 1969)
David William Miller (b. 1985)
Levi G. Morrison Jr. (b. 1967)
Sharon Rinehart
Linda Lynn Rodgers (b. 1961)
Jacob Allen Waugh (b. 1961)

WISCONSIN

KENOSHA (3)

Robert Ahern
Private Joseph Manuel Lopez
(Veteran)
William E. Roberts

LACROSSE (7)

Bonnie, 61
Brian, 51
John, 65
Mark, 19
Michelle, 41
Shannon, 26
Teresa, 48

MADISON

Dwayne Benjamin Warren, 38

WYOMING

CHEYENNE (AT LEAST 9)

PUERTO RICO

ALBERTA, CANADA

EDMONTON (46)

Josephine Jimmy's Niece

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

VICTORIA

ONTARIO, CANADA

TORONTO (29)

“Bloggers Unite” on blogspot.com

Last year, blogspot.com launched a project called Bloggers Unite, where bloggers who participate all write about a particular project on the same day.

An event to share stories about National Homeless Memorial Day has been set up for December 21, 2009. The page has already been created, stating the objective to be an event that “raises awareness about the high personal cost of homelessness with vigils in memory of those who have died while homeless.”

This is a great way for local organizers to share their ideas and experiences on a national level. This event provides a forum for organizers, advocates, and homeless or formerly homeless individuals throughout the nation to connect, and raise more awareness for the issue of homelessness and for National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Join the event today!

<http://www.bloggersunite.org/events/category/human-rights>

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY MANUAL 2010

Street Sense, March 18 – March 31, 2009-03-24

Life (and Death) on the Street, Where so Little is Certain

By Mary Otto

At an annual vigil held last Dec. 21 on the cold and windy first night of winter, the names of people who died homeless in the District in 2008 were read aloud.

The name Orin Andrus was among them, although it was spelled on the list as Orin Andres.

The news came as a sad shock to his colleagues at Street Sense, where Andrus had been a vendor before resigning late in the summer. A tall lanky fellow, Andrus was fondly remembered as a “gentle giant” who loved gardening.



Orin and Ken take time to catch up on the past three months.

Street Sense was recently surprised again – this time in a good way – to learn that Andrus is alive and well, despite having been listed as deceased last year.

And the effort to untangle how this happened revealed some important things about the impact of anonymity and rootlessness in the lives – and deaths – of homeless people.

In preparing the story about the Dec. 21 vigil, Street Sense found that details about Andrus' reported death were sketchy. According to an advocate who helped collect names for the memorial list, Andrus was reportedly found dead at 11th and G streets, NW. That had been the very corner where he had sold his papers.

Calls to city agencies for further details, including the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, went unreturned as the Christmas Eve issue of Street Sense went to press.

And on March 4, Andrus walked into the Street Sense office, hearty and tan.

“I’m not dead,” he announced. He was carrying a shopping bag containing Cuddles, his cherished toy stuffed cat, along with his birth certificate and other documents.

“This is all my stuff to prove I’m alive,” explained Andrus, 46.

A Cause for Celebration

He said that after he left Street Sense he had found well-paying landscaping work out in Arlington, Va., earning enough to rent himself a small room.

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When a friend told him about the Dec. 24 Street Sense article reporting him dead, Andrus laughed. But he decided he needed to come back and set the record straight.

“I think it was a mistake,” said Andrus. “I feel pretty good for a dead man.”

Andrus' surprise return was a cause for celebration at the newspaper office. But it was also a haunting reminder of the difficulties of keeping track of homeless people, both in life and in death.

Living in Plain View, Anonymously

For homeless people and the people who work with them, it's a complicated matter. Some homeless people don't want to be named or found. Some are estranged from families or ashamed to be homeless, or in flight from justice or from abuse. Many have no identification, because it is so easily lost or stolen.

Street Sense has no formal system of keeping track of vendors and former vendors, who are not employees but independent contractors.

And their lives, like the lives of many other poor and homeless people, are often transient. Many are not reliably reachable by telephone or mail. They do not always contact the newspaper when they move on to a new job, enter a hospital or rehabilitation program, or serve time in jail.

During his March 4 visit, Andrus said he would have liked to let Street Sense know how he was doing but was it difficult while working in Virginia.

“I worked ten hours a day, six days a week. I had a cell phone and it got stolen,” he said

Remembering the Deceased

National Homeless Persons' Memorial events such as the local vigil have been held nationwide every year since 1990, to remember the homeless people whose lives and deaths might otherwise go without any public recognition. The observances are co-sponsored by a number of homeless advocacy organizations including the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Vigils are typically observed the evening of December 21, the first night of winter and the longest night of the year. The 2008 D.C. vigil memorialized 52 people believed to have died in the District and Alexandria, Va. during the year, including Andrus. The event was one of nearly 100 held throughout the country.

The names that are read aloud at the D.C. homeless vigil are garnered from a number of nonprofit groups who serve the homeless, and compiled by the National Coalition for the Homeless, which is a sponsor of the event.

Mary Ann Luby of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, who helps gather names for the memorial event, said she got Andrus' name from an investigator from the D.C. Office of the

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Chief Medical Examiner. Luby said she checked with the investigator again this month and her source insisted that an Orin Andres, spelled with an E not a U, did indeed die.

The investigator did not return calls from Street Sense for this story. But in an interview, another official at the medical examiner's office, who asked not to be named, said she could find no record of Andrus' name, spelled either Andres or Andrus, in the office system.

The official said it would be impossible to confirm the other names on the memorial list due to privacy restrictions.

"There is absolutely no way," the official said.

In high-profile or public cases, the office is allowed to inform the press of the cause and manner of death. In many other cases however, the official said "telling about the death would be an invasion of privacy."

Anonymous – Even in Death

The efforts that go into collecting names for the annual memorial vigils are no substitute for a more formal system of gathering the names of people who have died while homeless, said National Coalition for the Homeless Executive Director Michael Stoops.

"We need a better system of keeping track of people who died homeless," said Stoops. But the task is just one more of the challenges of helping people who live and sometimes die in the shadows.

"When you are a homeless person, your life can be anonymous. Your death can also be anonymous. No one will know if you pass away."

Over the years, Stoops has often been called upon to identify the bodies. It's a difficult task, he said "especially when it's someone you know."

The List Goes On

Names for the 2009 memorial vigil are already being collected. Three days after the 2008 vigil, the body of local homeless man Yoshio Nakada was found in Foggy Bottom, apparently bludgeoned to death as he slept outdoors.

The official from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner said autopsies are still being completed on Byron Alexander, who was reportedly found dead Feb. 1 at North Capitol Street and Florida Ave., and Ellen Gong, whose body was found Feb. 5 at 14th Street and New York Ave. in Northwest.

A third homeless person, a 50-yearold white male, was found dead on March 9 at 13th and Perry Streets in Northeast, according to Luby. And a fourth, named Robert Pryor, about 52, was found alive on Sixth Street, NW on March 1, she said. But on March 10, he also died.

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Alive and Well and Working Hard

On his recent visit to Street Sense, Andrus enjoyed a doughnut with his friends and then decided he had better get back to Virginia. He is anxiously awaiting spring, and more gardening and landscaping work. "I'll probably be planting trees and flowers," he said with a smile. He promised to stay in touch.