



Homeless Relief Ministry

As we approach the 2nd Anniversary of the Homeless Relief Ministry I thought it would be a good time to review what the ministry has done thus far and state what it hopes to accomplish in 2017!

The Past:

In 2015 HRM furnished 14 apartments (12 for Supportive Housing Communities clients and 2 for Angel House Maternity Home clients). In 2016 33 apartments were furnished! (22 for SHC, 9 for Angel House and 2 miscellaneous moves). That's 47 moves in two years, helping to welcome home a total of 87 men women and children. And those numbers do not include the 15 or so SHC apartments furnished in 2014 by the Homemakers of Mercy before they asked us to take over working with SHC.

Despite some frustrations, including the very short notice we are typically given prior to moves, it has been a rewarding group effort. Many parishioners from St. Matthew, St. Peter and St. Vincent de Paul have donated furniture, housewares, food and money to make these moves possible. Volunteers have dedicated long hours to sorting, shopping, preparing meals, moving and setting up these apartments. And others have kept the ministry and the people it serves in their daily prayers. We are also extremely grateful for the continued and generous support of our Pastors - Monsignor John McSweeney, Father James Shea, SJ, and Father Mark Lawlor.

2017 Goals:

Supportive Housing Communities: HRM ministry representatives met with the Executive Director and other team members of SHC last week to ascertain how many people they expect to house permanently this year. The minutes of that meeting are attached but, briefly, we were told that they hope to be able to fill 16 to 18 apartments in 2017. There are 8 individuals and 1 family who already have been approved and funded and who are waiting for apartments to be identified. There may be additional SHC apartments to furnish if they are able to purchase a city funded apartment complex (see attached minutes).

Angel House Maternity Home: The home is currently at capacity with six women in residence; babies are expected from the end of February until June. At this time 'The



Relatives' (Alexander Youth Network), which has been the primary organization helping Angel House moms and babies find apartments, is experiencing a funding shortfall. Please keep this worthy organization and, of course, the Angel House moms and babies in your prayers. We will remain ready to assist them as apartments become available.

Current needs:

In addition to the material donations of Furniture, Housewares and Pantry Food that the ministry accepts, we have need of additional volunteers in the following areas:

Shoppers: to augment the small housewares needed to bridge inventory gaps (receipts can be submitted for reimbursement).

Pantry Food Chair: Organize donations of pantry foods, cleaning products and paper goods in the HRM Pantry at St. Vincent de Paul. To fill gaps in inventory one may need to shop (can be reimbursed) and/or organize small food drives.

Beds!! Our most pressing need at this time is beds. We have received some donations to purchase beds in the past and will greatly appreciate such donations in the future. Last year a local Holiday Inn donated 35 used mattress sets (box springs and mattresses) which HRM volunteers brought to Crisis Assistance for cleaning and bagging. We received 18 sets back from Crisis and have just about used them all up. So, if anyone knows of a hotel that is planning a remodel - let us know!



Thank you again for your continued support and prayers as we all work to help the homeless in our community.

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