

## THE NEW FACE OF THE HOMELESS

THE HOMELESS ARE NO LONGER JUST THE SUBSTANCE ABUSERS, THE MENTALLY OR EMOTIONALLY ILL, OR THOSE PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO WORK. THE FACE OF THE HOMELESS IS CHANGING AND NOW INCLUDES THE "WORKING POOR" WHO LIVE FROM PAY-CHECK TO PAY-CHECK OR OTHERS WHO HAVE SIMPLY HAD A RUN OF BAD LUCK.

TO GET INTO A HOUSE OR AN APARTMENT, ONE MAY NEED UP TO \$800.00 JUST TO COVER THE FIRST MONTH'S RENT AND SECURITY DEPOSIT. HOURLY WAGES ARE INSUFFICIENT, WORKING HOURS ARE LIMITED AND EMPLOYERS DON'T HAVE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL OR PAID LEAVE BENEFITS SUCH AS SICK DAYS OR PAID VACATIONS.

IN TUSCOLA COUNTY, IN 2008, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT IT TOOK AN HOURLY WAGE OF \$11.33 PER HOUR TO AFFORD A TWO BEDROOM HOME AT FAIR MARKET RENT (FMR). YET THE HOURLY WAGE OF RENTERS IN THE COUNTY IN 2008 WAS ONLY \$8.89 PER HOUR. ROUGHLY 42% OF RENTER'S CANNOT AFFORD A 2 BEDROOM HOME AT \$589 PER MONTH!

THERE ARE PUBLIC AGENCIES WITH PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP, BUT THEY ALL TO OFTEN RUN OUT OF MONEY OR HAVE RESTRICTIVE GUIDELINES THAT FREQUENTLY RESULTS IN PEOPLE "FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS" BECAUSE THEY DO NOT

QUALIFY. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AND EARN TOO MUCH MONEY TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE – THE "WORKING POOR."

FOR EXAMPLE: IN OUR AREA, IN ONE MONTH'S TIME TEN INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT HELP BECAUSE THEY WERE AT – RISK OF HOMELESSNESS:

- ✓ 7 People needed help with rent
- ✓ 4 had less than \$350 per month
- ✓ 10 children were affected

SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE RELEASED FROM JAIL AND HAVE NO PLACE TO GO FOR THE NIGHT WITH LITTLE MONEY. FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COMMUNITY, IT BEHOOVES US TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE A REAL CHANCE TO RESTART THEIR LIVES BEFORE THEY RESORT TO FALLING BACK INTO INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET THEIR BASIC NEEDS MET.

THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE SHELTER BEDS IN TUSCOLA COUNTY. IN THE HURON/TUSCOLA COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS, THE HOUSING INVENTORY FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER IS:

- 1,2 bdrm rental units (maximum 4 adults) for single adults or family w/children;
- Six bdrm, 28 bed house for homeless women and domestic violence;
- One bed for a single man.

ALTHOUGH MANY MAINSTREAM AGENCIES ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS THE HOMELESS PROBLEM SUCH AS THE RECENT COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS. NOTHING MOVES VERY FAST. IT IS HARD TO TELL A PERSON THAT WE ARE "WORKING ON THAT PROBLEM" OR "THE MAINSTREAM AGENCIES ARE ALREADY DOING THAT" WHEN THEY COME KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR. THE THC REALIZES THAT GOVERNMENT FUNDING WILL TAKE TIME TO ACCESS AND WHEN FINALLY IN PLACE, WILL HAVE GUIDELINES THAT COULD PREVENT SOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FROM RECEIVING THE HELP THEY DESERVE – BEFORE THE COSTS SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL!

## THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION

THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION WILL BE DOING FUND RAISING, SEEKING GRANTS, AND ASKING FOR HELP AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT TUSCOLA COUNTY.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION OR WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS GREATLY NEEDED ALL-VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION.

THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C) 3 CHARITABLE CORPORATION. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



PRELIMINARY STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE YOU CALL THE HOMELESS COALITION:

### STEP ONE

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS) AND OBTAIN A WRITTEN DECISION NOTICE STATING THE REASON FOR THEIR DENIAL. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY REQUEST AN HDC VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FILLING OUT ANY DHS FORMS. YOU MUST BRING THE DENIAL LETTER WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH THE HOMELESS COALITION. A COALITION VOLUNTEER MAY VERIFY YOUR SITUATION WITH THE CASEWORKER.

### STEP TWO

CONTACT THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (HDC). IF NEEDED, YOU MAY REQUEST AN OUTREACH WORKER FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FILLING OUT ANY HDC FORMS. ASK FOR COPIES OF YOUR APPLICATION FROM HDC (AND DHS) – THIS INFORMATION WILL SPEED THE PROCESSING OF YOUR REQUEST WHEN YOU CALL THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

### STEP THREE

THE TWO PRECEDING STEPS SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE SOME OF THE BASIC INFORMATION THE COALITION WILL NEED TO REVIEW YOUR SITUATION. HAVE THE COPIES IN FRONT OF YOU WHEN YOU CALL THE COALITION FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

CALL THE TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION AT (989) 672-7674. A VOLUNTEER WILL RETURN YOUR CALL - USUALLY WITHIN 2-3 DAYS - AND DISCUSS YOUR SITUATION VERIFYING YOUR COMPLETION OF STEPS 1 – 3 PRIOR TO ARRANGING AN INTERVIEW. MOST OF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED TO HDC AND DHS WILL HELP WITH THE PHONE INTERVIEW, SO PLEASE HAVE IT READY WHEN YOU CALL.

Additional information will be requested such as:

- ✓ Name, address, and phone number of landlord/mortgage company;
- ✓ Verification of income (pay-stubs, W-2's, or tax returns);
- ✓ Verification of residency in Tuscola County the past 30 days;
- ✓ Proper identification (Driver's license, State ID, Social Security card).

**REMEMBER:** The THC can assist a family or individual only one-time within a twelve month period.

The Tuscola Homeless Coalition will coordinate resources from area churches, as well as the agencies listed below.

#### For Additional Information

TUSCOLA PLACE FOR PEACE (TPP).  
PHONE # (989) 673-2873

BLUE WATER CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (BWCIL). PHONE # (989) 673-3678

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMM. (HDC).  
PHONE # (989) 673-4121

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS).  
PHONE # (989) 673-9100

VETERAN'S OFFICE # (989) 673-8114 x 128

# The Tuscola Homeless Coalition



TUSCOLA HOMELESS COALITION

*Lending A Helping Hand*

PO Box 323  
Caro, MI 48723  
PHONE: 989-672-7674

