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[www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org)

# National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

*A time for remembrance,  
A season of hope*

December 21, 2011  
Christ Church Cathedral

## Order of Service

Organ Prelude  
Michael Gebhart, Organ Scholar  
Christ Church Cathedral

Master of Ceremony  
Johnathon M. Willey  
Board Chair, CHIP

Welcome and Prayer  
The Very Reverend Stephen E. Carlsen  
Christ Church Cathedral

Responsive Reading  
Hope M. Artis

Trainer, Hospitality Certification Program, Adult & Child Center, Inc.

Come Unto Him All Ye That Labor (From Messiah)  
by George FREDERICK HANDEL  
The Cathedral Girls' Choir  
Dr. Dana T. Marsh, Director of Music

Speakers  
The Honorable Gregory A. Ballard  
Mayor of Indianapolis

Ronald Lindsay  
Homeless Advocate

Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels) by César Franck  
The Cathedral Girls' Choir  
Dr. Dana T. Marsh, Director of Music

Reading of the Names and Candlelight Ceremony  
Johnathon M. Willey

Tolling of the Bells/Moment of Silence  
Tolled for the number of homeless and formerly homeless persons  
who have died this year, and one more for those known only to God.

## Special Thanks

The National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service is held with the help of many people. We want to thank those who contributed their time and energy to this year's service including all of the speakers who shared so much of themselves with us. We also thank the candle holders and volunteers. We are grateful for significant financial support from Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield and our many generous donors recognized on signage at today's event and on CHIP's website. In addition, we thank Frank Bradford for providing musical entertainment during the luncheon for our homeless neighbors immediately following the service, Chick-fil-A (3360 W. 86th St.), Panda Express (8760 Michigan Rd.), and First Samuel Baptist Church for food and beverage donations and IKON Office Solutions, a Ricoh Company for donating services. Thank you to Christ Church Cathedral for hosting the service once again and for all the people in the community who share a commitment to working together toward ending homelessness.

## Information About CHIP

The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) is a not-for-profit agency working to assist homeless and near-homeless persons and the agencies serving them. Our mission is to mobilize the community to work together to end homelessness in Indianapolis. The *Blueprint to End Homelessness* provides a set of strategies that have been proven effective in preventing and ending homelessness.

Join in the fight to end homelessness by visiting the Community Wish List at [www.ChipIndyWishList.org](http://www.ChipIndyWishList.org) to search for volunteer opportunities or items to donate to a local service provider. By volunteering and donating, you can make a positive change for a homeless neighbor and our community. There are many other ways for people to get involved. Contact CHIP today for more information.

## Facts About Homelessness

- More than 450 people who have experienced homelessness have died in Marion County since 1996.
- On a single night in January 2011, nearly 1,500 men, women and children were identified as being homeless - living in shelters, transitional housing or a place not meant for habitation.
- An estimated 4,500 - 7,500 of our neighbors will experience homelessness during the course of a year.
- Homelessness results from many factors, including the lack of affordable housing, lack of employment or low-paying jobs, addiction and mental illness.
- The single greatest reason for homelessness in Indianapolis was loss of employment, reported by 457 or 35% of adults in 2011.
- Fifteen percent of adults who were homeless had jobs.
- There were 155 families (including 248 children) who were sleeping in a place they could not call home.
- Marion County schools also reported serving another 2,925 children who did not have a home of their own. These children are “doubled up” with friends or family, living in hotels or motels or are unattached.
- Thirty percent homeless individuals found during the 2011 Homeless Count was identified as a survivor of domestic violence.
- Thirty-eight percent of the homeless population includes individuals who suffer from severe medical issues, mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse.

### Winter Needs

This winter, local shelter and outreach teams are in need of warm clothing and non-perishable food items. Working in partnership with other homeless service providers, Wheeler Mission Ministries is storing public donations of these items. Donations can include: blankets, jackets, hats, and gloves; and single serving, easy-to-open sports drinks, juice boxes, sausages and beef sticks, puddings, fruit cups, peanut butter crackers, cereal or breakfast bars, instant coffee, and individual servings of chips and nuts.

**To donate, visit Wheeler Mission Ministries at 245 N. Delaware St.**

Donors should specify the contributions are for the Winter Relief for Homeless efforts.

**An offering taken after today's service at the back of the church will support Winter Relief efforts.**

## Responsive Reading

(Leader)

To each of you who has perished, this year and in previous years -

**(All)**

**We will remember you...**

(Leader)

We gather together to bring attention to the shame of homelessness and how it robs our neighbors of their hope and their lives -

**(All)**

**We will remember you...**

(Leader)

To those who have been lost on our city streets, in the alleyways, abandoned buildings and sometimes even in our hearts -

**(All)**

**We will remember you...**

(Leader)

For your strength, courage and perseverance, we will celebrate your life and mourn your loss. Lest we never forget your struggle -

**(All)**

**We will remember you...**

(Leader)

In your memory we will rekindle hope and recommit ourselves to fight for the cause. We will work as individuals, through organizations and as part of our communities to put an end to homelessness - now and forever.

**(All)**

**We will remember you...**

(Leader)

From the writings of St. Augustine:

*“Hope has two beautiful daughters,  
Anger at the way things are, and  
Courage to change the way things are.”*

In your memory we will seek to change the way things are, and -

**(All)**

**We will remember you.**

*A day of remembrance in honor of those people  
who were homeless and have died in 2011.*

David Agosto  
David Boles  
Michael Brockett  
Jerry Brown  
Michael Burns  
Cristina Centofante  
Andre Coleman  
Joseph Ervin  
William Ervin  
William Fletcher, Jr.  
Tommie Gibbs  
Charles Hall  
Amy Juarez-Johnson  
Paul Kuhlthau  
Michael Kunieļ  
Juan Lively  
Stephen McGuire  
Harold McQueen  
Kelli Morris  
Marcus Motley  
William Norley  
Christopher Parmer  
Ashaki Pearson  
Patry Pratt  
William Rosengren  
Talmon Strong  
Charles Wilkins  
Jimmy Zollner  
Anonymous

His Story...As Ronald Lindsay shares his story today, we want to acknowledge the courage it takes to publicly share his experience with us. He is an example of how a combination of services and housing can help end someone's struggle with homelessness. His story reminds us of the thousands of other people in need of our support.

**Ronald Lindsay** is a 1981 graduate of Tennessee State University with a degree in accounting. After graduation, he was hired by the City of Indianapolis where he was employed for 15 years. During his tenure with the city, Ron was responsible for the management of the Community Development Block Grant program, federal money utilized by local organizations to provide services to individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. He served as a ward chairman and as chair- man of a local political organization and attended two national political conventions including one as an alternate delegate.

The son of a bank officer and a retired IMPD officer with 36 years of service, Ron was not the picture of someone we traditionally understand to be at risk of homelessness. However, like so many others in the mid- 1990's and again today, when Ron lost his job he fell into a long period of unemployment. He exhausted his savings, was evicted from his apartment and began a 10-year journey on the streets of Indianapolis. He turned to alcohol as a constant companion, and over time alienated his friends and family. Ron stayed on the streets, was in and out of local shelters, the Vishard emergency room and jail. While homeless in Indianapolis, Ron was arrested 34 times for public intoxication. Ron reached the point of not looking forward to any tomorrows.

His first steps toward recovery and self-sufficiency began in 2010, but it was not until he was arrested on an outstanding warrant and appeared in community court earlier this year that he found the inner strength and the community support to change his life. "I realized that I was my own victim, I was my own prisoner;"

Today Ron is housed at the Salvation Army Harbor Light Centers' transitional housing program. He has worked recently as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, and earlier this month Ron took a food service position. Ron is now more than eight months sober and looking forward to tomorrow.