

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.

- All of the speakers who gave of their time, talent, and selves.
- All of the candleholders and other volunteers.
- Fazoli's Catering for providing lunch for our homeless and formerly homeless neighbors.
- The Downtown Hilton for in-kind contributions.
- Christ Church Cathedral for hosting the service once again.
- For all those 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 that serve 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.chipindy.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.



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National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

*Friday, December 19, 2008
Christ Church Cathedral
11:00 a.m.*

*A Time for Remembrance
A Season for Hope*

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

David Sinden
Christ Church Cathedral

Master of Ceremony

W. A. Rogers
Chair, CHIP Board of Directors

Welcome & Prayer

The Very Rev. Stephen E. Carlson
Christ Church Cathedral

Responsive Reading

Darnae' Scales, Executive Director
JEWEL Human Services

Speaker

The Honorable Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor of Indianapolis

Reading of Poem

by Kevin Nowak

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir
Under the direction of Dr. Frederick Burgomaster
Brother James' Air by Gordon Jacob

Speakers

Valerie Hogston, Formerly Homeless Neighbor
Kayona Bingham, Formerly Homeless Neighbor

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir
Under the direction of Dr. Frederick Burgomaster
Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter

Reading of the Names and Candlelight Ceremony

W. A. Rogers

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)

Facts About Homelessness

- More than twenty-seven people died in Marion County in 2007 who were homeless.
- More than 330 people died in Marion County since 1996 who were homeless.
- An estimated 4,500-7,500 of our fellow neighbors experience homelessness during the course of a year.
- An estimated 45,000 people in Indianapolis live on the edge of homelessness each year.
- There are more than 120 homeless families on any given night.
- Up to 15% of the homeless people living on the streets on any given night are veterans.
- One out of every five homeless individuals found during the 2008 Homeless Count was identified as a victim of domestic violence.
- Homeless neighbors with severe mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse make up 30% of the population.
- Approximately 23% are employed and approximately 21% are in school, including children.
- The total homeless population counted on one day in Indianapolis is more than 1,500.
- Homelessness results from many factors, including the lack of affordable housing, low-paying jobs, addiction, and mental illness.

Winter Needs

This winter, local shelter and outreach teams are in short supply 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, please visit the Wheeler Mission at 245 N. Delaware Street. 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.*

A Time for Remembrance A Season for Hope

Each year, people in Indianapolis gather, along with many others in cities across the country, to observe the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service. It is a time to remember those persons who were homeless in our city and have passed away. This memorial service offers a time to remember those who have perished and to reflect that in working together to end homelessness, we are endeavoring to save lives.

Tonight, most of us will be peacefully sleeping in our own beds in our well heated homes, but some will be sleeping on a floor or a humble cot in a shelter while others will be huddling in the darkness and trying to keep from freezing. We gather here on the winter solstice to draw attention to the plight of many of our neighbors who need help and to call for greater action on their behalf.

The winter solstice is the longest night of the year, but it is also the turning point in the season with shorter nights to come. It is a time for remembrance and a time for hope. Let us hope for brighter days ahead.

Gregory Kemp



Gregory Kemp unexpectedly passed away on November 22, 2008. Gregory was a case manager and evening "manager on duty" at Horizon House, where he worked with our homeless neighbors since January of this year. He was 52 years old at the time of his death. In addition to the work he did with the neighbors at Horizon House, Gregory held a master's degree in psychology from Martin University and a bachelor's degree in social work from IUPUI. He was also active in several church choirs. Gregory was a dedicated case manager who constantly worked to advocate and assist our homeless neighbors, and he will be sorely missed by the staff and neighbors at Horizon House and by all of those who had the honor of knowing and working with him.

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 2008

Scott Brewster

Randolph McGowan

John Burton

Kerry Rex McKee

Robert Campher

Allen Lee

Brad "Tree" Coleman

Jack Lewis

Albert Wayne Collins, Sr.

Wilbur Lewis

Kimberly Critchfield

Clayton Lowery

Clyde Delph

Jacqueline Ogden

David Dullen

Monica Peterson

Joseph Domer

Larry Powell

Jerry Edwards

Victor Simon Richards

Vernon Evans

Ron Rutland

Ron Fesler

Earl W. Scaife

Dale Foley

David Ronald Scubelek

Terry Harlan

Douglas Snyder

Marci Howard

Daniel Joe Trivett

Robert Jenkins

William "Perry" Troutman

Reva Kelley

Tony Williams

Alphonso McFolley

David Woolfe

The Stories Behind the Names

Two formerly homeless women are speaking during today's memorial service: Valerie Hogston and Kayona Bingham. We thank them for sharing their experiences with us and for helping us understand how a combination of services and housing helped to end their struggles with homelessness. May they remind us of the thousands of other people who need our help every year.

Valerie Hogston was working as a registered nurse when she began a downward slope that ended in her homelessness. Following several personal setbacks, including her husband being diagnosed with a terminal illness, Valerie was charged with writing \$1,300 in bad checks for their food, housing and transportation needs. She plead guilty and made full restitution as part of her probation. However, a court later wrongfully revoked her probation and ordered her to serve 18 years in prison. Valerie served three years before the court found that she was wrongfully incarcerated and ordered her release. By then, Valerie's husband had died from his illness.

With only the prison clothes on her back and \$75 dollars, Valerie had no home and no place to go. She took a cab to Horizon House, a multi-service day center for people experiencing homelessness. Valerie worked closely with a case manager and enrolled in "Now In A Home," Horizon House's rental assistance program.

Valerie has been housed since April 2008. She is currently seeking reinstatement of her nursing license, and she is actively pursuing her master's degree in public health from Indiana University.

Kayona Bingham moved to Indianapolis in August 2007 with her three children from South Bend, IN, where she grew up. She decided to move to Indianapolis to seek better job opportunities.

When Kayona arrived with her children, they had no where to go, because she had trouble setting up her Section 8 voucher. They took shelter at the Greyhound bus station for three days. After asking questions and trying to get information, she found out about Connect2Help, a hotline that provides information and referral services in Central Indiana.

Connect2Help referred her to the Homeless Initiative Program (HIP), where staff found a place for Kayona and her children to stay. That same day, HIP staff drove them to Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). At IHN they stayed with hosting congregations throughout Indianapolis. During the day, Kayona job searched while her kids went to a summer camp at Dayspring Center, an emergency shelter that provides clothes and food to families. After spending three weeks with IHN, her Section 8 housing voucher was resolved. At the end of August 2007, her family moved into their own apartment.

Today, Kayona is the employment coordinator with Fresh Start, which provides transitional support services for survivors of domestic violence. She loves her job and enjoys being able to give back to others in similar situations she faced.