

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 gave of their time, talent, and selves. We also thank the candle holders and volunteers for today's event. Thank you to MCL Cafeteria for providing lunch for our homeless and formerly homeless neighbors as well as Chick-fil-A, Paradise Bakery and HardingPoorman Group for their in-kind contributions. Thank you to Christ Church Cathedral for hosting the service once again and 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

*Monday, December 21, 2009
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

Timothy C. Joyce
Executive Director, CHIP

Welcome & Prayer

The Very Rev. Stephen E. Carlson
Christ Church Cathedral

Responsive Reading

Andrea DeMink
Executive Director, The PourHouse

Speaker

The Honorable Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor of Indianapolis

Reading of Poem

Patricia Chandler, Homeless Advocate

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir
Under the direction of David Sinden
Pie Jesu by Gabriel Fauré

Speakers

George Neal, Homeless Advocate
Tara Hickman, Homeless Advocate

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir
Under the direction of David Sinden
Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter

Reading of the Names and Candlelight Ceremony

Timothy C. Joyce

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 367 people who have experienced homelessness have died in Marion County since 1996.
- An estimated 4,400 - 7,300 of our fellow neighbors experience homelessness during the course of a year.
- On a single night in January 2009, nearly 1,500 men, women and children were identified as being homeless.
- There were 213 families (including 359 children) who were sleeping in a place they could not call home.
- There were 240 veterans staying on the streets, in emergency shelter, or in temporary housing.
- Twenty-five percent of adults who were homeless had jobs.
- Nearly one out of every five homeless individuals found during the 2009 Homeless Count was identified as a victim of domestic violence.
- Nearly 50% of the homeless population includes individuals who suffer from severe medical issues, mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse.
- 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 Wheeler Mission Ministries 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 Home for the Homeless

You may have not known them personally;
Or even seen them on the streets at all...
To you they could have been only strangers;
Leaning or sitting up against a wall.

They may have held a cup in their hand;
Or had on dirty clothes...
Even though they were homeless;
They were too proud to let it show.

Yes, they were homeless;
They had lost all that they had owned...
But, most importantly of all;
They no longer had their home.

They did not cry or weep;
Or feel any type of fear...
Because they knew that God knew;
That they were dying here.

Now that their days are numbered;
They are slowly losing ground...
They won't have to worry or wonder;
Where they will be the next time around.

For God is calling them home;
And they are more than glad to go...
Because while living here on earth;
God has always let them know...
That in His house there are many mansions;
They know He has one for them...
Now they will be living there with Him.

You may have not known them personally;
Or even seen them on the streets at all...
To you they could have been only strangers;
Leaning or sitting up against a wall.

- Written by Patricia Chandler, 2009

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 2009

Anonymous (11)	Bobby Hollon
Clarence Anderson, Jr.	Pamela Hogue
Derek Anderson	Charles Johnson
Shawn Michelle Ayers	Richard Lohrman
Ted Baker	Kevin Mallory
Walter F. Baker, II	Donna Masotto
Ralph Barnett	Anthony McGowan
Becky Berry	LeRoy McQueen
Joseph Brosnan	Percy Miles
Sarah Campbell	Robert Minnerup
Herman Clark	Thomas "Nick" Norris
Gregory Cody	Jeffrey Ragland
Henrietta Cook	Dennis Sechrest
Sandra Darrah	Thomas Simmons
Kenneth Duffy	Charles Sims
Greg Fullmer	Michael Skyles
Lillianna Goodman	Johnny Toles
Brad Green	James Underwood
Garlin Eugene Harpring	Maggie Lee Williams
Wayne Hicks	Herbert L. Wright

The Stories Behind the Names

Two homeless advocates are sharing their stories during today's memorial service: George Neal and Tara Hickman. 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.

George Neal was paroled to Indianapolis a little over 12 years ago. With a lack of support he eventually became homeless. George began losing jobs and relationships as his addictive behavior took center stage in his life. Along with his addictions, George battled mental health issues. He had previously been on medications and in treatment, but the positive results were short-lived. The outcome for him seemed bleak; however, with help from Marion County Superior Court, Homeless Initiative

Program, The PourHouse and a host of other service providers, George now has transitional housing and support services through the Salvation Army Harbor Light Rehabilitation Center. George continues to pursue recovery for his addictions and is making progress in other areas of his life. In the near future he plans to gain employment, secure permanent Housing, and further his education. George would like nothing better than to be in a position to give back what was so freely given to him.

Tara Hickman grew up in a household and culture where drug use was the norm. She dropped out of school at age 15 when she became pregnant with her first child. Out of school and unemployed, Tara moved between many households. She remained part of the drug culture, clinging to her addictions. Tara was pregnant with her second child when her mother went to prison, and Tara lost her home. She moved from couch to couch until she got connected with Holy Family Shelter. There, Tara found the help that she needed to turn her life around and provide a stable home for her two children. Two years ago Tara was pregnant, unemployed, suffering from addictions, and homeless. Today, Tara and her two beautiful daughters, Allyson, seven, and Alyssa, two, are living in an apartment provided through Holy Family Services transitional housing program. Tara has been clean and sober for two years. She is employed and has held her job for more than a year. Tara and her two children are one of many families who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness in Indianapolis. Today, they are a community success story and now act as advocates to end homelessness in our community.