

Special Thanks

The 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.

Lowe's of Anderson for donating supplies for this year's headstone and Alfred Peckham and Melinda Hanley for creating it.

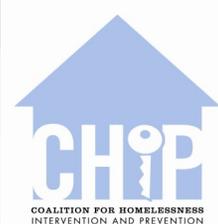
Christ Church Cathedral for hosting the service once again.

For all those people in the community who share a commitment to working together toward ending homelessness.

Information about CHIP

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 helping to educate, advocate, donate, and volunteer. This is a chance to make a true difference for a homeless neighbor and our community. There are many ways for people to get involved. Contact CHIP today for more information.



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National Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Christ Church Cathedral

11:00 a.m.



A Time for Remembrance
A Season for Hope

Order of Services

Musical Interlude

Dr. Frederick Burgomaster
Christ Church Cathedral

Master of Ceremony

Bill Moreau
Barnes & Thornburg
Chair, CHIP Board of Directors

Welcome & Prayer

The Rev. Tanya Beck
Christ Church Cathedral

Responsive Reading

Elizabeth Ball Crudup and Katie Holle
Trusted Partners

Speakers

Robert Starkey, Formerly Homeless Neighbor
The Honorable Bart Peterson, Mayor, City of Indianapolis

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls Choir
Under the direction of Dr. Frederick Burgomaster
Bless the Lord, O My Soul by Ruth Watson Henderson

Speaker

Kirstin Gillard, Formerly Homeless Neighbor

Musical Selection

Members of the Christ Church Cathedral Girls Choir
Under the direction of Dr. Frederick Burgomaster
Deep Peace by John Rutter

Reading of the Names and Candlelight Ceremony

Bill Moreau

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)

Responsive Reading

(Leader)

We gather together to mourn those who were homeless and have met premature and oftentimes preventable deaths in our city.

(Group)

Let us pause to reflect on the gift of each of our lives: our own life, the lives of our family members and friends, and especially the lives of strangers. Let us honor all life.

(Leader)

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

(Group)

Let us commemorate those who are no longer with us by working together to help prevent and end further homelessness. We can recast these senseless deaths with some greater purpose if they serve to spur us to help others.

(Leader)

We gather here to reflect on our own lives and the choices we have made. What have we done, and more importantly, what will we choose to do that may give our own lives greater purpose and meaning? How will we be helped in choosing to act with hope, compassion and courage?

(Group)

Let each of us find the courage and means to offer hope to those who have so little and need it so dearly. Let each of us find a way to work together to offer our homeless neighbors the opportunity for better and longer lives and an end to their homelessness.

The Stories behind the Names

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

Robert Starkey is proud to be a Boilermaker. The Purdue graduate wears a Boiler Up bracelet and is quick to relay the latest sports results for the school. But he is not the typical graduate. He has been homeless.

The former pharmacist's descent began in 2000 when he divorced, lost his job, and his drug and alcohol use increased. He cashed in his 401K with the hope of drinking or smoking himself to death. He was living in a crackhouse with no heat or electricity, always looking for the next high.

But Robert's sister, a social worker, encouraged him to enroll in ACES — the Action Coalition to Ensure Stability. Diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, he credits his resource coordinator at ACES with helping him get clean and off the streets.

Today, Robert has a job and an apartment, and he has been clean for five months. His face lights up when he talks about his two kids: one is in high school, the other in college at IUPUI — with a connection to his other source of pride, Purdue.

Kirstin Gillard grew up in a middle-class family and thought she was on her way to starting a family of her own. When she was eight months pregnant, Kirstin's husband was killed. Overwhelmed with grief, Kirstin left her job, was evicted, and ended up homeless. She tried moving out of the state to live with relatives, but when that didn't work, she and her infant daughter, Naryja, ended up at the Salvation Army shelter.

The case workers at the Salvation Army were able to help Kirstin deal with the grief of losing her husband and to support her and Naryja during their homelessness for over a year. In November 2004, Kirstin and Naryja moved into Colonial Park, a permanent supportive housing facility that was just opened by Partners in Housing Development Corporation. Kirstin was also able to enter the Trusted Partners program, where she was linked with a mentor who helped her work towards self-sufficiency goals.

Another year later, Kirstin and Naryja remain housed at Colonial Park. She has shared her story with thousands in Indianapolis over the past three months as she and Naryja were the voices and faces of the CHIP community education campaign through radio, billboards and print ads.

Facts about homelessness

- Thirty-seven people died in Marion County in 2005 who were homeless.
- 260 people died in Marion Country since 1993 who were homeless.
- 9,000-13,000 of our fellow neighbors are estimated to experience homelessness during the course of a year.
- An estimated 45,000 people in Indianapolis live on the edge of becoming homeless each year.
- Families make up about 40% of the local homeless population.
- Up to 28% of the homeless people living on the streets on any given night are veterans.
- Homelessness results from many factors, including a lack of affordable housing, low-paying jobs, addictions, and mental illness.
- Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness and poverty among women.
- About 100 young people become too old to continue in the foster care system each year in Marion County and, with nowhere to go, about 40% become homeless or incarcerated within 18 months.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

O God,
When I have food,
Help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
Help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home,
Help me to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain,
Help me to remember those who suffer;
And remembering,
Help me to destroy my complacency,
And bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough to help,
By word and deed, those who cry out-
For what we take for granted. Amen.

-Anonymous, from the book *Prayers for the Common Good*

A day of remembrance in honor of those people who were homeless and have died in 2005.

Anonymous (4)*	Sid McNicol
Philip Argerus	Marie Moss
Richard Beers	Elizabeth Nedeff
John Buntin	Deborah Ping
David Byrne	Rafael Robles
Bobby Carroll	James "Rocky" Rucker
Floyd Duart	David Sizemore
William Erikson	Boris Strangeff
Dwight Fingers	Joseph Lee Streicher
Kimberly Gayle Frazier	Ira Summers
Marshiyanne Gearlds	Willie Thomas
Albert Gurley	Judy Truman
David Lambert	Timothy Vanzant
Walter Madden	Andre White
Larry Manzey	Howard Wilson
John Marko	Karen Wright
Sharon Martin	David Yates

*Names withheld at the request of survivors

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.

Saint Augustine wrote:

"Hope has two beautiful daughters,
Anger at the way things are, and
Courage to change the ways things are."

Let us embrace hope that some day everyone will have a place of their own to call home. Let us have the courage to turn our hope into action. Let us act together so that we might help to avert future tragedies and give everyone in our community the opportunity to come in out of the cold.

*Donations are being accepted at the back of the church
to support winter overflow shelter and street outreach efforts.*