

2017

*National Homeless Persons'
Memorial Service*

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Roberts Park United
Methodist Church

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A Time for Remembrance
A Season for Hope

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Healer of Our Every Ill” setting, Franklin D. Ashdown
“Shall We Gather at the River” setting, Robert A. Hobby
Jerry F. Gillooly
Organist, Roberts Park United Methodist Church

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Alan Witchey
Executive Director, CHIP

WELCOME

Mayor Joe Hogsett

PRAYER

The Reverend Doctor Andrew Scanlan-Holmes
Senior Pastor, Roberts Park United Methodist Church

RESPONSIVE READING

Chris Paulsen
Executive Director, Indiana Youth Group

MUSICAL SELECTION

Hymn 221 - “In the Bleak Midwinter”

SPEAKER OF HONOR

Dr. William E. Ross
Homeless Advocate

MUSICAL SELECTION

“Go Rest High On That Mountain,” Vince Gill
Matthew’s Voices: Side by Side, Community Choir
A choir composed primarily of persons experiencing homelessness.
Directed by Jason Fishburn
Accompanied by Curt Pennington

READING OF THE NAMES & CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Ray Lay
Candle Lighter, 2017 Diamond Service Award Recipient

TOLLING OF THE BELLS / MOMENT OF SILENCE

*Tolled for the number of homeless and formerly homeless persons
who have died this year and once more for those known only to God.*

**A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN HONOR OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS & PASSED AWAY IN 2017**

Laddie Allen	Curtis Little
Aaron Bailey	Virgil Luttrell
Julie Bradburn	Darren Miller
Tyus Bridges	Jeffrey Miller
Christopher Byrd	George Mitten
Roger Cobia	William Montgomery
Greg "Wayne-o" Davis	Richard Moore
Michael Davis	Ashley Morrow
Martin Donelson	Sun'U Mujahid
David Driskill	Michael Painter
Phillip Dupree	Pernia Pawlowski
Richard Ealey	Lawrence Priest
Migger Edwards	Randall Randolph
Carl Erlenbaugh	Hope Ryan
David Fisher	Michael Sampson
Dennis Fledderjohn	Joshua Sears
Courtney Gray	Kenneth Shelton
Jim Griesinger	Paul E. Smith
Claude Henderson	Rachel Smith
Bobby Hicklin	Timothy Soares
Bruce "Jeffrey" Hizer, III	Lloyd Taylor
Brian Holdreith	Susan Tonn
David Howell	Michael Trotter
Robert Hudson	Carl Verbarg
Aaron Hunt	Buddy Walters
DeMarcus Ingle	Michael Paul Wiley
Jimmy Jackson	Donald Wise
Graylin Lacour	Marty Woods
Rodney Lewis	Stanley Wright

Those Known Only to God

FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

- More than 600 people who have experienced homelessness have died in Marion County since 1996.
- 12,055 individuals in Marion County experienced homelessness over the course 2016.
- On a single night in January 2017 1,783 men, women, transgender individuals, and children were identified as being homeless.
- 29% of adults identified as veterans during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.
- There were 160 families (including 315 children) who were sleeping in a place they could not call home during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.
- One in two women experiencing homelessness during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count identified as surviving domestic violence or abuse.
- The top three reasons for homelessness for individuals are job loss, incarceration, and addictions. The top three reasons for homelessness for families are domestic violence, job loss, and eviction.

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; coats, hats, and gloves; hand warmers; and single serving, easy-to-open nonperishable food and drink items, such as water, 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, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Donors should specify the contributions are for Winter Relief efforts.

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

SPEAKER OF HONOR BIOGRAPHY

DR. WILLIAM E. ROSS was born on February 7, 1956 to a teenage mother. William first experienced homelessness at a young age as his mother left him to live with his grandparents. While at his grandparents, he slept in a bed with several cousins during his time with his grandparents. Up until age 13, William was passed around from his grandmother, living with different relatives. He was reunited with his mother at age 13 and lived with her until adulthood.

At 18, William entered the Navy. He served in the Navy until he was discharged at 20. Upon discharge, William found himself without a place to call home. For thirty years William experienced various types of homelessness, including living with friends, under bridges, and even time in jail.

William says, "I cannot see homelessness and not act to reduce it, its recidivism and its misery. Throughout the course of my life—which includes disasters like prison, divorce, loss of jobs, loss of relationships, alcohol and drug abuse and the ignorance of believing that I was better off living with others in their beds or sleeping on a friend's couch—I have experienced homelessness."

In 2006, William connected with the Homeless Initiative Program (HIP) and entered college. Through determination and personal efforts, he was able to enter a lease and complete school. William continued on to get his Masters in 2008 and ultimately his Doctorate in 2015. In addition to his educational endeavors, William became a single parent in 2012. He currently serves as a Community Employment Specialist for WorkOne Indy, assisting veterans and other community members with finding employment in Indianapolis.

William concludes, "I believe that God, through my experiences, has given me a solution to lessen what I have experienced and its misery, therefore I MUST write and talk about it until it is out of me and in the minds and hearts of those who need to hear my story and effectuate a change in homelessness, its recidivism and its misery."

CANDLE LIGHTER BIOGRAPHY

RAY LAY was first diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia at the age of 15 after being committed to a state-run mental institution. During his three-year stay, his doctor and parents never disclosed his diagnosis. After being released, Ray joined the Marine Corps. He was a good Marine until he experienced a psychotic break. He was discharged from the Marines without treatment and started self-medicating. The drugs and alcohol led Ray to an eventual charge for robbery and confinement. He was sentenced to state prison for seven years. Ray left prison in 1986 and has stayed away from the criminal justice system since. However, Ray's untreated mental health and abuse of drugs and alcohol led him into homelessness.

Ultimately, Ray accessed treatment because he wanted housing. After experiencing homelessness for 10 years, he focused on becoming clean and sober, but still did not address his mental health issues. 3 years later, he came to terms with his mental health condition and sought treatment. After receiving mental health treatment, the VA accepted his claim and helped him move into housing. Ray recently bought a house of his own in June 2017.

Today, Ray serves as a peer support specialist, engaging veterans who have mental health or substance abuse issues to try to motivate them to get into and stay in recovery. He is also a part of the VA Medical Center's Mental Health Intensive Case Management team. Ray serves on the Board of the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). In September 2017, Ray was recognized as the Diamond Service Award Recipient at CHIP's Celebration, which is presented to a formerly homeless individual who has not only overcome homelessness but is giving back to individuals or the community in a meaningful way.

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 thank the candleholders and volunteers. We also thank Matthew's Voices: Side by Side, Community Choir for their participation in the service. In addition, we thank First Samuel Baptist Church for providing and serving food for the luncheon following the service. Thank you to Roberts Park United Methodist Church for hosting the service and for all the people in the community who share a commitment of working together to end homelessness in Indianapolis.

INFORMATION ABOUT CHIP

Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) drives a system-wide, community response to make homelessness rare, short-lived, and recoverable. Through leadership and collaboration, CHIP secures funding for housing and services, manages and analyzes data collected by providers, advocates for policy change at the local and national levels, and supports community partners as we work together to end homelessness in Indianapolis.



1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 350, Indianapolis, IN 46208
317.630.0853 | www.chipindy.org