



# Emergency Services



# Thank You!

*Thank you for providing life-saving emergency services to those in our community! With the help of the United Way, the Center has been able to provide 73,000 nights of safe shelter for men, women, children and Veterans each year!*





# Sheltering The Most Vulnerable

On any given night, it is estimated there are approximately 500 men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness in St. Joseph County.

There continues to be a substantial unmet need for shelter in our community. While there is a clear community action plan, implementation of this plan is taking time. In the meantime, the Center for the Homeless continues to provide life-saving emergency services to our most vulnerable neighbors. **We provide 73,000 bed nights per year.**

While there are other emergency housing programs in this community, the Center for the Homeless is the largest, serving approximately 40% of people experiencing homelessness on any given night. We work in close collaboration with other housing providers, particularly Hope Ministries.



The Center for the Homeless  
Emergency Services program has  
successfully served individuals and  
families for over 30 years.





# A Path To Self-Sufficiency

Beyond meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, transportation (bus passes) and shelter, our Emergency Services Program represents a comprehensive housing and services program. Residents (referred to as “guests” in our culture) are assigned a coach who has received generalist training on a variety of topics relevant to our guests’ needs—from basic information on community resources and benefits/entitlement programs to more intensive topics such as trauma informed care, mental health first aid and suicide intervention skills.

Together the guest and coach work collaboratively to create a self-sufficiency plan (SSP) in which the goals of the guest are outlined and tailored to the ability of each guest. Guests are provided access and linkage to whatever is necessary in order to achieve individual and family self-sufficiency—functioning as the “gateway” to other poverty relief services in the community as well as connecting them to programs and services available under our roof. Our coaches continue to cultivate their relationships with guests throughout their stay, helping them to navigate new barriers that may come up, encouraging them along the way, and cheer them across the finish line as they prepare to transition out of the Center.

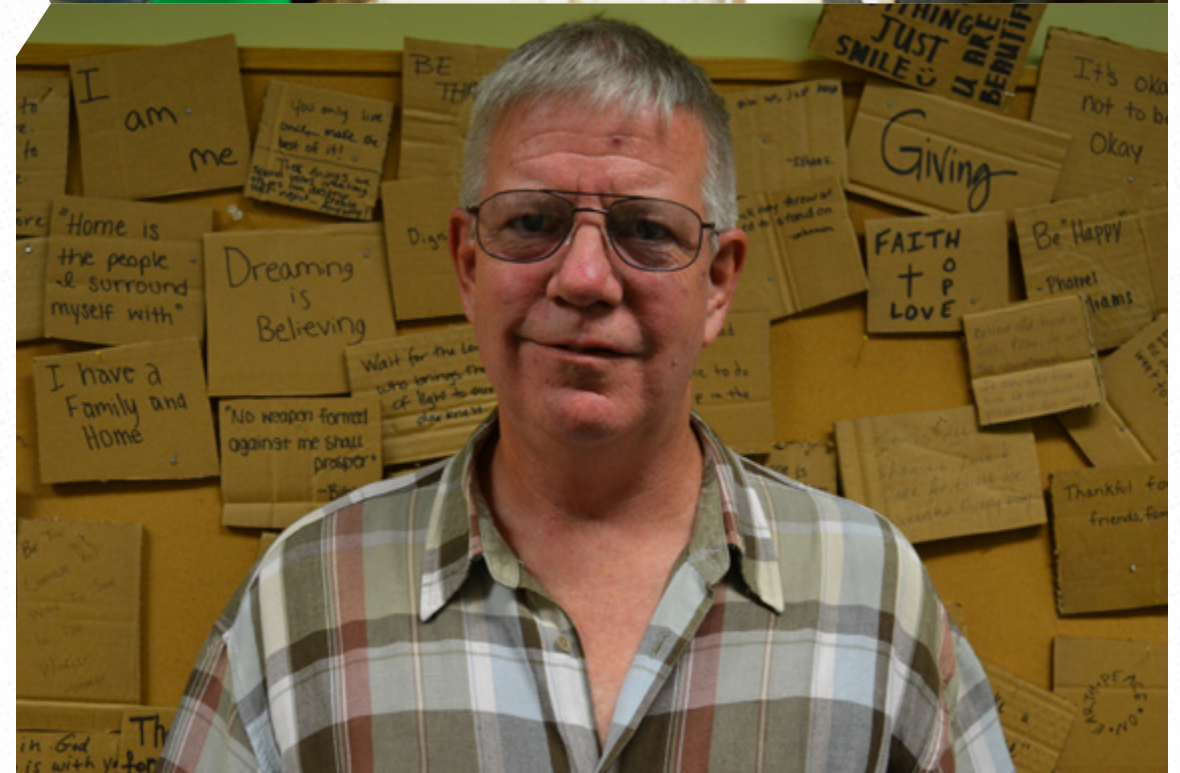




# A Caring Community

We work collaboratively with city and business leaders to create a community-wide trauma informed system of care (TRUST), and are incredibly grateful to the generous community for supporting our mission! Although the Center for the Homeless does not receive a single municipal, county or state dollar to support our Emergency Services Program, we are fortunate to receive support from the United Way, along with a small award from HUD's Emergency Solutions grant and from the United Way's allocation from FEMA's Emergency Food & Shelter Program grant. We also receive other small foundation gifts to support the Emergency Services Program. Additionally, our robust volunteer department helps us immensely. We typically host approximately 400 volunteers each month and many of them help run our Emergency Services Program. All other program expenses are paid from our general operating fund.

The Center for the Homeless also provides year-round amnesty to any Veteran seeking shelter, no questions asked. These individuals on amnesty not only receive emergency safe shelter from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m., but are also given an opportunity to shower, and are provided hygiene, clothing, and outerwear items as needed. They are also given priority placement when a bed opens in the residential program, should they decide they are ready to take steps to transform their lives.









**Center for  
the Homeless**