

Homeless Ministry Handbook



*Ideas for Religious Leaders and Faith Communities
of Burke County, North Carolina*

Compiled and Provided by

HOUSE OF REFUGE MINISTRIES, INC.

P.O. Box 1371

Morganton, NC 28655

www.refugeministries.us

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Introduction

This handbook contains ideas you or your congregation may find helpful in ministry with homeless people.

This handbook is adapted from a handbook created by the Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness www.pnteh-resources.org. This handbook can also be found at the website of the House of Refuge Ministries www.refugeministries.us.

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Housing First

In the past, the emphasis of care was to provide “a meal and a cot” for homeless people; an overnight shelter. In the morning they would have to leave the shelter and in the evening they would have to find another shelter bed. There was very little emphasis on helping the homeless person find permanent housing or deal with the issues that were keeping the person homeless. Thus, homelessness just continued.

Now the emphasis is on Housing First. While emergency housing is still be necessary, the focus is to place the family or person quickly into stable housing. Then, with the work of complete case management, the family/person begins to address the issues that led to the homelessness. In this way people can break the cycle of homelessness.

Ideas for responding when a homeless person comes to your door.

The faith community is often the first place people go when in trouble or needing help. People look to religious communities as places of refuge and comfort.

Many times the first person a homeless person meets is not the pastor, but is a church volunteer or administrative assistant. She/he should also be aware of the following ideas.

Whether on the phone or in person these are some things to remember when working with a homeless person.

- **Be aware of the complexity of homelessness.**

Homelessness is a complex phenomenon. It can have many causes that may require many solutions. Plus, every person has her/his own story as to why they are homeless. There is no one easy answer to fit all cases. So keep an open mind and listen with compassion.

- **People who experience homelessness are human beings in need.** They are children of God, even if their cause for homelessness is seen as “unworthy” by some. God demands that we treat all people with respect and best wishes.

- **Be aware of your boundaries and limitations.**

You or your congregation may not have the skills or resources to help everyone. Know who to call for assistance or referral. (See Burke County Resources on page 16 of this booklet or obtain *Social Service Agency Directory* available from the United Way.)

- **Discern the person’s needs.**

Listen carefully. If you still don’t know what the person needs don’t be afraid to ask – “how exactly may I be of help to you today?” You may not be able to meet their request, but you may be able to refer them to someone/someplace that can.

- **Ask more questions.**

Unfortunately it is true that occasionally people will tell a story in order to get something from

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you. Asking more detailed questions can help you discern if their story is true. The information from such questions can also help you determine what the person needs. Examples: Where else have you sought help? Where are you currently staying? Are you employed? Where?

● **Be an advocate, not just a wallet.**

Immediate cash may be helpful. But referring them to the right agency may be of more help to them in the long run. Plus, it makes the homeless person take on responsibility for his/her own situation. Help the referral. Call the agency the first time on their behalf and let the agency know you are a “Reverend” (sometimes this carries some clout) calling on behalf of someone. Ask for specific details (name, time, date) that the homeless person can come to the agency.

● **Be a good steward.**

If you do provide money, know what is available. For example some utilities will provide payment plans. Send the money directly to the landlord, utility, etc if you want to insure the money gets to the right place.

● **Develop a policy.**

If you help one person, more will follow. Word travels quickly. Set some guidelines as to how and when you will help.

● **Find help.**

If homeless requests become an over taxing burden, find help. What agency in your community is helping homeless people? Can the churches gather together to help? How can your congregation support these other agencies that are doing ministry on your behalf?

● **Poor people often feel they get the ‘run around.’**

They are often shuttled from one place to another, wait in long lines and receive little or no service. The more complete information you can provide when referring is helpful: contact name, times, location, transportation, a call on their behalf from you, etc.

An Empty Room

Does your building have space that sits empty during the week? Perhaps it could be used to help homeless people.

- *emergency overnight shelter*, even just one night a week helps.
- *meal program* – hot meal, bag lunches. This can easily be done in cooperation with other congregations.
- *health screenings*. Once a month, once a week, open your space to volunteer medical professionals or your local community clinic. Health care for homeless people is almost non-existent.
- *legal services*. Once a month, once a week, provide space for volunteer lawyers or legal aid lawyers. These professionals can be very helpful helping to mediate landlord issues and institutional “red tape.”
- *thrift shop/clothes closet*. Homeless people, especially those living on the street, are always in need of good clothing.
- *respite welcome center*. One of the reasons we see people on the streets is they simply have no place to go. Open your doors for a place where people can sit.
- Provide magazines, books, newspapers. Make a restroom available. In the cold, provide a warm space. In the heat, a cool place. Show movies. Provide board games. Be as hospitable as your congregation can be.

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Partnerships: Who Can Help Us?

There is no need to do this ministry alone. You do not need to reinvent the wheel. Others have done this and if you ask you may be able to partner with them or at least learn from their mistakes and successes.

Or perhaps you are hearing these ideas: *We don't have the staff or volunteers to do this. Where will we get the money?* Ask around. People working together can often do what one congregation cannot do alone.

- **Get to know the agencies that are providing services for the homeless.** Visit. Ask questions. Can you work with them? Or ask what unmet need is needed in the community that your congregation may provide.
- **Pick one thing and do it well.** Your congregation does not need to meet all the needs of homeless people. Just pick one that suits the resources and skills of your congregation.

Remember, it doesn't always take lots of money or skills. Sometimes all it takes is commitment, prayer and a leap of faith.

Five Things to Do.

Donate money.

It is a hard, cold fact that agencies and congregations that work with homeless people can almost always use money to support their organization's work and ministry.

Volunteer.

If your congregation does not have the resources to create a homeless ministry, volunteer with another congregation or agency that does. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Join a campaign

Many organizations not only provide services. They also work to change legislation and institutions to better serve homeless and poor people. Service is great, but we also need to change a system that creates homeless people.

Attend an event.

Attend a rally. Let the world know that people care about homeless people. Let politicians know that many people care about homeless people. Let homeless people know they have friends. Attend an educational event. Learn more about homelessness. Avoid the stereotypes. Learn the truth. Attend a fundraising event.

Speak up.

Don't let people perpetuate myths about homeless people. Tell the truth. Don't let people speak poorly of poor and homeless people. Let the speaker know that poor and homeless people are children of God too. Speak up for justice. Write or call your political representative. Let her/him know what they should be doing about homelessness. Create an educational event for your congregation.

Charity & Justice

Common to all religious faiths is the responsibility to care for those most in need – provide food, clothing, water and shelter. This is charity and congregations do it very well. It does not change the system, but it does provide important solace and care for people.

It is also common to all religious faiths to stand for justice for poor and oppressed people. We can keep feeding people, clothing people (and that is important). But it does nothing to get at the root causes that

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make people homeless. Justice attacks these root causes.

By establishing public policies responsive to poor, oppressed and homeless people and by encouraging public participation in the solutions we are practicing justice and being faithful.

Justice work is best done in cooperation and solidarity with others. More people equals more power. Find out who in your community is working with city officials, state officials and federal officials on behalf of poor and homeless people. Then join in to change public policy to one that favors poor and homeless people.

Homelessness: Facts and Myths

Over the course of a year, between 2.3 and 3.5 million people experience homelessness nationwide and at least 148 were identified as in a "point-in-time" count of the homelessness in Burke County. The count was a snapshot that does not reveal the complete number of homeless in Burke County.

The causes of homelessness are multiple and complex. There is often a lot of focus on personal problems or immorality, which can be contributing factors, but do not alone cause homelessness. There is the larger systemic problem that our economic and political systems fail to promote justice and equality. Furthermore, there is institutionalized racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination which create barriers to economic advancement.

The following fact sheet illustrates some of the tangible results of these larger systemic issues including severe shortages of affordable housing, living-wage jobs and health care and supportive services.

By educating people about the facts behind the problem and committing to the belief that housing is a human right in a just society, we can cultivate the political will needed to end homelessness.

**All these facts come from the 2008 HUD Point-In-Time Count Final Report*

MYTH

Not many children are homeless

FACT

Children make up about 23% of the homeless population in Burke County. Families with children is the fastest growing group of homeless. One child in five in the United States lives below the poverty line. Many homeless children are alone, either runaway's or "throw away's"

MYTH

Most of them are Mentally Ill

FACT

The mentally ill comprise about 10% of the homeless were reported in the Burke County count as suffering from mental illness.

MYTH

Homeless people are heavy drug and alcohol abusers

FACT

Only 32% of the homeless counted in 2008 were substance abusers.

MYTH

They want to be that way

FACT

Less than 10% of homeless are there by choice

MYTH

They are to blame for their own situation

FACT

Most homeless are victims. Some have suffered from child abuse or violence. Many have lost their jobs after years of employment. All have lost their homes.

MYTH

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They are dangerous

FACT

In general, the homeless are among the least threatening group in our society. If anything they are the victims of crimes, not the perpetrators.

MYTH

The Homeless are only in large urban areas

FACT

The homeless are found not only in large cities, but are also found in rural areas such as Burke County.

Who is Homeless?

On any given night, there are at least 148 people who are homeless in Burke County. 32% of these households are experiencing short-term homelessness. 68% are experiencing long-term homelessness.

Homelessness is caused by many factors. Reasons for homelessness include mental illness, substance abuse, domestic abuse, and co-occurring disorders. Yet, “the lack of affordable housing is considered the leading cause of homelessness,” according to the U.S. Council of Mayors.

The median household income has *sharply declined* from the inflation-adjusted 2000 income levels in Burke County. The income level has *decreased* to \$32,963, representing a 20.9 percent *decline*. The poverty rate in Burke County, North Carolina has increased by 4.4 percent from the levels reported in the Census of 2000, moving from 10.7 percent to 15.1 percent.

- \$10.62 Hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent in Burke County.
- 38% Percent of renters don't earn enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent.
- 30.1% Percent of renter households have serious housing problems
- 20.2% Percent of owner households have housing problems
- 38.4% Percent of low-income households³ paying more than 30% of income for housing

Why are People Homeless?

These are the reasons the majority of people cite for their homelessness.

- 1. Low wages.** Many, many homeless people work, and almost all homeless people that work earn minimum wage. This is simply not enough to afford housing. A ‘living’ wage would solve this.
- 2. Lack of affordable housing.** Simply put people cannot find housing they can afford. Public, low income housing is disappearing as buildings are torn down and government financial support for construction disappears. A financial commitment to build affordable housing would solve this.
- 3. Emergency medical bill.** The large majority of homeless people do not have any medical insurance. Thus, sickness or health issues immediately decreases their income and savings, driving them into homelessness. An affordable health care system would solve this.
- 4. Release from an institution.** Whether it be jail, a mental health facility, or a long hospital stay; people leave these places unprepared and unequipped to find and maintain housing. Support services for these populations are meager at best. They do not meet the need. Strengthening support services would help this issue.
- 5. Domestic violence.** Unfortunately this is one of the leading causes of homelessness – women & children leaving their homes for safety’s sake. Strengthening domestic violence laws and enforcement would be helpful.

Homeless Sunday

To heighten the understanding of homelessness you might preach about homelessness, make homelessness a theme of a worship service, create an event for people to experience what it is like to be homeless. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has worship ideas, liturgical ideas and educational ideas on their website. <http://www.pcusa.org/smallchurch/housingsunday.htm> .

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How to End Homelessness.

A strategic plan to end homelessness in Burke County grows out of seven guiding principles that would serve to shape operational strategies should such a plan be implemented. These seven principles are:

1. Prevent homelessness.

The best solution for homelessness is to prevent it. This can be achieved in part by paying particularly careful attention to the most vulnerable populations, including foster youth, mentally ill low-income residents, and individuals being released from incarceration. Mainstream human service institutions must meet the basic needs of people entrusted to their care. Homeless programs must use their limited resources to fill gaps in the service delivery mandates of mainstream human service institutions rather than to stand-in for those institutions.

2. Maintain the existing capacity to serve homeless residents and build new capacity where it is needed.

The hard-won but insufficient programs and facilities for homeless residents currently in-place must be preserved, and new programs and facilities must be developed.

3. Address the structural causes of homelessness.

Escalating rents, escalating poverty, and lack of living-wage jobs are the root cause of most of the county's homelessness. Increasing the supply of affordable housing and the number of workers who are employed and receiving living wages for their work will address these core deficits.

4. Ensure rapid reconnection with housing for people who become homeless. The first step in ending homelessness is to house people. Where necessary, the savings and incomes of homeless residents must be augmented to help them obtain housing.

5. Bring homeless residents into the mainstream of society. Homeless residents must have genuine opportunities to fulfill their potential as human beings, and must also assume responsibility for upholding public standards of civil and law abiding conduct.

6. Respect the individualized nature of problems that make people homeless and the need for individual solutions. There are solutions to the problems that make people homeless, but there is no single mass solution. Lasting solutions that keep individuals out of homelessness require competent, individualized assistance as well as opportunities for homeless residents to rebuild their own lives.

7. Call on all communities to participate fairly in funding and hosting homeless services and affordable housing. Homelessness emerges out of the overall economic and social fabric of the county, and every community must contribute equitably to ending homelessness by providing program funding, developing affordable housing, and providing sites for homeless services.

BURKE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIST

Burke County Health Department

828-439-4400
700 E. Parker Road Morganton, N.C. 28655
Health Director: David Rust
828-439-4413

Burke County Department of Social Services

828-439-2000
700 E. Parker Road Morganton, N.C. 28655

Burke County United Way

828-433-0681
301 East Meeting Street Morganton, NC
28655

Burke County Sheriff's Department

828-438-5500

Morganton Public Safety

437-1211
304 S. College St.
Morganton, NC 28655

Emergency Services

National Response Center & Terrorist
Hotline 828-424-8802
Burke County Sheriff's Office
Rutherford College 828-874-3400
Hildebran 828-397-4600
Morganton 828-322-5035
Emergency Management 828-433-6609
Burke County Rescue Squad
(for non-emergency) 828-437-0730
American Red Cross 828-438-8844 or 828-
437-1911 (nights / weekends /
Holidays)
Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

Family/Financial Assistance

Applying for Public Assistance

Burke County Department of Social
Services 828-439-2000
NC Family Health Resource – for Health
Check/Health Choice 1-800-367-2229
Health Check/Health Choice of Burke
County 828-439-4429

Emergency Aid to Families

Burke County United Way 828-433-0681
Salvation Army (Morganton) 828-430-8392
(Hickory) 828-322-8061

Employment Services

Employment Security Commission
828-438-6161

Legal Services

Legal Aid of NC –Morganton
828-437-8280 or 1-800-849-5195
Legal Services of North Carolina
1-919-856-2564
Lawyer Referral Service 1-800-662-7660

Medical Aid Services

Burke County Medicaid/Medicare Services
828-439-2000
Burke County Prescription Assistance 1-
877-321-2652
Medicare Social Security Administration 1-
800-772-1213
Partnership for Prescription Assistance 1-
888-477-2669

Food Banks

Burke United Christian Ministries
828-433-8075
The Outreach Center
828-439-8300
East Burke Christian Ministries
(828) 397-7074
United Way 1-888-892-1162

Soup Kitchen

Burke United Christian Ministries
828-433-8075

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Nutrition Program

Burke County Health Department
828-439-4400
828-439-4420

Meals and Nutrition Assistance for Elders

Valdese Community Center
828-879-2132
Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
828-438-6255 x226

Energy and Utility Assistance

Burke United Christian Ministries
828-433-8075
Department of Social Services
828-439-2000
East Burke Christian Ministries

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828-397-7074

Home Heating Repairs and Weatherization

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
828-438-6255 x226

Home Repair Assistance

Foothills Service Project
828-439-5226

Public and Subsidized Housing

Habitat for Humanity of Burke County
828-437-7844
Housing Authority
(Morganton) 828-437-9101
(Valdese) 828-874-0098

Assistance in finding low-cost apartments

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
828-438-6255 x226

Transportation Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

Burke County Transit Authority
828-439-0867
Handi-Care
828-437-8429

Free Health Clinic

Good Samaritan Clinic
828-439-9948 or 9945

Child's Health, Care, Development, and Support

Burke County Safe Kids
828-439-4430
Infant/Toddler Enhancement Project
828-439-2328
Child Care Resources, Inc.
1-919-563-3331
Children's Developmental Services Agency
828-432-5430
Exceptional Children 828-439-4332
Instructional Assistance 828-433-1321
Family, Infant, and Preschool Program
1-800-822-3477
Family Place 828-433-2660 or 2661
The Riddle Institute 828-635-1479
Health Check/Health Choice of Burke County
828-439-4429
NC Children's Special Health Services
Special Needs Helpline 1-800-737-3028
NC Family Health Resource Line
1-800-367-2229

Health Insurance for children and teens
The Morganton/Hickory Children's Development Agency (CDSA)
(Morganton) 828-432-5430
(Hickory) 828-466-5594

Daycare Services/Subsidies

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
828-438-6255 or
Call Circle of Friends Daycare
828-879-2367

Women's Health/Support

Burke County Health Department
828-439-4400
Family, Infant, and Preschool Program 828-433-2661 or
1-800-822-3477
NC Family Health Resource Line
1-800-367-2229
(TTY) 1-800-976-1922

Men's Health

Burke County Health Department
828-439-4400

Family Counseling

Burke United Christian Ministries
828-433-8075
Family Guidance
828-438-3880
Mimosa Christian Counseling Center
828-433-5600
Repay, Inc. (The Journey Counseling Center) 828-437-6268 or
828-438-6218 828-443-3270 (mobile)

Adolescent Services/Troubled Teens

National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-621-4000
Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention
828-433-7893
Parent Resources Hotline
1-800-793-5156
Parenting Network
828-465-9295
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
828-439-4460
Phoenix Group Home for Boys
828-584-0847
Phoenix Group Home for Girls
828-584-4571
Straight Talk 1-800-427-5979
Teen Help- National 1-800-828-8173
Teen in Crisis- National 1-800-585-1172

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Teen Pregnancy

Burke County Teen Pregnancy Prevention
Center 828-448-3210

Senior Citizens Services

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.
828-438-6255 x230
Burke County Senior Center 828-430-4147
Morganton/Burke Senior Center
828-430-4147
Senior Adult Information & Referral
828-439-2096
American Association of Retired Persons
(AARP) 828-430-4147
Toll Free 1-800-424-3410
Adult Life Programs, Inc. 828-324-1313
Medicaid 828-439-2000
Medicare/Social Security Administration
1-800-772-1213
Western Piedmont Area Agency on Aging
828-322-9191

Health Care Facilities

Blue Ridge Health Care
Grace Hospital 828-437-1275
828-580-5000
24-hour Emergency Service
828-580-6025
Valdese General Hospital 828-874-2251
24-hour Emergency Service
828-879-7532
Caldwell Memorial Hospital 828-757-5100
Catawba Valley Medical Center
828-326-3000
Frye Regional Medical Center 828-315-5000

Communicable Disease Control

Burke County Health Department
828-439-4400
NC Center for Disease Control
1-800-232-4636
1-800-232-6348 (TTY)

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Burke Council on Alcoholism and Chemical
Dependency 828-433-1221
Alcohol Abuse Helpline
1-800-505-0964 (24-hours)
Alcohol 24-hour Abuse & Crisis Intervention
Center 1-800-299-6310
Alcohol 24-hour Hotline and Addiction
Treatment
1-800-311-3069
Alcohol Information Center
828-433-1221

Alcoholics Anonymous
828-433-4440 or 1-888-671-1262
24-hour Addictions Referral Network
1-800-577-4714
National Drug and Alcohol Treatment
Referral Hotline 1-800-662-4357 (1-800-
662-HELP)
TDD 1-800-228-0427
Celebrate Recovery @CUMC
828-294-6858 x208

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

McLeod Addiction Disease Center
828-464-1172
Repay, Inc. 828-437-6268
For Secure Continuous Remote
Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) program,
and Journey Counseling Center
Geitner Home for Women (Halfway House
for Women with Alcohol and Drug
Problems) – Hickory 828-328-6250
National Substance Abuse Helpline 1-800-
662-4357

Smoking and Tobacco Use Prevention

National Quitline 1-800-7848-669 (1-
800-QUIT-NOW)

Mental Health Services

Broughton Hospital 828-433-2111
Burke County Mental Health
828-438-6226
Grace Hospital 828-580-5000
Mental Health Services of Catawba County
(serving Burke and Catawba Counties) 1-
877-327-2593
Cognitive Connections 828-327-6026
Frye Regional Medical Center Behavioral
Healthcare 828-328-2226

Services for People with Disabilities**Blind Services**

Aid To The Blind 828-439-2000 or 828-
874-1020
Leader Dogs for the Blind 1-888-777-5332
NC Eye and Human Tissue Bank 1-336-
765-0932 (Winston Salem, NC)
NC Library For the Blind and Physically
Handicapped (Raleigh, NC) 1-888-
388-2460 1-919-733-4376
NC Lions Foundation 1-800-662-7401

Deaf Services

NC School for the Deaf 828-432-5200
828-433-2901

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(TTY) 828-432-5201
 NC Division of Services for the Deaf and the
 Hard of Hearing
 828-432-5335 or 828-432-5336 (TTY)
 1-800-999-8915 or 1-800-205-9920 (TTY)
 NC Lions Foundation (for Hearing Aid)
 1-800-662-7401 x224

Mentally Handicapped

J. Iverson Riddle Development Center 828-
 433-2731

Physically Handicapped

Independent Living Rehabilitation Program
 828-294-0338
 NC Library For the Blind and Physically
 Handicapped (Raleigh, NC) 1-888-388-2460
 1-919-733-4376

Rehabilitation Services

Western Regional Vocational Rehabilitation
 828-433-2423

Other Services (Telephone Reassurance Program)

Are You O.K.? Program (Sheriff's Office)
 Burke County 828-438-5508

Violence, Abuse, or Neglect

Child Abuse and Neglect

Abuse Treatment Program 828-438-3800
 Burke County Department of Social Services
 828-439-2000
 For Emergency 828-439-2009
 Burke County Child Neglect & Abuse
 Reports Hotline 828-439-2009
 National Child Abuse Hotline
 1-800-422-4453

Rape/Sexual Assault

Burke United Christian Ministries
 828-433-8075
 Options, Inc. (24-hours) 828-438-9444
 Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault
 Rape Crisis & Domestic Violence
 Careline-State Human Resources 1-800-
 662-7030

Crisis Counseling

Options, Inc. (24-hours) 828-438-9444
 Careline - State Human Resources
 (Raleigh) 1-800-662-7030

Counseling – Criminal Justice

Repay, Inc. 828-437-6268
 For Sentencing and Pretrial services, and

Genesis Project

Domestic Violence (Spouse Abuse)

Options, Inc. (24-hours) 828-438-9444
 National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-
 799-7233 (24-hours) 1-800-787-3224
 Care-Line 1-800-662-7030

Shelters

(Emergency Shelter)
 The House of Refuge 828-403-6515
 (Transitional Shelter)
 The Meeting Place 828-439-9921
 (Women's Shelter)
 New Beginnings 828-413-3338
 (Battered Women Shelter 24-hours)
 Options, Inc. 828-438-9444

Veteran's Services

Burke County Veterans Services
 828-439-4373
 Disabled American Veterans (Raleigh)
 1-919-833-5567
 Veterans Regional Office
 (Benefits & Information)
 1-800-827-1000

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Other Resources

Trolls & Truths: 14 Realities about Today's Church that We Don't Want to See (Book)

Dorrell, Jimmy, New Hope Publishers, 2006

The power of the gospel is revealed through a local church of homeless people, college students, and middle-class Christians who meet beneath the noise of 18-wheelers and rushing traffic under an interstate bridge in Waco, Texas, and brings a wake-up call for today's American church.

Acting On Your Faith: A Guide to Success in Service and Social Action (Book)

Victor N. Claman, David E. Butler, Authors. Boston, MA: Insights, 1994.

This book is a practical and inspirational guide for those interested in empowering congregations to be fully involved in community ministry and in helping create needed, positive change through advocacy, service and social action.

Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives (Book)

Carl S. Dudley, Author. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2002.

After exploring the changes that have created challenges and opportunities for congregations establishing social ministries, Carl Dudley outlines a four-part model for effectively sharing God's love in the community.

The Externally Focused Church (Book) Rick Rusaw, Eric Swanson, Authors. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." This book explains why a church should be externally focused, what an externally focused church accomplishes, and, how a church can start or improve upon community service.

Next Steps in Community Ministry: Hands-On Leadership (Book)

Carl S. Dudley, Author. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 1998.

As a follow-up to Dudley's *Basic Steps In Community Ministry*, this book identifies the motivation, organization, and resources most commonly found in effective community ministry.

Public Offerings: Stories from the Front Lines of Community Ministry (Book)

Linda-Marie Delloff, Author. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2002.

Rather than a 'how-to' guide, this book offers the stories of great community ministries—and most importantly, the people, process, and transforming power behind them.

And You Welcomed Me: A Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity (Book)

Amy G. Ogden, Editor. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Amy Ogden shows that hospitality was deeply embedded within early Christianity. With interest in "spiritual practices" on the rise, this book should satisfy those seeking an historical context for spiritual disciplines.

Considering Charitable Choice (Article)

Eileen W. Lindner, Author. 2001.

This article examines the experience of faith-based organizations during the first few years since the passage of the Charitable Choice provision of the legislation that reformed the welfare system.

A Disturbing Approach to Social Justice Ministry: Challenging What's Comfortable

(Web Resource) <http://www.congregationalresources.org/InterviewBailey.asp>

Urging churches to balance pastoral with prophetic ministry, Doug Bailey prays for God to "disturb" churches from comfort zones into bold ministry. In this interview, he draws on his immersion learning workshops and urban ministry experiences.

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National Coalition for the Homeless (Organization)

Members of the National Coalition for the Homeless raise public awareness of hunger and homelessness and provide policy advocacy, education, and technical assistance needed to alleviate and ultimately end homelessness.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (Organization)

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/homeless/homelessfacts.htm>

For more information on plans to end homelessness and what you can do in your community, contact Martha Are at 919-733-4534 or martha.are@ncmail.net.

North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (Organization)

<http://www.ncceh.org/index.html>

NCCEH is here to offer you assistance in finding your voice. When we work as a team, advocacy doesn't have to take much time. You can rely on us to stay up-to-date on legislation and to alert you when your voice can help us make a difference. We're here to help you figure out the system, what works and what doesn't. If you want— we'll even give you talking points on what to say! Please join in our advocacy activities. Don't let your knowledge, ideas and passion for change go unused.

Partnerships between Health Care and Faith-Based Organizations (Book)

National Center for Cultural Competence, 2001.

Beginning with the observation that 43 million Americans lack health insurance, this report argues for building safety nets through partnerships between health care and faith-based organizations.

A Practical Guide to Community Ministry (Book)

A. David Bos, Author. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

Based on his 20 years of experience, David Bos has written this practical guide for congregations seeking to engage each other in serving their communities

The Prophetic Imagination (Book)

Walter Brueggemann, Author. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.

The Prophetic Imagination passionately urges congregations to reclaim God's freedom and to pursue the purposes of justice, compassion, and equality as those to which the divine has called us all.

Social Ministry: An Urgent Agenda for Pastors and Churches (Book)

Haskell M. Miller, Author. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 2000.

Noting the relationship between the personal and spiritual life and social experience, Haskell Miller presents a broadly stroked vision of the biblical and spiritual basis for social ministry by the church, and suggests possibilities for specific ministries.