

Homeless Sabbath December 14-16, 2018



Third Annual Homeless Sabbath Weekend

As many of you prepare for the upcoming holiday celebration in your home and congregations, please remember the many individuals, families, and children who do not have a

home for the holidays or throughout the year.

Please give them a voice, hear them, and help them.

How Many of our Neighbors are Homeless in Union County?

On January 23, 2018, NJCounts conducted a “snapshot” of homelessness on that one night.

- 283 households (459 people) were homeless on that night
- 41 households (41) people were unsheltered, on the street
- There was a decrease in family homelessness from 2017, by 3%
- Primary factors for cause of homelessness:
 - Asked to leave shared residence 29.6%
 - Eviction 19.5%
 - Loss or reduction of job/income 12.5%

Homelessness Can Happen to Anyone

“I’m educated. I look just like you. I walk and talk well. But I don’t have a roof. And I don’t have my own key” said one of our homeless neighbors.

She became homeless when her rent became unaffordable. Her story illustrates how one crisis can cause someone’s life to spiral into homelessness.

What can I do to help my homeless Neighbors?

1. **Donate** – Union County has a full continuum of services for the homeless provided by non-profits. Even a small contribution can help their clients find a place to call home;
2. **Volunteer** – all the non-profits need volunteers to help in their work to end homelessness. Every age, skill and talent is needed;
3. **Participate in Homeless Persons Memorial Day Vigil** – attend the vigil and help remember our neighbors who died due to lack of housing and supportive services;
4. **Engage** – talk to your family, your neighbors, your co-workers and elected officials about homelessness in Union County and how we need to work together to end homelessness. To achieve that goal, we need to change the conversation and focus on the needs of our neighbors; and
5. **Form a homeless ministry** - Begin discussions that focus on what more your congregation can do to end homelessness.

Homeless Persons’ Vigil

Tragically, some of our most vulnerable neighbors die on the streets each year. On December 20, at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1430 Park Avenue, Plainfield at 7 PM, a vigil will be held for those who have died in the last year.

We remember them on the day with the least amount of daylight and the longest night because it symbolizes the struggle of those who are homeless, and who often live out their lives on cold streets or in dangerous abandoned buildings.

As people of faith we are all called to serve the poor, the homeless, the sick, the hungry...

Remind us, O God, that we cannot rest fully secure in our homes each night until all your children have a place to call home.

Union County Homeless Services Resource Information

Prevention Services & Rapid Re-Housing (rent/mortgage/security/utility assistance):

- ❖ *Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark*- 505 South Ave East, Cranford, NJ 07016, (908)497-3900, M-F 9-4:30pm
- ❖ *Elizabeth Coalition*- 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5pm W 1-5pm
- ❖ *Plainfield Action Services*- 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-3519, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *PROCEED, Inc.* – 1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-7727, M-F 8:30-4:30pm
- ❖ *Salvation Army/Elizabeth*- 1018 E. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)352-2886, Open 24 hours/7 days
- ❖ *Urban League of Union County*- 288 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)351-7200, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Family Promise*- 402 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)289-7300, M-F 9-5 pm

Emergency Shelters

- ❖ *Elizabeth Coalition*- 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, ((908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5pm W 1-5pm
- ❖ *Family Promise*- 402 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)289-7300, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.*- P.O. Box 5440, Plainfield, NJ 07061, (908)968-5857, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Plainfield Area YMCA*- 518 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-6060, Open 24 hours/7 days
- ❖ *YMCA of Eastern Union County*- 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/ 7 days
- ❖ *YWCA of Eastern Union County*- 1131 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-1500, M-F 9-5 pm

Transitional Housing

- ❖ *Community Access Unlimited*- 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, (908)354-3040, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Elizabeth Coalition*- 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5 W 1-5pm
- ❖ *Flynn Christian Fellowship of New Jersey*- 1089-1091 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-2265, M-F 6-6 pm
- ❖ *Homefirst, Inc.*- 905 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-4001, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *PROCEED, Inc.*- 1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-7727, M-F 8:30-4:30 pm
- ❖ *Raphael's Life House*- 231 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206, (908)354-4750, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *YMCA of Eastern Union County*- 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/7 days

Permanent and Supportive Housing

- ❖ *Bridgeway, Inc.* – 265 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, (908)355-2060 x 0, M-F 9-4:30 pm
- ❖ *Community Access Unlimited*- 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, (908)354-3040, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Elizabeth Coalition*- 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)353-4006, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5 W 1-5pm
- ❖ *Faith, Bricks, & Mortar, Inc.*- 164 East Front Street (Rear), Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-5774, M-F 8:30-4:30 pm
- ❖ *Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity*- 315 West 7th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)769-5292, M-F 10-1
- ❖ *Homefirst, Inc.*- 905 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-4001, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Plainfield Area YMCA*- 518 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-6060, Open 24 hours/7 days
- ❖ *Volunteers of America*- 205 West Milton Avenue, Rahway, NJ, (732)827-2444, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *YMCA of Eastern Union County*- 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/ 7 days
- ❖ *YWCA of Eastern Union County*- 1131 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-1500, M-F 9-5 pm

Food Assistance

- ❖ *American Red Cross*- 121 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090, (908)232-7090, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark*- 505 South Ave East, Cranford, NJ 07016, (908)497-3900, M-F 9-4:30pm
- ❖ *El Centro Hispanoamericano*- 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-8730, T/Th 10-6 W 12-7 S 10-2
- ❖ *Elizabethport Presbyterian Center*- 200 Second Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206, (908)659-2184, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Jefferson Park Ministries*- 477 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201 (908)469-9508, M-Th 9-5 pm F 9-4 pm
- ❖ *First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth*-402 Union Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208,(908)352-0519, 2nd & 3rd Th 4-7pm 4th Th 10-1 pm
- ❖ *Liberty Baptist Church*- 515-517 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ (908)354-3362, M 10-12 pm
- ❖ *Salvation Army/Elizabeth*- 1005 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)352-7057, M-F 9-5 pm
- ❖ *Saint Mary of the Assumption*- 155 Washington Ave, Elizabeth, NJ (enter church basement), (908)352-5154, Last Tuesdays of the month

We are all called to serve the poor, the homeless, the sick, the hungry...

Information/Documents Online at: <http://wp.me/PegFK-8HO> * Social Media Hashtag: [#HomelessSabbathNJ](https://twitter.com/HomelessSabbathNJ)