

THE
Haven
Giving Hope to the Homeless Since 1956



*Reducing Homelessness In Greater Battle Creek
Report To The Community*

Letter from the Director

This past year or so has held unexpected outcomes for many people all over the country who never expected to be unemployed or evicted from their homes. People who were secure with everything seemingly under control yesterday are homeless today.



Elaine Hunsicker
Executive Director

Even for those of us who find their strength and hope in Jesus the challenges of these times can be uncomfortable or disconcerting. For those who are depending on their own strength these times are understandably hopeless and terrifying. What a privilege it is to be able to offer the hope of a loving father whose joy it is to provide for the needs of His children, to the fearful and hurting who gather within the shelter of our walls here at The Haven. The diverse services the Lord has enabled us to offer are needed now more than ever as we teach the skills necessary to find and keep self sufficiency, employment and permanent housing.

We are so grateful to you, we could not do what we do without you and this coming year your help will be more important than ever. This year we may see the largest increase in the need for our services we have ever seen in The Haven's history since 1956. What an opportunity to serve. Please take a look through these pages and see what we have accomplished through the efforts of our staff and community support.

With His Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Hunsicker".

Elaine Hunsicker

Executive Director

Haven of Rest Ministries



Director & Founder
Elaine Hunsicker, Director
& *Rev. Don Chalfant, Founder*

Our Mission:

To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ so that all may experience God's love. Clothe, feed and shelter the homeless in the name of Christ. Disciple individuals to become spiritually, physically and emotionally functional and able to live optimally within God's Kingdom and the community.

Our History:

The Haven of Rest Ministries has served the homeless graciously for more than 50 years. Reverend Don and Wilma Chalfant originally started the Haven of Rest Rescue mission in 1956 to provide meals, shelter, and spiritual comfort to homeless men in the Battle Creek area. Over half a century later the Haven has flourished into so much more than just a homeless shelter. Today we offer several different innovative life-skills programs targeted at not only providing shelter to homeless men, women, and children, but providing them with the proper skills and tools to become active and self-sufficient members of society.

What Most People Don't Know About Homelessness

Definition of homeless:

The term homeless includes: an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; an individual who has a primary nighttime residence in a shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily intended for human habitation.

Why are people homeless?

Poverty and lack of affordable housing are the principal causes of homelessness. Declining wages and changes in welfare programs account for increasing poverty among families: in every state, metropolitan area, county and town, more than the minimum wage is required to afford a one- or two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent. In fact, the median wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment is more than twice the minimum wage.

Who is Homeless?

In 2007, 3.5 million people (1.35 million are children) are likely to experience homelessness in a given year. Families, single mothers and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless in rural areas. Half of homeless children are under the age of 5 years old. The homeless population is estimated to be comprised of 42% African American, 39% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 4% Native American, and 2% Asian. As of the January 2009 Homeless Coalition Point in Time (PIT) Count, there are over 250 homeless men, women and children in Calhoun County alone.

"Our Plan To Help With A Greater Need Than Ever"

Our objective is to provide our clients the opportunity to learn the necessary steps that lead to self-sufficiency and productivity by:

1. *Offering life-skills training such as money management, job readiness, tenant/landlord relations, goal setting and time management*
2. *Providing clients with positive life-changing habits, behaviors, attitudes, and thinking processes*
3. *Teaching clients good decision making skills and how to access community services when needed so that eviction is not the ultimate outcome*
4. *Networking with other agencies as referral sources for our clients for services we do not provide*

*The Haven provides approximately **75,000** meals in the course of a year to men, women and children through our seven different divisions*

*The total cost to serve those 75,000 meals is approximately **\$113,000**, which averages to **\$1.50** a meal. The per-meal cost is low, because the Haven receives food donations throughout the year to assist in supplementing and complementing the food products the Haven purchases.*

*The Haven routinely provides over **9,000** nights of emergency shelter to homeless men, women and children in a year. On an average day, over **100** people are receiving services at the Haven in one program or another.*

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“Our Innovative Approach”

The Haven has tailored seven innovative comprehensive programs to meet the growing needs of the homeless population. All Haven programs are designed to help homeless individuals learn the necessary life-skills to become self-sufficient members of society and their community.

Men's Shelter

Emergency food and shelter are provided to men on a temporary basis (30-60 days). Pastoral and case management services are available through qualified shelter staff, [working in conjunction with local agencies]. Referrals are available for clients to receive medical, psychological and legal assistance. Additionally, churches from all denominations provide nightly church services for those wishing to attend.

Life Skills Instructor: In conjunction with several Haven divisions, the Life Skills Instructor helps reintegrate homeless individuals back into society after their release date from incarceration.



Jail Ministry

The Haven provides services to incarcerated individuals through its program operated directly in the Calhoun County Jail. This program identifies individuals requiring emergency shelter upon release. Weekly support sessions and Bible studies are held for inmates, which focus on self-analysis, behavior modification, and successful reintroduction into society.



Life Recovery Program

The Haven provides substance abuse treatment through an innovative, compressive long-term transitional housing program for single men that focuses on breaking the depressing cycle of substance dependency and homelessness. During the 6-12 month residency, a client will receive life-skills instruction, case management, therapy, and opportunity for spiritual growth. The Life Recovery Program offers clients a safe, structured, nurturing environment and programming that fosters each client's development toward gaining self-sufficiency and independence for re-entry into the community.



Inasmuch House

Inasmuch House is a temporary (30-60 day) shelter for 55 women, children and families that provides emergency food and shelter. Advocacy, life-skills and empowerment classes, support groups, case management, and referrals to local social service agencies are available through qualified shelter staff. Inasmuch House also houses two parent families and male-inclusive families such as single fathers with custody of their children and women with teenage



boys. The full-time case management program at Inasmuch House allows us to provide stability in an emergency situation and with appropriate programming we are able to assist the women and families in changing their behaviors, attitudes, habits, and thinking concerning how to become self-sufficient.

Women and Families In New (WIN) Life Program



The Women and Families In New (WIN) Life Program is a three-month to two-year transitional housing program for one and two parent families. The overall goal of the WIN Life Program is to empower families to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness through case management and life skills training such as goal setting, budgeting, employment and parenting.



Gain Access Program (GAP)



The Gain Access Program (GAP) provides homeless children with the opportunity to obtain life skills they may have not been exposed to consistently. The goal of GAP is to provide a safe, fun environment rich with nurturing and acceptance to increase the confidence, education and self-sufficiency of homeless children in our community. GAP transitions homeless children into becoming productive and self-sufficient young adults.



Adult Foster Care

The Haven provides licensed adult foster care for 15 mentally ill men. Clients are provided access to psychological counseling, assistance with medication, therapeutic recreational opportunities and dietary needs in a cheerful, spacious, caring atmosphere. The Adult Foster Care is permanent housing for residents.



Hope of People Everywhere (H.O.P.E.) Team

The Haven strives to help all those who are homeless in the community and therefore has created an outreach program to help those who choose not to come into our shelter for one reason or another.

The H.O.P.E. Team is an outreach program of the Haven and the Battle Creek community. Every other month, members of the H.O.P.E. Team distribute items to those living on the streets and not in our shelters. Items include sack lunches, bottled water, personal hygiene items and weather appropriate clothing. The community can assist this effort, by donating items to the giveaway and helping to make this a fun and beneficial community event. The focus of the H.O.P.E. Team is to share God's love by reaching out to people everywhere and to provide hope to those who may think they've been forgotten.



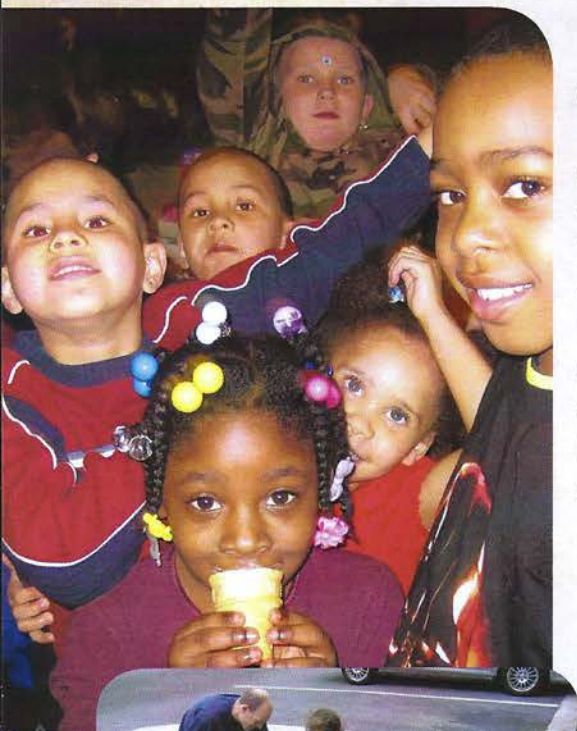


“Our Plea for Your Help to Make a Difference”

If you would like to get involved and help make a difference there are many ways for individuals, families, organizations, churches and community groups to support The Haven.

Financial Donations:

The Haven works in partnership with community members to keep our doors open and operate our programs designed to end homelessness in Greater Battle Creek. The Haven is thankful to accept monetary donations of any amount, small or large, in the form of cash, check or money order. For each donation made you will receive a personal thank you letter and tax receipt. There are many different ways to make financial contributions such as monthly donations, sponsorship of a program, or a donation for a specific purchase or need. The community also works together with The Haven in other forms of giving such as attending and/or sponsoring fundraisers and participating in collection drives to help spread awareness and fight homelessness in Greater Battle Creek. Every donation that is made to The Haven no matter how large or small adds up and truly makes a difference.



In-Kind Donations:

Gifts-in-Kind are a key component to the success of The Haven. The Haven relies on community donations of many items such as food, clothing, office supplies, personal care items and toiletries in order to keep costs as low as possible so that the maximum amount of money can be utilized for Haven programs. Without the generosity of the community donating these many items, The Haven would not be able to provide the homeless individuals we serve with the items they need for survival. Below is a list of commonly needed items:

- *Family size personal care items (soap, tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, body lotion, etc.)*
- *Paper Products (toilet paper, paper towel, tissue, food wrap)*
- *Cleaning Products (laundry detergent, dish detergent, disinfectant)*
- *Non-perishable food items*
- *Frozen Meats*
- *Office Supplies (copy paper, binders, pens, pencils, folders, tape, two-pocket folders, hanging file folders), etc.*
- *Bedding*
- *Towels*



Planned Giving:

The Haven appreciates any consideration that community members give the Haven when planning their last will and testament. Donations to the Haven do not have to be in the form of monetary funds. It could be an estate, land, homes, cars, etc. A planned gift is a great way to leave your legacy and is also a gift that will leave a lasting impression on the lives of so many in need. The Haven recognizes the significance of gifts that are willed to the organization and puts them to use as you request. For any requests or questions on planned giving please call the Haven at 269-965-1148 and ask to speak with Elaine Hunsicker, Executive Director.

All funds and donations accepted are used specifically for the donor's request or for individual program needs.

To make a donation, you can mail it to:

**The Haven of Rest Ministries
P.O. Box 52,
Battle Creek, MI 49016-0052**

or drop it off at 148 E. Michigan Avenue or 11 Green Street



Haven Staff & Board Members



Haven Profile Information:

A faith-based non-profit human service organization serving the needs of homeless men, women, children and families for over 50 years in Battle Creek and the surrounding communities.

11 Green St. Battle Creek, MI 49014 • www.thehavenbc.org • Call: 269.965.1148