

Kathleen Cleary
Community Council for Homeless

*Your support
helped save
Fred from
severe
hypothermia
last January.*



Dear Friend and Neighbor,

Perhaps like me, you had a favorite childhood blanket. When you touched its softness, you felt the warmth and security of your loving family and safe, secure home.

As you walk the neighborhood streets of Ward 3, don't you wish you could give that special blanket and all the comfort it brought you to the homeless you see huddled in the doorways and alleys?

That's how I felt when I met Fred, a seventy-year old mentally ill client who visited Friendship Place, seeking some shelter from the winter chill and a warm, soothing cup of chicken soup. Like so many long-time homeless, Fred refused to go into the shelters for fear of being robbed of what little possessions he had or attacked by someone high on crystal meth or cocaine.

One day last January, a startled librarian found Fred huddled in the corner of the Tenleytown Library shivering from hypothermia. She knew hypothermia could cause slurred speech and a loss of mental and physical abilities and could even result in cardiac failure.

The police responded quickly to her anxious 911 call and recognized Fred as the affable guy they regularly saw on their beat. They also saw his immediate need for help.

While Fred was at Sibley Hospital, his CCHP/FP social worker found a nursing home willing to take him in as a patient. He lives there happily now and enjoys three meals a day, medical care and a warm bed each night.

Fred was one of the lucky ones...

As you know, back in 1991, there were no services at all for the homeless in our neighborhood. But, the vision of a group of concerned citizens, business owners and religious leaders led to the creation of Friendship Place on Wisconsin Avenue. Your loyal support has helped us reach out to the homeless in Ward 3 for over 16 years now.

By continuing to participate in the neighbor helping neighbor tradition of the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place (CCHP/FP), you can help hundreds of others, like Fred, throughout our neighborhood.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS Making a Difference IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Over the years, we've learned a great deal about our homeless neighbors and surprisingly many worked and lived in this neighborhood. They raised families of their own here and were students in our schools and colleges.

Perhaps it was a battle with alcoholism or substance abuse that led to the loss of their home and family support. Maybe it was a misunderstood mental illness, never treated with proper medication, which led to the downward spiral into homelessness.

Whatever the reasons, many have returned to the "comfort" of their old neighborhood. The familiar streets, alleys and doorways they once passed while driving their children to school now serve as shelter where they huddle and shiver against the cold.

You may notice there are as many women on our streets as men. Close to 70% suffer from serious mental illness. And yet, CCH/FP is the only agency in Ward 3 providing mental health services to the homeless.

On any given day, there are **over 9,700 homeless adults and children** in Washington, D.C. Each year, the need for shelter increases while public funding to support that need decreases.

Your support of Friendship Place provides resources that help the destitute and homeless rebuild their lives and once again live in the community. The need is great and that is why I am asking for your continued support today.

PUT A BLANKET OF CARING ON YOUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

That feeling you had as a child wrapped in your warm blanket can be offered to your neighbors on the streets. People like:

...Billy, a small, frail 35-year old schizophrenic found living in the woods to avoid being harassed or hurt by substance abusers in the downtown area.

...or Anne, a 30-year old cocaine addict helped off the street after ten years and now in housing and learning life skills and job readiness.

...or Alvin, who is seriously mentally ill, developmentally disabled, alcoholic and diabetic but now comes to Friendship Place for insulin checks, medication monitoring, psychiatric visits and budgetary help.

Everyday our volunteers and staff go out to search the streets for the homeless in need of our services. Taking small steps, they build relationships of trust and encourage them to come to Friendship Place for a sandwich, hot cup of tea and much needed personal support.

Simple gestures of kindness open the doors for clients to accept our assistance and receive basic health care and hygiene guidance. We are able to refer clients with specialized needs to appropriate agencies.

While vast amounts of government money are being directed to global concerns, people are literally freezing to death on our streets. But with private donations from concerned neighbors like you, CCH/FP has been able to continue its work without depending on dwindling public funds.

Your continued caring helps us work toward our ultimate goal of helping the homeless rebuild their lives and once again live within the community, when appropriate, in long-term permanent housing.

In 2006, the support of generous neighbors, like you, meant:

- 149 men and women saw a doctor for, in many cases, the first time in years.
- Mental health needs of 78 individuals were addressed by a professional with over 288 consultations.
- 204 clients received individual services to help them succeed in leaving the streets.
- 63 individuals were placed in shelters, 15 in transitional housing and 11 transitioned into permanent housing.

Your past support ensured that Friendship Place was able to help Fred avoid severe hypothermia and find a safe home. Will you give generously today to make sure others like him receive the same comforts?

Please reach out to a homeless neighbor with a tax-deductible contribution of \$35 or more today. The comforts of a blanket on a cold night are the beginning of rebuilding lives one day at a time.

On behalf of the many neighborhood volunteers and the staff at Friendship Place, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Jean Michel Giraud
Executive Director

P.S. Over 350 neighborhood volunteers work with our staff to actively carry out the programs of CCH/FP. Please visit our website at www.cchfp.org to see the many additional ways YOU can help.

(Reply Device)

Yes! I want to help my neighbors who have lost the warmth and security of a home. I want to keep up the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors so we may all feel safe and secure.

Enclosed please find my gift of:

\$10 \$25 \$35 \$50 Other

\$35 dollars would really help!

My check payable to CCHP is enclosed.

I would like to charge my credit card: _____

Exp date _____ CVV # (last 3 digits on back) _____

American Express _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____ Discover _____

My email address is: _____

P. P. S. Your gift could double if your company has a matching gift program. Please ask your human resources office for the appropriate guidelines and forms.