

First Step Back Home, Inc. Ministry

Caseworker Introduction to the Program

MOTIVATION

Obedience to God's Word to love God, love others as yourself, and bear each others burdens. The Bible says this fulfills the whole law of Christ, so these should be everyone's first and most important goals in life. If loving people is God's main concern in life it should be ours also!

GOALS

To assist the homeless who qualify from a life of dependency to one of self-sufficiency as soon as possible. I have seen it happen in less than a week for hundreds of people. More help is needed though, in the areas of mentoring, maintenance, assistance, and follow up, than I have been able to devote, as I am working at this part time.

At first the caseworker will have to provide transportation for the client using their own vehicles, and use their own credit cards for the client's lodging expense if no other resource is available.

The Bible says the way to show true love for one another is by risk and sacrifice as Christ did for believers and died on a cross to reconcile our sins to God. We all need to take a little risk and make a little sacrifice to "Love our Neighbors!"

Usually, 50% of the homeless referred to me, can become self-sufficient following these guidelines: 1/3 are substance addicts, 1/3 don't have the determination or ability to be successful, but 1/3 can become self-sufficient with a little help from a friend. That means 1/3 third of our nation's homeless can become productive citizens again which would amount to about one million people, according to national government statistics.

PLAN

Encourage and educate homeless clients with lifestyle skills and short-term provisions like shelter, food and clothing, health care, transportation, jobs, and Bible study. Give them goals and a plan to help them succeed. Clients must have a written out plan and goal date of when and how they will become self-sufficient.

Establish a budget that will allow clients to pay for their own shelter and transportation and still have at least \$100 per week left over to save for more permanent housing, better job and transportation, etc.

PROCESS

Provide shelter, food and clothing, health care, transportation, jobs, life skills and Bible counseling for homeless clients for a specified short period of time, usually 1 week or less. After they have become self-sufficient and start saving money, work with them and make sure they maintain this status through prayer and encouragement.

First Step Back Home, Inc. Ministry Caseworker Introduction to the Program

Help them with small expenses like gas, 1 night's lodging, etc. once in a while, but do not give them the opportunity to become totally dependant as they were in the beginning. Once they are in their apartment or other affordable housing, you can back off and do not even help them with the little things, just remind them again how to budget so they can remain self-sufficient.

The beautiful aspect of this plan is that even if the client relapses and becomes homeless again, he or she can always start over at square one and try again as many times as needed. Or if they relapse at a certain point in the program they can just spend more time there, funding permitting.

RESOURCES NEEDED

Affordable motel room, room for rent etc. that will serve as short-term shelter at a rate that will fit into the budget plan.

Food pantry and clothes thrift shop that can provide free essentials for at least a week.

Schedule transportation any way possible to enable the client to get to work, food and clothing pantries, med needs etc. for at least a week. Most importantly, they must be able to get to the job site and back to lodging everyday.

Phone cards or cell phones are also needed to help the client call on job prospects, and communicate with caseworkers, etc.

A good working relationship helps with local labor temporary employment agencies that will pay the client daily or at least within 1 week. They also need to have a temp-to-perm program that will allow the client to become a full-time employee after 30 days of acceptable and completed work, usually with the same company they have worked with daily.

Christian Church, Bible study or support group to pray with and who will pray for the homeless and encourage them in God's teachings from the Bible.

Social or Government agency who is at least a 501(c) 3 organization who can administer MHTF(Missouri Housing Trust Fund) or similar program for eligibility of the housing grant that will pay for first and last month's rent for the client.

Mentor who will do personal casework with the homeless and continually pray for and encourage them to succeed and remain self-sufficient.

First Step Back Home, Inc. Ministry Caseworker Introduction to the Program

Church or para-church organization, the now successful and self-sufficient client can join, to reach out in love to others who are homeless as they once were, to complete the circle of love to help others become self-sufficient also.

CLOSING

It takes time and money to assist 450 homeless in 15 months, as I have done. God has, and I believe, always will, provide for our needs as long as we remain faithful and true to His Word to love Him and others as ourselves. Therefore, it will take volunteers and donations to help these homeless people. I can witness to the fact that it took me 15 months, 10 volunteers, \$50,000 in donations and the power of God to help 450 people, with 250 becoming self-sufficient since FSBH started.