

First Step Back Home Ministry Overview

By
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First Step Back Home (FSBH) Homeless Ministry was born out of my discovery that there was a large gap in service by government and social services for single homeless men in the St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties of Missouri. Later I also discovered the gap extended to families as well, because of unattainable qualifications or no room at the facilities that do exist in this region. Lately, the families have consisted of single homeless mothers with 2 – 4 kids, some under 1 year old.

In March, 2005, I decided someone had to do something to fill this gap in service so I raised \$1000, registered a few homeless guys in a motel and designed a hand up program to enable them to become self-sufficient in a relatively short time, 3 days to 2 weeks.

The FSBH program consists of the following steps:

- Pay for 3 nights lodging in an inexpensive but clean motel.
- Set goals for them of 15 job applications daily.
- Use bicycles provided by FSBH or arrange transportation if no car is available.
- Check papers, acquaintances, magazines, etc. to find cheaper and more permanent housing during the motel stay.
- Provide food, clothing, toiletries, list of temporary employment agencies and local businesses for job searches.
- Offer Christian counseling, church and Bible Study.
- Work with them after the 3 days until they get first paycheck

At the end of three days the client is to have a job or strong prospect of one, or FSBH cannot invest any more time or money in him. FSBH has limited funds and time, raised by FSBH efforts alone. If the client can obtain a job, FSBH will continue to provide shelter, food, clothing, transportation etc. until he gets his first paycheck. Advice on budgeting money is given and then he is on his own. One single person can make it on \$8.00 / hour job if he budgets well.

It is my goal to raise enough funds to enable me to work full time as FSBH administrator and develop this program more completely and efficiently. More income will also allow me to serve more clients and raise more volunteers as well as paid personnel.

I have already begun an “Adopt- a- Homeless” program which has six families helping with the transportation, spiritual counseling, job search, housing search and more for clients. Four homeless men have already become self-sufficient because of the support of these mentoring families.

At the end of the first year FSBH provided food, clothes, shelter, job opportunities and transportation for over 250 homeless clients. Also at the end of the first year, over 150 clients found jobs and became self-sufficient. With more funding and more time we will be able to provide more follow up to ensure the successful clients maintain their self-sufficiency.

It is the opinion of FSBH that the only way the homeless problem will be solved is by independent citizens who reach out in Christian love to the homeless, sincerely concerned with their progress in becoming self-sufficient.

True Godly love can only be given by those who receive it from God in the name of Jesus Christ. Agencies, government and private, cannot provide this love because they are institutions. Only individuals can love other people. One can only love another through risk and sacrifice. This has been demonstrated to us by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Government and private agencies are not allowed by their own rules and regulations to take the necessary risks. I make the proper sacrifices it takes to help a homeless person become self-sufficient in the urgency of time and affordability. These are the reasons for any success I have had with the homeless. All the credit and glory belongs to God for any success of FSBH.

Our goal then is to raise more volunteers who will reach out in love to many more homeless. If one person can help 250 per year, with over half of them becoming self-sufficient, imagine how many more homeless can be helped with 100 volunteers?

So I want to challenge everyone who is doing well in this world to reach out in love to those who are not: the homeless, handicapped, people living in poverty and those who are not self-sufficient.

All one has to do is ask a person in need 2 questions:

1. Would you tell me your story?
2. How can I help?

I John 3: 17 "But whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart of compassion against him, how does the Love of God remain in him?"

Quote:

"It would be a CHANGED WORLD if everyone would attend to the suffering and sorrows of others plain before them." (McLaren c. 1800s)

Challenge Motto:

Take a risk, make a sacrifice, and watch God work His miracles because of your love towards the poor, needy and homeless.