



DOWNTOWN CONGREGATIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2012

DCEH MISSION AND VISION

Vision:

Everyone has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing in Minneapolis.

Mission:

To engage our congregants and community in the work to end homelessness.

Goals:

- Inspire: Call people to take action based on religious values.
- Educate: Strengthen awareness of the issues of homelessness and appropriate solutions.
- Advocate: Build the public will for policy change.
- Serve: Coordinate delivery of services among congregations.

The Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) is an interfaith collaboration of 14 downtown Minneapolis synagogues, mosques, and churches working together to end homelessness in Minneapolis. DCEH focuses on shifting from an immediate needs approach to long term solutions through engaging our congregants and community in education, advocacy, and action. Through learning and volunteer opportunities for congregants, community partnerships, and advocacy of effective policies and programs, the DCEH is committed to impacting the community around us to decrease homelessness.

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LETTER FROM STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCEH DIRECTOR

Dear Advocates and Friends,

Often we get asked the questions, “Can we end homelessness? What ends homelessness?” What will really end homelessness is the public’s will to make it happen. Our community in Minneapolis and Hennepin County know the solutions, but need the resources to end homelessness for the many families, youth, and individuals passing through the shelter and county systems to find help. For the fourth year in a row, our DCEH advocates, friends, and partners showed up at the capitol and called their Legislators in the 2012 Legislative Session. Our work to show the public will included educating our legislators on the need, sharing the stories of homelessness, and asking for resources to prevent and eradicate homelessness.

DCEH is continuing to delve deeper, to work together more succinctly, to create strong partnerships, and strategically use our voices together to ensure all people in Minneapolis have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing. The movement to end homelessness is continuing to grow, develop, and strengthen. Here are major accomplishments this year:

- Hosted a powerful and inspiring evening on the similarities of the Jewish, Islamic, Christian, and Unitarian religious traditions in working for the common good.
- DCEH members advocating with the Legislature for \$40 million for housing projects across the state, Legislators appropriated \$37.5 million that supported projects across Minnesota.
- Clarified the DCEH mission and vision, and gave a framework for our next three years of work.
- Leaders across congregations gathered for the first time for organizing training and preparation for the 2013 Legislative Agenda.

We are incredibly grateful for your support, advocacy, engagement, and more in this transformative work to create the public will to end homelessness rather than maintain the status quo. We are excited to continue to work together to build our movement and increase the public will to end homelessness!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Sim Glaser
Chair of the Steering Committee
Temple Israel

Heidi Johnson McAllister
Director
Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness

In 2012, the DCEH

HOSTED ROOTED IN THE COMMON GOOD

Underneath symbolic, colorful paper butterflies hanging from the ceiling for the current play running at Howard Conn Theater, five of sixteen Senior Clergy of the Downtown

Congregations to End Homelessness delved into the similarity of the Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Unitarian traditions in working for the common good. The theme of the conversation and evening was collaborating across faiths is hopeful, holy work.



Speaking about the common good are panelists, from left, Imam Makram El-Amin, Rev. Rick Nelson, Father John Bauer, Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Rev. Justin Schroeder, and moderator Gail Rosenblum.

Over 100 congregants from our member congregations were in attendance to

learn and discuss how we as people of faith have similarities and differences among our traditions. The discussion ranged from where the core of working for the common good comes from in each tradition to the importance of being involved in policy work to the separation of church and state.

“We are called to go beyond, to dig deeper; to transform the idea of serving.”

-Makram El-Amin of Masjid An-Nur.

Planned by the Interfaith Action Team members, this event brought together people across faiths for a meaningful discussion and understanding of our mandate, call, or

responsibility as people of faith to care for people on the fringes of society. This inspiring evening illustrated why we come together to work collaboratively on ending homelessness.

“We can say anything about issues, but not about candidates. The moment we are silenced and abdicate the responsibility of speaking out, we (the faith communities) become irrelevant.”

- Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, from Temple Israel

CONTINUED OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Our advocacy network continued to speak up in the 2012 Legislative session for policy change to end homelessness in our community and in Minnesota. During the session from January until May, our advocates contacted their legislators about housing and homelessness, specifically asking for \$40 million for bricks and mortar building of affordable housing and



rehabilitation of existing affordable housing stock. This campaign was a coalition of over 40 organizations working together to ensure resources for building affordable housing. With visits, calls, and emails to our legislators along with advocacy efforts of our community and statewide partners, we were

able to secure \$37.5 million dollars to fund affordable housing! This money was also able to leverage around \$100 million from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to build housing across the state of Minnesota.

ATTENDED DAY ON THE HILL

For the fourth year, our DCEH advocates attended the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill, organizing over 40 people to attend. With an inspiring keynote speaker from Alika Galloway, co-pastor at Kwanza Community Congregation in North Minneapolis, we prepared ourselves with understanding current legislation and strategizing for meeting with our Legislators. Our afternoon meetings with Legislators educated and engaged them in conversation about the funding levels of the bonding bill. Our voices spoke to the need to ensure funding for bricks and mortar funding to build housing to stabilize people living in homelessness and close to homelessness. We asked our legislators to secure \$40 million in the bonding bill for housing. The DCEH advocates left feeling heard by their Legislators and understanding the power of visiting the capitol.



Some of our DCEH advocates ready to meet with their Legislators!

GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE END OF SESSION

Over 35 people came together to celebrate the 2012 Legislative Session by gathering at the house of a member of Plymouth Congregational Church for conversation, learning, and light refreshments. We celebrated the success of securing \$37.5 million in the 2012 bonding bill, heard from Cathy ten Broeke, Director of the Heading Home Hennepin 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and Policy Director, Dan Kitzberger from the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. Cathy spoke about the current trends and status of homelessness in Minneapolis as Dan spoke about how the Bonding Bill will impact homelessness in both Minneapolis and Minnesota as a whole. Attendees connect with each other and got to know other people who act for housing justice out of their faith and beliefs.



DCEH Advocates gather to hear from Cathy ten Broeke about current trends of homelessness the importance of advocacy.

RAISED START UP FUNDS FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS HOST HOME PROGRAM

With the glowing success of the Currie Avenue Partnership, the DCEH embarked on another fundraising endeavor to end homelessness. In collaboration with Heading Home Hennepin and Avenues for Homeless Youth, DCEH raised \$47,000 to address the increase of youth in adult shelters. The funds were given to Avenues for Homeless Youth, who has created two other successful programs to house youth. The Minneapolis Host Home Program is an 'outside the system' and community-based approach to provide safe, supportive homes for Minneapolis youth experiencing homelessness. The Host Home Program provides an opportunity for youth to move into a home with a host family in order to have a more stable place to live, which allows the youth to have more success in school or with work.



HOSTED CROSS CONGREGATIONAL TRAININGS TO EDUCATE DIRECT SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS

In March 2012, the Direct Service Provider Team of the DCEH hosted the first cross-congregational training for our direct service volunteers. The topic of the training was *Disrupting Homelessness*. Over 20 people gathered for conversation about the book *Disrupting Homelessness* by Laura Stivers and to meet with people from other congregations. The discussion was robust as we delved into the book's case studies of organizations working with people who have experienced homelessness and the viewpoints the author makes about the role and involvement of faith communities in ending homelessness.

With such amazing success at our first training and the desire to continue to collaborate, the Direct Service Provider Team planned a fall training event and will continue to plan events into the future! Our direct service volunteers gathered together again for training on November 7th, 2012. Over 30 participants from Central Lutheran learned more about Heading Home Hennepin's ten-year plan to end homeless and the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. Members of our Steering Committee and the DCEH Director presented on the DCEH vision, mission, values and long range goals, as well as our structure and ways to get more involved. The volunteers enjoyed time for conversation and walked away with a deeper understanding of DCEH.



"[These trainings] help me to better understand and relate to the challenges of obtaining needed goods and services that our guests go through. And by understanding from their point of view, I can compassionately and efficiently serve them."

- Linda Bennett, member and volunteer at St. Olaf Catholic Church Social Outreach

TRAINED DCEH LEADERS

In preparation for the 2013 Legislative Session beginning in January, over 30 leaders within our DCEH congregations came together to learn about the public policy advocacy agenda of the DCEH for 2013 as determined by the



Advocacy Team. The purpose of the evening was to provide leaders with both the knowledge and skills to be effective for the upcoming session.

The leaders were given information about the breakdown of the upcoming legislature, the appointed leadership, the details of the Homes for All Campaign ask of \$50 million for housing and services, and how the funding will end homelessness. The Homes for All Campaign was a coalition of 40

organizations from across Minnesota.

For the remainder of the leader training, Patrick Ness of Wilder Foundation led our leaders on developing a strong, bold, values based message, how to share it with people in their congregation, and how to target your message to a variety of audiences.

The energy of the evening was of excitement and looking forward to the Legislative Session. Leaders left with the skills and knowledge for leading their congregation and organizing for change.



Patrick Ness, Public Policy Director at Wilder Foundation, taking tough questions.

"I feel the training conducted can be summed up for me with one word: Opportunity. The attendees' level of awareness of our legislative mission was concisely stated, and we had the opportunity to hear the rationale and were challenged to act on that information."

-Jerry Dustrud, Central Lutheran Church

GAVE AWAY BIKES

2012 saw the third year of the DCEH partnership with Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles for the DCEH Bike Program. The program originally started due to clients and friends of the DCEH Direct Service Programs coming with requests for transportation assistance. In 2012, 26 individuals received bikes from the DCEH bike program, giving each a lock and bike helmet. The bikes donated from members of DCEH congregations are repaired and rebuilt by Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles with DCEH volunteers. The bikes are given to clients and friends served through the outreach programs of the DCEH. Each recipient of a bike attends a two-hour class, giving them the knowledge of bike safety and the road rules.

Additionally, the class includes a hands on changing of a tire. This program has been instrumental in improving the lives of people, providing them access to low-cost transportation and freedom to move forward in their goals.



INSPIRED EVENTS AND WORK WITHIN CONGREGATIONS

Basilica of Saint Mary

The Basilica celebrated its 2012 Sabbath to End Homelessness with a presentation on the affordable housing development they are pursuing with CommonBond Communalities. Together, 55 units of affordable housing will be built on West Broadway in North Minneapolis. In addition, The Basilica Voices For Justice (BVFJ) held forums on Hunger and the MN Educational Achievement Gap. The BVFJ Team sponsored a parish-wide Voter Registration Drive. It also provided voter registration through its St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. The Basilica St. Vincent de Paul has been engaged in strategic planning with a goal to move direct service beyond managing homelessness to making a difference in a life that ends homelessness.

Central Lutheran Church

Central's Sabbath to End Homelessness was combined with Children's Sabbath on October 14. That day included a forum, attended by 56 people, in which Elizabeth Hinz spoke about homelessness and highly mobile students in Minneapolis schools. At an earlier forum in September, Gail Dorfman spoke on the topic of homelessness in Hennepin County. In the winter and spring of 2012, the Heading Home Central team led an initiative called "Journey Toward

Justice", in which completion of activities to learn about and end homelessness earned spaces on a game board. While the goal of 75 participants completing 5 activities each was not reached, more than 75 game packets were distributed to and started by members of the congregation. Take 5 Tables were set up on an average of one per month this year. The list of advocates is in the process of being refreshed. Action alerts and opportunities to sign up for advocacy are sent through Central's mail system.

First Covenant Church

In 2012, First Covenant was able to recruit a new church member to be our first representative to the Interfaith Team. This first year was spent receiving training from Heidi and the DCEH members in understanding the legislative process and the goals of DCEH. First Covenant has begun hosting Take 5 Tables on a regular basis where approximately 10 people stop by on a Sunday to have conversations about homelessness and to contact their legislators on issues of housing and homelessness. Additionally, Pastor Collison has interviewed the DCEH Interfaith Team Representative from the pulpit to ensure the congregation is aware of DCEH, how to get involved in it and to learn of some of the most critical issues. For First Covenant's Sabbath to End Homelessness, we hosted Youth Link staff, who shared with the 250 member congregation what they're doing to help end homelessness for youth in the area.

First Unitarian Society

Fifty people attended presentations on homelessness at First Unitarian Society, one of which was Avenues for Homeless Youth during the Sabbath to End Homelessness. We had a forum on the host home program presented by Avenues before the service as well as a collection plate was passed to raise funds to support the work of DCEH. 30 people have donated items to the Dignity Center at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church: Toiletry items, school supply drive, and hats and gloves.

Gethsemane Episcopal Church

After some exploratory initiatives in 2012 by Steering Committee member Deacon Sandy Obarski and Interfaith Team member Lou Schoen, they decided to reorganize the DCEH effort for 2013, as the congregation entered a transitional period in its ministry leadership. We had about nine members on the Gethsemane Advocacy Team. Appropriate e-mails are sent to the Gethsemane Advocacy Team during the year and we had two meetings.

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

At Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, we continue to engage our members in education and advocacy. During the 2012 Legislative Session, we hosted three take five tables, giving out action alerts, educating people on the Legislature, and raising awareness of homelessness. In November, the congregation held the fourth annual Sabbath to End Homelessness, which focused on children and youth homelessness in our community. We involved the children of the congregation by collecting peanut butter and jelly for Groveland food Shelf. The children brought their donations into worship and the congregation dedicated them. The worship service had hymns and prayers dedicated to seeking justice for people without housing. We hosted forums on homeless and highly mobile youth in public school in Minneapolis with Zib Hinz as well as Deena McKinney from Avenues for Homeless Youth, who spoke about the Minneapolis Host Home Program.

Plymouth Congregational Church

Over the last year, Plymouth focused on rebuilding their congregational team dedicated to advocating for ending homelessness. Beyond recruiting and building a new team, Plymouth engaged in experiences and direct service, including 25 youth participating in A Night on the Street. Plymouth members hosted 8 families with Families Moving Forward, serving meals and building relationships. With the creation of a new congregational team, Plymouth has prepared an exciting plan of actions and events for 2013 to invite participation from Plymouth congregants.

Saint Olaf Catholic

During the winter and spring, St. Olaf hosted a series on Engaging Our Faith: To End and Prevent Homelessness. Those events included Cathy ten Broeke, Director of the City/County Office to End Homelessness, speaking in January on *Is Ending Homelessness Possible? How Can the Faith Community Support Solutions?* In March, Tracy Berglund, Director of Housing Services for Catholic Charities, and Bill Hockenbeger, of the St. Anthony Housing Program, gave a presentation on specialized, supportive housing for Chronic Alcoholics. The last presentation in the series was from Tim Marx, CEO of Twin Cities Catholic Charities, speaking about Higher Ground, the new Catholic Charities shelter in Minneapolis. At each of the faith series events, participants were given the opportunity and invited to contact their legislators about the bonding bill. Each of the presentations of the Engaging Our Faith services and for the Sabbath to End Homelessness brought out 35 to 50 people for education on housing and homelessness. The November 2012 Sabbath for Ending Homelessness hosted Elizabeth Hinz, Minneapolis Public School Liaison for Homeless and Highly Mobile students. With an audience of 35 people, Zib addressed the challenges of homeless students; and the actions the school district takes to identify, support students and improve academic achievement. During the Sabbath, we distributed Advocacy Commitment cards, inviting parishioners to participate in a variety of opportunities for service and legislative advocacy, including Project Homeless Connect, the Homeless Memorial March, and DCEH Legislative Alerts, and 35 people returned the cards.

Temple Israel

On November 16th, Temple Israel had a Homelessness Shabbat, with music and a sermon, which included Rabbi Sim Glaser speaking from the Jewish responsibility to care for one's neighbor. Additionally Arnisha Brown, a Families Moving Forward client, spoke about her experience of homelessness. Lastly, Heidi Johnson McAllister spoke about the need for advocacy and role of DCEH in working together to advocate at the state legislature and local government. There was special social justice music and opportunities to get involved in the work. Temple also worked to expand their efforts and advocates by gathering interested parties at a meeting in December with over 40 participants, many agreeing to participate in efforts to end homelessness.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

In 2012, the Sabbath to End Homelessness was combined with Children's Sabbath, with a focus on family and youth homelessness. The Senior Pastor, Tim Hart-Andersen, spoke numerous times about DCEH, advocacy, and homelessness during the year. Through our organizing, Westminster has 110 advocates. We hosted many community meetings and forums about housing and homelessness, and how to take action to advance the politics of these issues. About 300 people were involved in these meetings. Take 5 tables are set up on a regular basis where we recruit and invite people to act on DCEH Action Alerts as well as other social justice issues.

CREATED A STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR 2013-2015

In early 2012, a Task Force made up of 8 people, representing the DCEH Steering Committee, Senior Clergy, and the Interfaith Action Team, began work to reflect on first three years of DCEH work, analyze the DCEH Review Report, and began to address some of the challenges faced in these years. The Task Force met four times to wade through the information and develop a clearer, bold vision, mission, purpose, goals, and structure to work for the DCEH. It was amazing work that has brought us to a very concise, clear way forward and exciting direction into the future!

To read our strategic direction, please go to our website, www.dceh.org.

MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness

Augustana Lutheran Church, The Basilica of Saint Mary, Central Lutheran Church, First Christian Church, First Covenant Church, First Unitarian Society, Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Masjid An-Nur, Masjid Al-Iman, Plymouth Congregational Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, St. Olaf Catholic Church, Temple Israel, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Community Partner

Heading Home Hennepin

Executive Team Officers of the Steering Committee

Rabbi Sim Glaser, Chair, Temple Israel
Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Co-Chair, Central Lutheran Church
Rev. Dennis Sanders, Treasurer, First Christian Church
Sandy Obarski, Secretary, Gethsemane Episcopal Church

Steering Committee Members

Janice Andersen, The Basilica of Saint Mary
Rolf Lowenberg-Deboer, Central Lutheran Church
Rev. Dennis Sanders, First Christian Church
Shannon Williams, First Unitarian Society
Sandy Obarski, Gethsemane Episcopal Church
Ann Carlson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

Kammilah El-Amin, Masjid An-NUR
Rev. Dr. Jeff Sartain, Plymouth Congregational Church
Sandra Anderson, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox
Joan Miltenberger, St. Olaf Catholic Church
Rabbi Sim Glaser, Temple Israel
Rev. Doug Mitchell, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Interfaith Team Members

Kathy Andrus, The Basilica of Saint Mary
Gayle Dustrud, Central Lutheran Church
Jessica Kasper, First Christian Church
Debra Magnuson, First Unitarian Society
Lou Schoen, Gethsemane Episcopal Church
Kay Nelson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Sarah Lehman, Plymouth Congregational Church
Kate Loe, Plymouth Congregational Church
Jessica Frehse, Plymouth Congregational Church
Ann Pannier, St. Olaf Catholic Church
Marcy Frost, Temple Israel
Alan Ellison, Temple Israel
Paul Rasmusson, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Staff Member

Heidi Johnson McAllister, Director

Advocacy Team

Robert Tennesen, The Basilica of Saint Mary
Mary Ann Lundquist, First Unitarian Society
Rev. Doug Mitchell, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Direct Service Provider Team

Janice Andersen, The Basilica of Saint Mary
Julia Freeman, The Basilica of Saint Mary
Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Central Lutheran Church
Ann Carlson, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Mary Martin, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Joan Miltenberger, St. Olaf Catholic Church
Jean Thoreson, St. Olaf Catholic Church

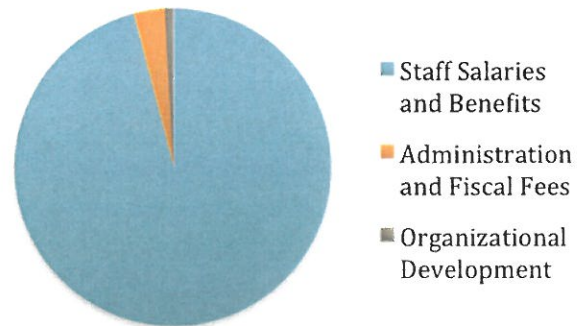
FINANCIAL TABLES – REVENUE AND EXPENSES

The DCEH began the year with \$55,686.10 in resources. A portion of the carried over funds are from a \$22,960 grant from Otto Bremer Foundation to support the DCEH Advocacy work. The grant ran from May 2011 to May 2012, which was paid in 2011 and left one-fifth of the grant for 2012. The DCEH ended 2012 with \$42,986.88.

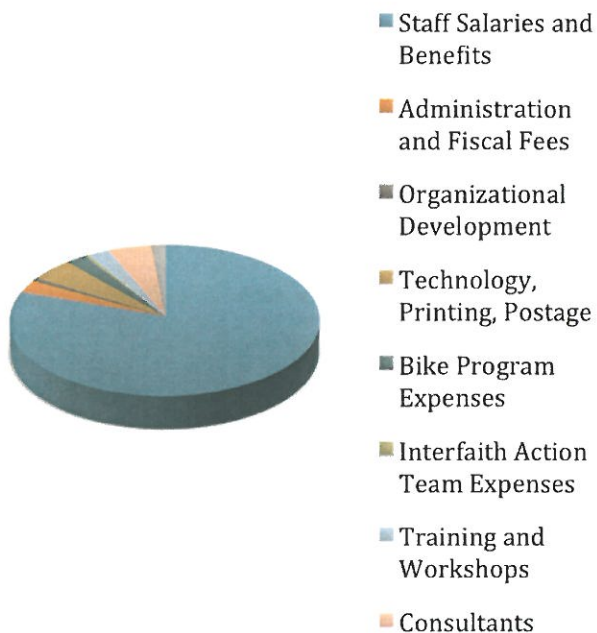
Support and Revenue

\$47,519.93	Downtown Congregation
\$3,571.00	Religious Sources
<u>\$2,074.32</u>	Individuals and Other Sources
\$53,165.25	Total Revenue

Support and Revenue



Operating Expenses



Operating Expenses

\$53,725.83	Staff Salaries and Benefits
\$1,761.56	Administration and Fiscal Fees
\$490.00	Organizational Development
\$3,209.43	Technology, Printing, Postage
\$1,507.86	Bike Program Expenses
\$258.00	Interfaith Action Team Expenses
\$1,565.36	Training and Workshops
\$3,250.00	Consultants
<u>\$1,005.86</u>	Professional and Volunteer Expenses
\$66,773.90	Total Expenses



**Downtown Congregations
To End Homelessness**

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