

Our mission is to ease the suffering of homeless men and women by providing shelter and services in a safe, supportive and caring environment and to assist them in overcoming the obstacles to obtaining permanent housing.

Winter is Coming and it's Cold Out There at Night!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message Cont.	2
Our Partners	2
Client Corner	2
People Served	3
Volunteers' Corner	3
Our Funding	3
Tax Credit Cont.	4
Donation Form	4

Please Give:

- **Choose a charity that helps those most in need**
- Local charities serve those who are homeless, malnourished, impoverished, domestic violence victims, illiterate, sick and injured, out of work
- **1%** of the US population experiences homelessness **every year**
- In January, 2007 **in Arizona** almost 6,000 people were **unsheltered** in a one night count
- **Give to the charity of your choice!**

Message From the Chair *by Wendy White*

Wow! What a lot has happened since our last newsletter! Thanks to your support Flagstaff now has its first truly open Homeless Shelter for adult men and women.

On September 27 we held a very successful open house at our new location at 216 West Phoenix Avenue. We opened the doors for the day respite center on the 29th and opened for overnights on October 18 for almost 30 homeless men.

On October 27 we developed a partnership with the **Knights Inn** on So. Milton that expanded our program by providing overnight space for 4 women each night.

We now have a staff of 2 full time and 8 part-time employees including our very own **Jack Conley** who we were pleased to be able to hire after all the volunteer labor he put into the remodel effort over the spring and summer.

Thanks to the **Flagstaff Family Food Center** we are able to provide nutritious hot dinners to our overnight clients onsite. **Late for the Train** and **Biff's Bagels** donate coffee and bagels so clients don't go completely without in the morning. And the **Flagstaff Food Kitchen, Inc.** continues to provide sack lunches to our clients.

But we still need your help . . .

Continued inside page 2

Charitable Tax Credit for Helping the Working Poor

As 2008 rolls to a close and it drops below **freezing** every night, give thanks to the love around you and the comforts of your home. On **Christmas Eve** there will be over **750,000** men, women and children across the country who are **homeless** and half of them will be **completely without** shelter...

But YOU can help!

What a Difference \$400 Can Make...

Why Pay the State Income Tax When you Can Get the Same Tax Benefit By Donating Your State Tax Dollars to Flagstaff Shelter Services and Help those Most in Need?!

Thanks to the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program for the Working Poor, you can now make a cash donation of up to \$400 (\$200 for single filers) to Flagstaff Shelter Services and receive an equal dollar for dollar credit against your State tax liability.

In addition of course, your gift to Flagstaff Shelter Services also qualifies as a charitable deduction on your federal return if you itemize and any contribution that exceeds the maximum credit is deductible on your State return.

Continued on back . . .

Thank you staff members! Your dedicated and caring attitude makes all the difference!

Message From the Chair *(Continued from page 1)*

The number of people experiencing homelessness has grown across the country this year as a result of job loss, foreclosures, and other fall out from the economic crisis. And Flagstaff is not an exception.

Please help the less fortunate in our community this year in whatever way you can. Volunteer, donate, and advocate for those who live in our streets, shelters, their cars and other places not suitable for human habitation.

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Each year since 1990, on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

Please join Flagstaff Shelter Services on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 5pm at 216 W. Phoenix for a small service in memory of our homeless community members who have died this year and to give hope to those still without housing. Please bring something to share with our clients: hats, gloves, warm socks, hot cider, gift certificates or other thoughtful items.

Permanent Shelter in the Works!

If you are interested in helping with the building of the permanent shelter please contact us to see how you can help.

928-225-2533

Our Partners in Caring

"These charities support us; please support them as well."

Flagstaff Shelter Services has collaborated with a number of other charities in Flagstaff that provide services to the homeless. We hope that you will continue to support our partners in caring this season and in the coming year. By working together we have all maximized our ability to help those in need.

Special thanks **this quarter** go to these partners:

- **Flagstaff Family Food Center**
- **Flagstaff Food Kitchen, Inc**
- **Catholic Charities**
- **St. Vincent de Paul**
- **Forest Highlands Foundation**
- **Flagstaff Community Foundation**

And to our special Anonymous Donor:

Thank you for your extraordinary gift of \$10,000!

Your generosity epitomizes Flagstaff's spirit of giving!

Client Corner



L.C. helping with the painting shortly after getting his first home in 16 years!

Thank you to **all** our donors of funds and goods! Without you we would not exist!

Feather in the Wind *By David Schultz, Homeless*

Wandering the streets and byways of this hamlet, with the buildings, the houses, as canyon walls, the wind whispering through the valleys that are streets...

In my mind drifting thoughts of yesterday, today, and tomorrow...

A house full of joy with the laughter of children, a memory of days gone by...

Complete desolation this day as I walk...

Tomorrow a promise of life...

What thoughts as I wander, a home, a home, the home I will always miss...

(Note: Written during an afternoon creative writing class at the Shelter.)

People Served Since October 18

Overnight Services

Total individuals served: **112**
 Total Beds Provided: **1,237**
 Avg. # of persons per night:
Men -28.4 | Women-3.3
 Turned away for lack of space: **97**
 Called for Emergency Services: **28**
 Referred to Sunshine Rescue: **27**
 Referred to other agencies: **17**
 Blankets given out: **52**
 Dinners Served: **1,232**
 86'd for serious rule violations: **4**
DAY CENTER
 Total Visits: **OVER 2000** (10/1-11/23)

Client Demographics

Gender: Men 81% | Women 19%
Race: White 62% | Native 29%
 MultiRacial 3% | Black 2% | Oth/Unk. 4%
Ethnicity: Hispanic 10% | Non-Hisp 90%
Disabled: 59%
 Alcoholism 18% | Mental Illness 16%
 Physical Disability 11% | Dual Diagnosis 4%
 Drug Addiction 4% | Developmental 3%
Veterans: 23% (Men: 26% | Women: 7%)
Chronically Homeless: 35%
(Note: Chronically homeless means homelessness of more than one year and suffering a disabling condition-44% of the women served are chronically homeless)



From ruins . . .



. . .to Shelter!

A Volunteer's Request Support Flagstaff Shelter Services by Rich Clark, Volunteer

Volunteers Wanted! I'm sure you're all acquainted with the old adage that the "volunteer gets more out of the effort than the receiving agency." Amazingly, I have, indeed, found this to be true!

For the last several weeks I've been volunteering at Flagstaff Shelter Services from 4:30 to 6:30 on Monday evenings.

I help with check-in and then help serve the evening meal. In a very casual and friendly way, I interact with the evening's clients while I carry out my assignments.

The staff is always present and involved and I think my presence during these two hours allow them to interact professionally with the

FSS clients. I don't pretend to be a staff member, nor do I answer many questions about procedures. I'm simply a friendly, supportive local individual who is willing to help out. Bottom line: consider volunteering at the Shelter; in fact, I could use some help on Mondays.

Hope to see you soon!

Volunteer Corner

Thank you Jeff Hartin, Agassiz Landscaping, for raising the funds, organizing volunteers and building the new fence!

And thank you to all our volunteers for the 345 hours of service you've provided!

YOU ROCK!

About Our Funding... by Board Chair Wendy White

There has been mis-information printed in the news recently stating that we are a City funded shelter: We are NOT.

We are a 501(c)(3) charity reliant on **your** donations for our continued existence. While we have received several grants from the State, City and Federal

Government to get started we are **not** funded by the City. The City has provided us with a space otherwise unused and unusable that we turned into a shelter through the generous donations of time, labor, materials and funds by local individuals and businesses. When we leave the building, all our work to

remodel it will revert to the City without compensation to us.

Our contractors donated hundreds of hours of their time to remodel the site to provide a roof for our homeless community members, who without our services would have nowhere else to go.

Please help us continue the good work **they** have done and **DONATE TODAY**. Your donations of \$10 to \$10,000 are critical to our operating success.

Thank you on behalf of the homeless men and women we serve for your continued support.

**FLAGSTAFF
SHELTER SERVICES**

(216 W. Phoenix Ave)

P.O. Box 1808

Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Phone:

(928) 225-2533

E-Mail:

info@flagstaffshelter.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.flagstaffshelter.org

Charitable Tax Credit *Continued*

Helping Those In Need:

Your dollar-for-dollar tax credit offers our homeless community members a roof over their heads in the coldest months plus caring support to assist them in overcoming the many obstacles to obtaining permanent and stable housing. Instead of subsidizing programs in Phoenix and Tucson your tax dollar will stay right here in Flagstaff and help those in our community who really need your assistance.

How does Flagstaff Shelter Services qualify under the working poor tax credit program?

Flagstaff Shelter Services has been a recognized 501(c)(3) charity since its establishment on May 1, 2006. 100% of the clients we serve are homeless men and women who automatically meet the definition of Arizona low income resident households. At least 80% of our budget goes to programming and services

to our clients. In addition to winter emergency shelter we provide services, case management referrals and other benefits to our homeless clientele.

For More Information please go to our website www.flagstaffshelter.org

Please note that Flagstaff Shelter Services is not a tax advisor. Please contact a qualified tax advisor for advice on your personal tax situation.

Four Easy Ways to Donate

Go online to www.flagstaffshelter.com and use our online payment form for credit or debit donations!

Drop by the Shelter at 216 W. Phoenix Ave from 9am to 12 pm; make your donation in person and get a tour!

Mail in this PLEDGE and DONATION card and return with your check or your credit card/debit information!

Call us at 928-225-2533 and make a donation by phone using your credit or debit card!

Name: _____

Address for Thank You Receipt: _____

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$1000__ \$500__ \$250__ \$100__ \$25__ Other _____

I would like to Pledge _____ Amount Per Month for _____ Months Starting Today

Credit/Debit Card: Type _____ Number _____ Exp Date _____ Three Digit Security _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____



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