

HUNDRED NIGHTS INC.

Reaching for the Warmth of Home

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND YEAR ROUND OPEN DOORS RESOURCE CENTER

Sure feels like winter!

Dear Community Members,

There was a forum recently held at Keene State College called "Community Solutions: Addressing Homelessness in Keene." The 3-hour long forum was open to the public and co-sponsored by the Greater Keene Homeless Coalition, of which Hundred Nights is a member agency.

Meghan Arsenault delivered the evening's keynote speech. She's the research and impact manager of Community Solutions, a national nonprofit organization aimed at eliminating homelessness. Meghan presented the organization's Built for Zero initiative, a data-driven effort to target communities across the country and help them end specific categories of homelessness, for example Chronic homelessness. Those are two categories of homelessness which have very specific federal definitions provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Essentially, HUD defines someone as homeless if they're living in a homeless shelter or sleeping somewhere that's not intended for human habitation, such as under a bridge or on a bench. Under the department's terminology, a person living in a motel or sleeping on someone's couch isn't considered homeless.

The "chronic homelessness" label has several stipulations. For it to apply, a person must have a diagnosable disabling condition that limits their work or daily life. This may include substance abuse, mental illness, a developmental disability or physical illness. The person must have been continuously homeless for at least a year or have experienced at least four separate episodes of homelessness in the past three years. A chronically homeless person must be unaccompanied. Couples and families don't count.

NH - yes, the whole state! - became a Built for Zero community last year. The data collected shows 141 people experiencing chronic homelessness across the state, according to the HUD definition, and the goal is to reduce that to "functional zero" by July 2019. Community Solutions measures the elimination of homelessness by reaching "functional zero," which for chronic homelessness means a community has three or fewer people in that category.

It is a worthy goal, and certainly worth working towards as a community and as a State. However, a couple of the things that got brought up during the forum also deserve mentioning. While there are 141 chronically homeless, there are more than 2,000 people in NH experiencing homelessness who are not in a category that "fast tracks" their ability to get into stable housing. While HUD doesn't count children living in hotel rooms with their parent(s) as homeless, the school system does. There has been a definite increase in the numbers of families with children who need emergency shelter. Both the presenter from Community Solutions and the presenters from the NH Department of Health and Human Services vocalized that local homeless shelters would be needed into the foreseeable future, and urged people in communities around the state to be supportive of the 211 system that sometimes moves people experiencing homelessness from a community with no available shelter beds to a community that might have an opening, as people need to be sheltered.

Now that this first forum has taken place, we sincerely hope that the momentum continues, with more information made available to the community at large so that we can work together to solve homelessness.

May you and yours enjoy a healthy and happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Lucy Ahern

Friends of Hundred Nights Member



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Hundred Nights, Inc. is to provide shelter and crisis related services to the displaced or homeless. Our goal is to collaborate with and enable the community to see, hear and support those among us who are equally deserving of dignity but who currently lack the means to live independently. Our vision is a community whose members, regardless of means, are equally valued and supported.

“REMEMBERING”

A CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL TO THE HOMELESS

The Greater Keene Homeless Coalition is sponsoring this year’s Homeless Memorial Vigil in memory of those who have experienced homelessness and who have died during the past year. From 4-5 pm the member agencies of the Greater Keene Homeless Coalition will have information tables in the lobby of Keene City Hall. We will then gather in Central Square between 5 and 5:30 pm. The vigil will begin at 5:30 PM. There will be music, a reading of the names of those who have died in NH in the last year, poetry and candle lighting. The vigil will end at 6:30. Please join us as we remember. Here are the stories of the six local men who died this year:

Jeff A. - Jeff, age 50, passed quietly in his sleep on April 6, 2018. He grew up on the family strawberry farm and, as a child, could often be found running barefoot through the sprinklers. He was a painter, landscaper and had a passion for mining crystals up and down the East Coast. He was a caregiver and healer — a very gentle soul, who would literally give someone the shirt off his back. He loved everyone, especially his family. He loved to be in the woods calling owls, which gained him the name Owl Whisperer. He loved the Grateful Dead and playing jokes on people. He left behind a daughter.

Duane N. – Duane, age 56, loved to peruse thrift and pawn shops for treasures. He bargained until the price was one he thought he could afford. Once the purchase was complete he would then gift the item to the person he was reminded of when he first saw it. Duane had cancer and liver disease, and, although he was wasting away and chasing his demons at the end, he was always willing to help a friend or stranger in need.

Jeremy P. – age 30 - Creativity, compassion and a warm sense of humor were some of his most admirable qualities. His creativity was shown through his art, both on paper and in rhyme. Jeremy loved to write lyrics and rhymes, which had a “hip-hop” flair. His compassion was shown through his devotion to his family. He loved to be a part of family gatherings, especially when he had an opportunity to spend time with his nieces and nephews, who lovingly called him “Mr. Melon Head”. He loved to make other people smile and shared his sense of humor with those around him. Jeremy left behind 4 children.

Ben S. – Ben, age 33, had a huge love of the outdoors where he enjoyed fishing and camping. He also enjoyed spending time with his many cousins and his friends. Family gatherings were also a special part of his life. Ben could always be found with a huge smile on his face and a warmth in his heart that he shared with many. He left behind a son.

Justin R. – Justin, age 32, enjoyed being in the woods, sitting by the water, painting, carpentry and camping with his friends. Justin also liked to work on cars. He was an avid fan of car racing. He is remembered as a quiet guy, but whenever help was needed he was one of the first to jump up and assist.

Peter P. – Pete, age 57, could be seen riding his bicycle around town wearing a bright red bandana on his head. He took care of other people before himself, often to his own detriment. When he was housed, he would allow other people experiencing homelessness stay with him, causing him to lose his apartment. Pete was quite the fisherman and loved the outdoors.



5th Annual Holiday Auction



Our 5th Annual Holiday Auction will be held at United Church of Christ church at the head of the square on Saturday, December 8th. Many items are now available online at www.hundrednightsinc.org where bids can be made. If you want to make a bid online email Mindy at mcambiar@hundrednightsinc.org. Give her your name and email address along with your bid. She will place your bid along with your initials on the item. Check back often since others may also be bidding on the same item. If you bid face value, or higher, the item will not go into the live auction. You may pick it up here or we can bring it to you at the live auction. Then please join us at the United Church of Christ in Keene for the live auction. Parking and the entrance are on the Vernon St side of the building. Preview of the auction items begins at 8:00 am. There will be a silent auction from 8:00 am to 8:45 am and those items that make the minimum bid or higher will not go into the live auction. The live auction begins at 9:00 am. Brandt Onorato from Moggie's Auction House in Marlborough will be our auctioneer. Food and beverages will be available to purchase throughout. We are in need of volunteers to help set up on Friday afternoon and also on Saturday so if you have some time to give it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions call Mindy at 352-5197.



TOUCH A TRUCK

Trunk or Treat

Our annual Touch A Truck/Trunk or Treat event was held on October 13th at the Market Basket lot. In spite of the constant drizzle it was a very successful event. We netted \$3,500.00, and more than 200 children came out with their families and friends to participate. A big shout out to all the vehicles, volunteers and vendors who gave their time and effort – we sincerely thank you! It is quite an undertaking and we are grateful for all who support us. What fun seeing the “kids of all ages” in their costumes!



WISH LIST

Thank you to everyone who so generously donates items that are needed here at Hundred Nights, Inc.! We all appreciate everything that you bring here.

This is what is most needed at this time:

- Hot Chocolate, Sugar, Creamer, Milk, Coffee
- Paper Plates, Cups and Bowls, Plasticware
- Conditioner & Shampoo (full size bottles are ok!), Tampons, Twin Blade Razors
- Winter Boots, sizes needed: Mens - 8, 9 x 2 pairs, 9.5 x 3 pairs, 10, 10.5 x 2 pairs, 11 x 3 pairs, 11.5 x 3 pairs, 13 x 3 pairs, 13.5, 14 - Women's winter boots - size 7, 7 wide, 8, 8.5 x 2 pairs, and 9
- Snacks (Fresh Fruit, Cheese-sticks, Cereal Bars, Jerky, cheese and peanut butter crackers)
- Lunch Foods (canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, sliced deli meats & cheeses, canned soups and stews)
- Milk, Butter or Margarine, Mayo, Ketchup, BBQ Sauce, Hot Sauce
- Backpacks, Kleenex, Medicated Foot Powder, Hand Warmers
- Long Underwear - all sizes
- Winter Clothing - we need winter coats Men's XL, 2XL, 3XL, Women's Large and XL

***At this time we do not need any more summer clothing, scarves, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap or small size toiletries.**

Return Service Requested

17 Lamson Street • Keene, NH 03431
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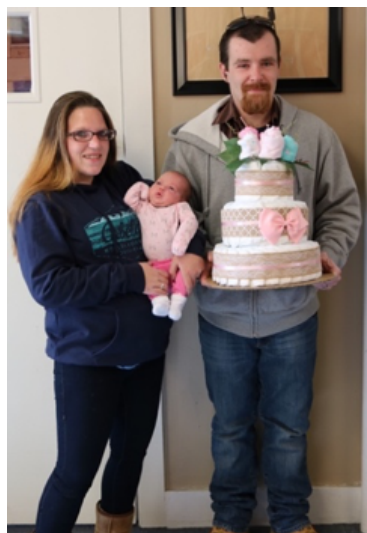
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GREAT NEWS!



We are very grateful to 100+Women Who Care Cheshire County for voting for Hundred Nights to be the recipient of their recent quarterly grant. We are so lucky that we were one of the three organizations to get picked out of the hat to make a presentation!

This grant will allow us to purchase three sets of commercial stackable washer and dryer units. This will cut in half the time it takes to launder all of the sheets, blankets and towels used at the shelter every night (14-18 loads a day!) as well as provide laundry services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.



Special Delivery

We had a very special delivery arrive here on October 10th. An expectant mother gave birth here at Hundred Nights! She was not due to give birth for a couple of weeks, but the baby decided she wanted to be born. Another guest realized that the mother was in labor and called 911 and assisted in the special delivery when little Jazzmine was born before the emergency services arrived. We are happy to report that mother and infant were transported to the hospital where they were declared in good health. All's well that ends well. Mom, Dad and baby are staying here until they are able to get into stable housing.