



Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc.

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Helpers Helping Others Task Force

Bringing It All Together for the Homeless

Organizational Chart w/Notes

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The primary goals of Helpers Helping Others Task Force (HHOTF) is to make sure that the homeless have access to: 1) Food, water, clothing, and personal hygiene items; 2) Information on where they can get professional help such as counseling for mental health, medical problems, drug and alcohol addictions; 3) Information on where they can get help with some type of housing that will get them off the street into a safe environment; such as shelters, transitional and supportive housing; and, 4) Spiritual help, or just someone they can talk to about their faith and community based needs. This is going to require the coordination of four different groups that are now working together. CHIP, the city, and several service providers have started the process but they need help, and lots of it. And that’s where HHOTF comes in.

HHOTF believes that the more volunteers (we call HELPERS) that are properly trained and organized, the better we can help the existing service providers, which in turn, will help solve some of the short-term problems of the homeless. HHOTF can provide and train as many HELPERS as necessary to achieve this goal in a shorter period of time. We are aware that no matter what we do or say, there will always be those that will not “come in” from the streets for any reason (at least initially), no matter what we offer them, but that does not mean that we will not try, again and again. If there is any one single thing we have already learned, it is that no one group, including the government, can do it all by themselves. But, as a much larger UNIFIED TEAM, working together, we believe we can collectively bring it all together for the homeless, as well as for our community.

Jesus tells us to LOVE one another so we do.

Jesus tells us to HELP one another so we do.

Until the City and CHIP have “all” of the homeless off the streets of Indianapolis, we as Christians and HELPERS will honor HIS requests first.

Indy’s Homeless Response Team

(Consists of some of the below organizations)



The base of volunteers HHOTF will be building should also allow us to re-direct some of HHOTF's HELPERS into other outreach programs such as: mentoring the homeless, mentoring for offenders inside our prisons, mentoring for ex-offenders outside our prisons, prison ministries volunteers, as well as volunteer for existing service providers that work with the homeless (Horizon House, HIP, HOOP, Outreach Inc., Meet Me Under the Bridge, etc.).

HHOTF is not as concerned about the numbers of homeless on the street or how and why they got there as we are in ways we can help them get off the street. The questions pertaining to the numbers, how and why, are for those with a higher pay grade than ours to figure out. Our collective job as HELPERS is to help the homeless; wherever, whenever and however we can, with the single goal of educating them on the ways they can get off the streets and start getting their lives back together.

These four groups make up our “UNIFIED TEAM” that will help solve some of the short-term problems of the homeless.

1. Government and their affiliates

- a. CITY - The City of Indianapolis
 - i. Initiated the Blue Print to End Homelessness
 - ii. Works on projects to help stop homelessness in the first place
 - iii. Works on projects to help solve the long-term homeless problems
- b. CHIP - Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention – The city's lead entity for mobilizing the community to work together to end homelessness
 - i. Works on projects to help stop homelessness in the first place
 - ii. Works on projects to help solve the long-term homeless problems
 - iii. Works with the private and public sector to obtain housing for the homeless
- c. GOV – State and/or Federal funding for the different public and private housing projects such as rent subsidies or rehabbing homes monies

2. Service Providers (usually government or big foundations funded) – that work directly with the homeless and have their own outreach programs that offer them direct services which includes providing them a much safer environment than the one they have on the street.

- a. HH - Horizon House
- b. HIP - Homeless Initiative Program

3. Housing Vendors (public & private) – that provide the different types of housing needed to house the homeless that are actually living on the streets, as well as low income families

- a. SHELTERS – Short-term housing (10 to 45 days)
 - i. Usually housed at no charge to the homeless
 - ii. Most of the time, they are faith based
 - iii. I do not know of any non-faith-based shelters
- b. TRANSITIONAL – Long-term housing (a few months to a couple of years) – for rent/sale
 - i. Usually housed for a weekly or monthly charge
 - ii. Sometimes tenant must take part in some type of treatment
- c. SUPPORTIVE and other types of – Mid to long-term housing
 - i. Usually paid for by some type of subsidized and/or government funding
 - ii. Always comes with a variety of services to help with various types of addictions

4. **Helpers Helping Others Task Force** – will be made up of volunteers from street outreach and street ministries, as well as several larger churches, we call our HELPERS, which will work directly with the homeless and the service providers that will be working to get the homeless off the streets. The simplicity of what HHOTF wants to do is to expedite what is already being done on a much larger scale using more and better trained HELPERS that use a set of guidelines that are meant to help the homeless, not hurt the homeless. Keeping in mind that what HHOTF does, it does no additional cost to the city.
 - a. HRH – Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc.
 - b. FHL – Faith Hope & Love, Inc.
 - c. Any other Service Providers that want to work with us

HHOTF's goal is to work with all of the above groups to “Bring It All Together for the Homeless” no matter what their religion, gender, race or background. The bottom line is, if they are living on the street, they need some type of help getting off the street, and that is what HHOTF is all about.

FHL & HRH are now working together

Why Faith Hope & Love, Inc. (FHL) and Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc. (HRH) have joined hands at this point in time:

1. FHL is not a church and will never be, so they are not in competition with any of the churches they are working with.
 - a. FHL is already bringing churches together to serve a common goal in their respective neighborhoods and our community
 - b. FHL's byline is: “Collaboration Instead of Competition”
 - i. They ask, “How can I serve” instead of “What's in it for me.”
2. HRH is not a service provider of any direct services, so they are not in competition with any of the service providers they are working with
 - a. HRH is already bringing services providers together thru its web site and its weekly newsletter
 - b. HRH is already working with a limited number of street outreach and street ministries
 - c. HRH has formed “Helpers Helping Others Task Force”
 - i. HHOTF's byline is: “Bringing it all Together for the Homeless”

In mid-February of this year after attending several outreach meetings on the homeless, I noticed that even while each group was doing a great job at what they were doing, they collectively were not very well organized and most groups were still “doing their own thing”. Their goals were all the same, but they were taking different paths to get there. For several different reasons, some of the homeless were being helped too much while others were being helped too little. That is when I came up with the idea of forming HHOTF. I am hoping that by organizing HHOTF, we can bring all the concerned parties together on a regular basis and start sharing information and experiences to better help the homeless.

Merlin Gonzales, Executive Director of FHL and Don Hawkins, Executive Director of HRH met sometime in 2006 at one of Kim Boyd's H.O.P.E. Team meetings. Merlin had just started FHL and Don was in the real estate and general contracting business as well as working with Kim on the H.O.P.E. Team. Don and Merlin went their separate ways at that time and for the last few years, Merlin has been getting to know churches and how to organize them, and Don has been getting to know service providers, prison and street ministries and how to work with them. When Merlin and Don got back together in mid-March and started updating each other on what they have accomplished the last few years and, needless to say, some of the pitfalls they have encountered along the way, it turns out that they were doing the same

thing but in different directions. They were both organizing their various groups and trying to get them together to achieve a common goal to better serve their community. After several discussions Don and Merlin are teaming up on some level to help the homeless thru the HHOTF. With the valuable human resources they have both compiled over the last few years it just seemed like joining forces at this time for this purpose was the natural thing to do.

Don and Merlin will not be the only ones organizing HHOTF. We are looking for a few good seasoned street outreach and street ministries people to help us achieve our goals. We do not claim to have all the answers and all the experience in this field, but we are both good, experienced organizers and we believe we can help bring all, or at least most, of the existing street outreach/ministries together to better serve the homeless industry and the community.

After HHOTF gets organized and has a few months under its belt of working together as a cohesive team with; CHIP, the city and local service providers, HHOTF plans to expand our HELPERS services to include: 1) mentoring programs that will consist of HHOTF assigning mentors to a homeless person that will help them while they are on the street, as well as for a few months after they get off the street, and 2) have a series of “Mini-Homeless Connect” programs that will allow HHOTF HELPERS to visit brick and mortar organizations such as the Horizon House, Wheeler Mission, Community Center, etc. on a monthly basis. These “Mini-Homeless Connects” would include HHOTF HELPERS providing services to the homeless similar to those that CHIP’s volunteers offered at its Indy Homeless Connect program, but on a much smaller scale. We will purchase a large camper type vehicle and set it up for our HELPERS and service providers to use when trying to talk to the homeless about getting off the streets.

Under no circumstances will we ever take these “Mini-Homeless Connects” to any homeless camps.

HHOTF will coordinate its HELPERS, service providers and agencies that can provide the below services.

Those services would include, but not be limited to: - Not complete, work in progress

1. Minister to them about Jesus Christ, if Christianity is their religion.
2. Let them know about other religious organizations that they believe in, such as Hebrew, Islamic, Indian, etc. Letting them know about other faith organizations that may provide additional services for their spiritual needs.
3. Tell them about our mentoring program
4. Give them information on what services are available to them, and where they can get them, including: employment benefits, where to get their identification, legal aid, vision screenings, dental, medical care, access their email, etc.
5. Give them information on housing, shelters and other places they can go to get off the streets
6. Give them information on jobs, consulting, training, resume preparation, placement, etc.
7. Food – a box type lunch
8. Haircuts
9. Mini Medical exams
10. HIV/AIDS testing and other STD testing
11. Clothes distribution – limited
12. Phone calls
13. Mental Health
14. Hygiene items
15. Pass out books & Bibles