

The Facts about Brevard's Homeless

- In January 2007 there were 1899 homeless men, women and children in Brevard County who **called the streets, beaches, and woods of Brevard home** . . . And someone's garbage their dinner. Over the course of a year, at least double that number will experience homelessness. Most exist day after day in squalor too horrible for most Americans to comprehend.
- Many other families and individuals are considered at extreme risk for homelessness because of poverty, lack of support, and precarious living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing. This is especially true in this cycle of increased mortgage foreclosures.
- There is only enough shelter space to **house less than 30% of homeless** persons on any given night.
- **There are few shelter spaces available for intact families** – mother, father and children. Many families devastated by emergency situations which lead them to homelessness must separate in order to find shelter. Or at least sleep in a tent or car in the woods.
- Obstacles to overcoming homelessness include **lack of safe shelter, transitional, or affordable housing, unemployment, physical and emotional disabilities, substance abuse, despair and hopelessness**. And for many people who are homeless; these obstacles generate a vicious downward cycle, leading to complete isolation from mainstream American society.
- **70 % of the persons are homeless due to a temporary set-back in their lives**. With adequate services they can overcome the obstacles which lead to homelessness and become stabilized.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Bring in your donation of socks and white undershirts by “Sock Sunday” on the week-end of January 4-6, 2008. The socks will be distributed to the homeless during the homeless census on January 31, 2008.
2. Volunteer to become a census taker. We will provide one hour of training during the week of January 21-26, 2008. Training will be conducted throughout Brevard County. Census shifts of 1-8 hours will be available on January 31, 2008, from 5:00 am until 10:00 pm. To volunteer contact Rosa Reich at 321-633-2076 or by e-mail rosa.reich@brevardcounty.us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!