

# The JOSEPH HOUSE



## Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

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### Dear Friends of Joseph House:

These winter days make us glad that we live in a warm, comfortable house. We can never think about this, however, without becoming mindful of the people who live out in the cold. This time of year brings an *urgency* to helping our neighbor in need.

Today in our nation of great abundance, many people still do not have a place to live. Here is information from the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (nlchp.org) about homelessness in the United States:

- 1). Insufficient income and lack of affordable housing are the leading causes of homelessness. In 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) classified 10.3 million renters as having extremely low incomes (ELI). There were, unfortunately, only 5.8 million rental units affordable to these ELI renters.
- 2). After paying their rent and utilities, 75% of ELI households end up with less than half of their income left to pay for necessities such as food, medicine, transportation, or childcare. The number of cost-burdened renters has increased each year since 2007.
- 3). The foreclosure crisis also played, and continues to play, a significant role in homelessness. In 2008, state and local homeless groups reported a 61% rise in homelessness since the foreclosure crisis began. Approximately 40% of families facing eviction due to foreclosure are renters; the problem may continue to worsen as renters represent a rising segment of the U.S. population.
- 4). For women in particular, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness.
- 5). People in families made up 37.4% of the total sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in 2012.
- 6). On a single night in January 2014, veterans accounted for about 11.3% of all homeless adults.



*If we are able to implore God day and night to hear our prayers, how careful we should be to hear and grant the petitions of our neighbor in need.*

- St. John the Almoner



Prayer Requests: use return envelope or e-mail to [LSJM@comcast.net](mailto:LSJM@comcast.net)

**In the silent hours of the night, I think of You. O Lord, hear my prayer:**

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It's easy for our understanding of homelessness to be guided more by assumptions than facts. It is easier still to think of the homeless as statistics and not people.

No one should be homeless, especially a senior citizen, but **Conrad** has not been lucky. He is 66, not married, no family, and zero assets to his name. Two weeks before Christmas, a bed opened up in a temporary shelter, and Conrad was given a respite from the streets. After 30 days he had to leave. The prospect of being out in the cold in the dead of winter scared him.

Conrad found a room to rent and gave \$200, the last of his SSI check, to the landlord. Since that was not enough to cover the move-in costs (rent plus deposit), the Joseph House paid the remaining \$300 so Conrad could go directly from the shelter to his new place. The rent will take a big chunk of Conrad's monthly check, but with help from our Food Pantry and state energy assistance Conrad should be able to keep a roof over his head.

**Imelda**, 32, has one dream in life: to live in a safe place with her young daughter. Imelda has been terrorized by her daughter's father. The hope of maintaining a relationship with him died a long time ago. His abuse twice drove Imelda and her daughter to seek refuge in a women's shelter. His whereabouts today are unknown. Imelda has had no contact with him in over five months.

Imelda is struggling to get her life together. She has been homeless and has lost a few jobs. She was laid off from her last job, but she was there long enough to qualify for Unemployment. With money from her check, Imelda made a partial payment toward the rent and utility deposits on a new place to live. We spoke with her landlord and agreed to pay the remaining \$250. When Imelda left the Joseph House Crisis Center, she was on her way to a job interview. We hope she has seen the last of the streets and can live free from violence.

An important part of our work is to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless in the first place.

**Allie**, 23, is the mother of two sons. She works two part-time jobs and brings home about \$850 per month. One of her jobs will become a full-time position. Allie needs the extra income: the father of her children left town and is not paying child support. Basic household expenses are overwhelming her, but one thing in Allie's favor is her desire to work to support her family. The Joseph House paid \$200 toward her past-due rent and stopped the eviction on the day it was to take place.

**Meredith**, 45, was in a car accident that caused her to have a stroke. One of her legs is non-functional as a result. Meredith lives in the trailer that belonged to her father; he transferred the title to her before he passed away. She still needs to pay a \$10,000 loan he used to purchase the trailer, as well as pay the monthly lot rent of \$342. Meredith's only income at the moment is \$185 per month in temporary disability plus \$194 in food stamps. She has been selling her possessions and begging at local churches to pay her bills.

Meredith wants to hold onto the trailer for as long as she can. A forbearance on the loan may help. We paid \$300 toward the lot rent. That gives her time to recover her health a bit and look for suitable employment.

**I**n Wintertime, we make sure our doors and windows are shut tight. We must never do the same with our hearts. People who need help because they are poor are not a burden. They are the ones God identifies with, and every day they bring the question before us: whom do we love?

We call upon you for your continued support of the Joseph House. Working together, we help parents feed their children and keep homes heated for the elderly. We gather charity from people like you and share it with those who need it most. Thank you for every donation and every prayer. May God bless you.

### **Your Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary**

#### **Ministry by the Numbers for 2015**

**19,571**

bags of groceries given out from the Food Pantry

**761**

average number of households receiving food each month

**11,351**

hot meals served in the Soup Kitchen

**452**

average number of requests per month for services from the Hospitality Room for the Homeless

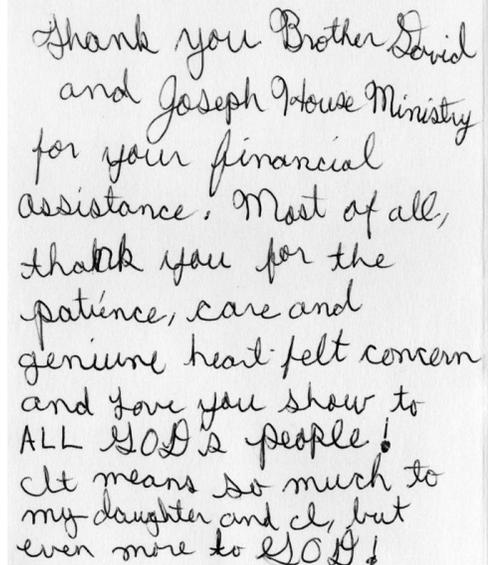
**180**

average number of households per month receiving Financial Assistance for emergencies

**Thank You!**

**You make the Joseph House possible.**

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**A note given to our volunteer  
Director of the Crisis Center from a mother  
who received help:**



Thank you Brother David  
and Joseph House Ministry  
for your financial  
assistance. Most of all,  
thank you for the  
patience, care and  
genuine heart-felt concern  
and love you show to  
ALL GOD'S people!  
It means so much to  
my daughter and I, but  
even more to GOD!