



St. Patrick Center
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.

MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAM A St. Patrick Center Mental Health Program

Research shows that persons who are mentally ill and have chemical dependencies who live on the streets often mistrust the traditional mental health system. In 1988, St. Patrick Center initiated its Mobile Outreach Program to identify homeless individuals who are living on the streets and may be mentally ill, substance abusing or both. The program encourages these individuals to seek services offered at St. Patrick Center. Therefore, a principal task of Mobile Outreach counselors is to develop rapport with the homeless individuals they encounter.

Utilizing van or bikes, Outreach counselors work in teams of two and travel city streets in search of homeless individuals. At first, counselors may offer emergency assistance only. Although Outreach counselors have keen assessment skills and will call 911 if an individual requires immediate medical attention, counselors strive to preserve the dignity of individuals who are homeless by encouraging them to make their own choices.

However, over time, St. Patrick Center has found that non-confrontational offers of socks and coats and sincere concern builds trust in this population. Outreach counselors build on that trust to inform people about St. Patrick Center and what it offers -- clothing, hot meals, showers and laundry facilities. They also let people know where and how to access St. Patrick Center services when they are ready. Counselors provide information about the programs and services of St. Patrick Center to interested individuals who are homeless.

The ultimate goal of the Mobile Outreach Program is to encourage persons who are chronically homeless to access agency programs that will lead them to permanent housing and financial stability.

In Fiscal Year 2011, two full-time counselors developed trusting relationships with 163 people living on the streets and provided mental health, psychiatric, employment and financial guidance services to 60 clients.

Other St. Patrick Center Mental Health Programs: Assertive Community Treatment (ACT); Casserole Program; City Seeds Urban Farm; Shamrock Club Day Treatment Program; Shamrock Club Intensive Case Management (ICM); Women's Night Program.

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