

IN THE HOUSE

Official Newsletter of Mercy House Homeless Shelter,
Wilmington, North Carolina

Introduction

What is Mercy House?

History

Mercy House Homeless Shelter began in October of 1995 as a result of the God-fearing and obedient members of the Bethesda Christian Life Church wanting to provide a safe and secure *place* for homeless men to sleep at night. Members had seen homeless men sleeping out of doors, in doorways, in alleys and even in dumpsters. They opened their fellowship hall and provided a warm and safe place to sleep. As the homeless population continued to grow the congregation decided to build a shelter adjacent to the fellowship building. For several years the church attempted to keep the shelter going, but they are too small to do it alone.

They began to search for partners to help them in this ministry. For legal and insurance reasons a 501c3 non-profit organization was formed. A board of directors and an Executive Director oversee the operations and administration of the facility. With donations from Churches, businesses and individuals we have managed to keep the facility going for 9 years. The shelter *has* served between 3,000 and 5,000 residents per year. It costs approximately \$30-\$45.00 per week for each resident. The resident is required to pay \$15.00 per week. We have to raise the remaining funds to keep the facility going.

We currently provide a safe, secure place to bathe and sleep. We can not afford to offer any other services, but approximately 10-25% of the residents use the time with us to get back on their feet and once again become productive members of society

The Future

We are in the process of improving our facility by doing some maintenance and painting.

We want to develop a partnership board consisting of business people and community representatives with the primary purpose of helping us obtain *the* resources we need to upgrade our program and our services to elevate the success numbers.

We need churches , businesses and individuals to commit to providing funds on a consistent basis so we can remain open to those who need us.

We need those who read this newsletter to help us *get* the word out to the community that we are available to the homeless men within the community. They should also know that we are one of only two year-round facilities in Wilmington, a town with over 2,000 homeless people as of the latest point-in-time survey.

