

Presentation to Pastoral Council April 19, 2004

St. Patrick's Community & Noel House

Noel House

Noel House began as an emergency shelter for homeless single women in response to the severe winter of 1990. It is a program of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. Noel House provides safe shelter for a diverse community of homeless women – up to 40 a night at the shelter on 2nd & Bell, and at several off-site shelters in local churches.

Many of the women who seek assistance from Noel House cite multiple reasons for their loss of housing: mental illness, lack of income, no affordable housing, eviction or displacement, alcoholism, substance abuse, domestic violence or family crisis, and physical or medical disability.

- 85% of the women using Noel House Programs suffer from mental illness, alcohol abuse, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and speech, vision and hearing impairment.
- 37% of the women have zero income from any source.

Other Noel House Programs Include:

- **Women's Referral Center** – assists over 150 homeless women each night who seek a safe place for the night. The Center is a safe place where women can wait for a bed referral and transportation to an area shelter.
- **Rose of Lima House** – provides homeless women up to two years of structured community based living that includes case management, mental health therapy, life skills training, and community building activities.

St. Patrick's Community Involvement with Noel House

- St. Pat's volunteers have cooked, delivered and served a meal once a month for the women of Noel House since **July 2000**.
- There is a demonstrated need for the services we are providing and a demonstrated interest in this ministry from parishioners. There is a core group of about 15 volunteers, but many others also participate occasionally. Several other committees and groups (faith formation, RCIA) have volunteered to prepare and serve a meal.
- St. Pat's has also provided gift baskets during the holidays and other targeted donations– including donations of blankets, towels, hygiene supplies, gift cards, and specialty food items
- When Noel House reduced hours of service to the women due to funding cuts, we asked the Pastoral Council in March 2003 to consider including Noel House in our annual tithe. That request was granted and our community gave approx. \$4,000 to Noel House for the first time in 2003.
- Donations from the green envelopes are used to buy food and other donations. We have also received donations from benefactor Sue Emery, formerly of Providence Regina House.

Coordinators: Tanya Donohue, Elizabeth Hansen, Polly Young