

Homelessness

My name is Pat Sloan. I am Sarnia Lambton's Regional Chairperson

According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (yes, I still use the dictionary) a home is described as one's place of residence or a social unit formed by a family living together. I would then describe homelessness as not having a place of residence and not having a family living together.

All of our Councils donate money to St. Vincent de Paul and our local Inn of the Good Shepherd. Most with monetary donations but Holy Rosary in Wyoming prepare and serve a meal in the months that have 5 Saturdays. Many other members of Councils help daily at the Inn, preparing meals, serving them and help with the cleaning up.

Some Councils give money to the Salvation Army who work closely with the homeless in Sarnia Lambton At Christmas time, especially, Holy Rosary Council knit mitts and scarves and donate them to an organization in Toronto. Most Councils help with Christmas baskets and this year at Our Lady of Mercy, our ladies gathered items for men especially socks and toiletries that were then given to St. Vincent de Paul to distribute.

Twice a year, at Christmas (Irish Miracle)and Easter East Cyclone Aid) our local Catholic high school travel through the city collecting canned goods from households to give to SVdP. Sacred Heart Councils and the cluster Councils of OLM, St. Joe's and St. Ben's help organize these events that are very successful.

Many of our Councils donate to the Women's Interval Home both monetary and goods such as clothing , diapers and toiletries for women and children who have nowhere to go and have come with nothing.

One other project that is starting in Sarnia is Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build. They are asking all the Churches in Sarnia to participate in building a 5 plex for single Seniors. It is quite exciting. It will be the first of its kind. I, myself, am going to help as I did one the first faith build , a single family home for a father and 2 children.

In conclusion, what we are all striving to do, is making life easier for some to have a home, to being warm in winter, and to have food for our families year round.

Thank you