



ST. LUKE'S SHELTER
3655 CALVERT STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007
WWW.STLUKESSHELTER.ORG

YEAR END APPEAL

December 10, 2006

Dear Friends:

One of the greatest benefits of working with the shelter is getting to sit down to dinner on a regular basis with residents, staff and volunteers. Thanks to our amazing dinner volunteers and area restaurants, at 6:45 every evening the TV gets turned off, the table gets set with an incredible meal, someone offers a word of thanks, and we eat. It is in the middle of these evening meals that everyone around the table shares in lively conversations about world events, local politics, daily happenings, personal accomplishments and individual disappointments. Dinner time at the shelter really is family time.

On a recent evening one of the residents who had been offered a job after a two-month long search spoke of his on-going struggle to actually start work. For three weeks, every time he went to his new employer for his "first" day of work, he was told he needed another piece of paperwork—a police clearance from his last three cities of residence, written verification of specific training, more identification papers. In telling his latest setback to the group at dinner, he looked around the room and said, "If I didn't have the security of this place and the support of all of you, especially the staff to come home to every night, I'd probably have already given up. By being at St. Luke's I have the strength to overcome my frustrations and keep on trying. I've found a new hope that I can make change."

Our residents all agree that St. Luke's Shelter is more than a place to sleep at night. It is a home, a safe haven of support that works with them to create changes in their lives. ***Your support makes this possible.***

While our greatest successes are always seen and heard in the stories of our residents both past and current, it is important to celebrate specific program and operational accomplishments of 2006.

Your commitment and dedication made the following achievements possible:

- ◆ Moving into our newly renovated shelter!
- ◆ Completion of a computer lab with three new computers, which provide residents internet access for job searches, opportunities for computer training, and a place to work on their resumes.
- ◆ Enhancing and expanding our volunteer program, through our new overnight volunteer program and implementation of our volunteer hour tracking system. In 2006 more than



Residents, staff and volunteers sharing a meal in the new shelter.

Helping men journey out of homelessness since 1991

100 volunteers donated more than 650 volunteer hours! In addition, with the advent of our overnight volunteer program the shelter now opens two hours earlier on Saturdays and stays open later on Sunday mornings.

- ◆ A new partnership with Community of Hope to provide quarterly HIV/AIDS testing and educational seminars for residents.
- ◆ The reopening and expansion of our hypothermia shelter, which took a year hiatus during construction.
- ◆ Increased participation in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon with 35 people participating in a mini-walk at the Labor Day BBQ, 20 people walking with us on the Mall the day of the event, and stellar fundraising by church and community members, especially Sandi Stroud who raised more than \$2,000. When all the donations are tallied (probably in March, 2007) we will receive in the vicinity of \$13,000 — compared to about \$4,500 one year ago!

At the end of 2005 we asked you to help us make 2006 our best year yet and you answered. The results were incredible. As we look forward to 2007 we ask you to help us respond to one of the greatest needs we hear from our residents—to keep the shelter open more hours on the weekends. Most programs and services are closed on the weekends and residents don't have a place to go during the day. With your financial help and the growth of our overnight volunteer program we can make this change.

On December 24, 2006 take a moment to pat yourself on the back because with your support the shelter celebrates a major milestone—providing a safe, sober and supportive environment for fifteen years to more than 375 homeless men. As we move into our 15th year stay tuned for information about our anniversary celebrations.

Peace and Blessings,



Shalom Mulkey
Director
shalom@stlukesshelter.org
202/337-4275

Structural Change

You probably noticed our biggest accomplishment of 2006: the long-planned opening of our renovated shelter, comfortably furnished through the generosity of our church and community. But some of our less-flashy accomplishments may have been overlooked. Last Spring, the church and shelter hired consultant Beth Schaffer to review the shelter's status and make recommendations for its future. As a result of that report we have made several changes that may seem small, but will pave the way for the shelter's continued success.



New Shelter lounge with furnishings

For one thing, Ms. Schaffer recommended that the shelter retain and embrace its legal status as an “integrated auxiliary” of the church. While that meant no legal change, it did open the door to have the empty executive director's job done by Shalom Mulkey, a church employee with extensive experience working for homeless service organizations. For another, the fabulous group of volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors are now referred to as a Community Advisory Council. Jen Runyon was elected Chair of the Council, following in the footsteps of long time chair June Kress, who continues to serve on the Council. The Community Advisory Council remains actively involved in program development, fundraising, outreach, publicity and communications for the Shelter.

This has been a wonderful year of transition and we thank you all for your patience and support.

—Pastor Dave Myers

**Donate by
December 31 to get the
full tax benefits for 2006**