

THE HEART OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a difficult and complex issue facing virtually every community in the United States. Recently, social service professionals and community volunteers in Woodstock met to offer insights and suggestions for Mayor Brian Sager's community communication on the issue. The resulting paper, titled *The Heart of Homelessness*, is presented in four chapters, each intended to address a set of commonly asked questions. Specifically, the chapters cover the 'why's' behind the perceived increase in homelessness; the rights of people who are homeless and the limitations on what many believe should be basic enforcement practices; the rationale behind the Old Firehouse Assistance Center; and, the actions now underway to develop a permanent fixed site facility to address the longstanding need.

The intent of the paper is *not* to defend actions or persuade people to a particular position, but to provide basic factual information in response to provocative questions so people can construct their own knowledge and understanding.

For those interested in additional information or wishing to contribute, through donations of money, materials or volunteer time, we encourage you to directly contact the following agencies:

Old Firehouse Assistance Center
(McHenry County Housing Authority)
(815) 338-7752 ext. 137
Sue Rose: srose@mchenrycountyhousing.org

Home of the Sparrow
(815) 271-5444
<https://www.hosparrow.org/>

Turning Point
(815) 338-8081
<http://www.turnpt.org/>

Pioneer Center for Human Services
(815) 759-7144
<https://www.pioneercenter.org/support/make-a-donation-today/>

McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness
(815) 334-4089
<https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-j-z/planning-development/divisions/community-development/continuum-of-care-to-end-homelessness>