



Long Island Coalition for the Homeless

600 Albany Avenue, Suite 2 • Amityville, New York 11701 • 631.464.4314 Fax 631.464.4319

www.addresssthehomeless.org

Dear Friends of the Homeless:

Thank you for requesting your “*Have a Heart for the Homeless*” Candlelight Vigil and Drive Kit!

Inside, you will find:

- ☐ Posters about the Vigil to hang in your neighborhoods, school, libraries, club/community centers, etc. (5 - 8.5 x 11” on color paper, and one white for making copies)
- ☐ Ideas for conducting drives for new/unused baby items, non-perishable foods, and toiletries for the homeless
- ☐ “Spice It Up/Fresh Start” – new ideas for conducting special drives
- ☐ Sample letter to present to stores where you want to hold a drive
- ☐ “Shopping list” of needed items
- ☐ Map of the Farmingdale State College Campus
- ☐ Tips on how to spread the word about the Vigil
- ☐ What to expect on the night of the Vigil
- ☐ An article from a national publication describing the Candlelight Vigil

The Vigil will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, from 12 Noon – 8:00PM at Farmingdale State College, 2350 Broad Hollow Road, Farmingdale NY 11735, as follows:

- 12-5pm - Information, health and services fair along with item distribution
- 7-8pm - Candle lighting Ceremony

The event will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room at Roosevelt Hall and on the Great Lawn. If participating as a member of a club or group, we encourage you to wear your group’s uniform, and/or bring your group’s banner to help identify your group to the crowd! Also, whether it be a hat, gloves, scarf or pin, be sure to wear something **RED!**

Please feel free to make copies of these materials as needed, or contact us for more. For more information, please contact us at (631) 464-4314 or gguarton@addresssthehomeless.org or nsaini@addresssthehomeless.org.

Sincerely,

Greta

Greta Guarton, LMSW
Executive Director

Charlie

Charles Russo, Esq.
Chair

A d d r e s s t h e H o m e l e s s .



Long Island Coalition for the Homeless



Have a Heart for the Homeless

Candlelight Vigil

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

12 noon—8pm

Farmingdale State College

Great Lawn and Multi-Purpose Room

Roosevelt Hall

2350 Broadhollow Road, Farmingdale, NY

NEW FORMAT:

Info, Health and Services Fair/Item distribution 12—5pm

Candle lighting Ceremony 7pm—8pm

COME JOIN US!

We will be accepting donations of NEW Baby Items, Diapers,
Formula, Unopened Cleaning Supplies, Unopened Toiletries
Non-Perishable Food Items, new clothing and coats, etc.

Donations should be dropped off at LICH, 600 Albany Avenue, Amityville, by
March 12, 2020

YOU CAN HELP:

CONDUCT A DRIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

For more information, contact us at 1-631-464-4314 or
gguarton@addresssthehomeless.org

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IDEAS FOR CONDUCTING DRIVES IN YOUR AREA

HOLD OFFICE/CLASS COMPETITIONS!

- ❑ Select a group/category of items to collect and hold competitions among “teams” to see who raises the most! Who can build the tallest Toilet Paper Pyramid? Who can make the most toiletry kits and blessing bags? Which department collected the most food (by weight – Challenge members to raise their weight in food!)?
- ❑ Raise the stakes with fun prizes and BRAGGING RIGHTS! – Post photos and progress to Social Media, with hashtags (you can also compete against other groups using the same hashtags!)
- ❑ Competition hashtag ideas: #TPPyramidVigil2020, #SoapBagsVigil2020, #WeighYourFoodVigil2020, #OOhBabyVigil2020, #BlessingBagsVigil20

HOST GATHERINGS TO CREATE TOILETRY KITS/BLESSING BAGS

- ❑ Schools, churches, clubs, Girl/Boy Scout Troops can collect items, and hold an event or gathering to put together kits/blessing bags
- ❑ Kits can include essentials: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
- ❑ You can add special items and notes or inspirational quotes to make them really special!
- ❑ Bags can be as small as a large Ziploc, or as big as a tote!
- ❑ Decorate the bags. Get Creative!

ONE-DAY DRIVES AT STORES, ETC.

- ❑ Contact your local libraries, supermarkets, shopping centers or malls and request permission to have a drive there on a designated day. (sample letter is provided)
- ❑ Hang fliers announcing the drive, and what you will be collecting.
- ❑ On the day of the drive, be sure to hang fliers or other information about the drive, Long Island’s homeless, and the need for the items you are collecting. A shopping list is included in your kit. You can modify this to show only those items you would like to collect, and hand it out to shoppers before they enter the store. We can provide you with these materials upon request.
- ❑ Have members of your group/team/club take shifts, depending on the length of the drive.
- ❑ Make sure you have a way of collecting and transporting the items you receive (large boxes, etc.)
- ❑ If your team or group has uniforms or jackets, wear them during the drive. If you have a banner, bring it to the drive to represent your group!

ONGOING DRIVES IN LOCAL STORES, LIBRARIES, ETC.

- ❑ Contact your local delis, convenience stores and libraries and request permission to place a donation box at their location.
- ❑ Decorate a large box with wrapping paper, leaving the top open to collect donations. Be sure to include information about the drive and what items you are collecting.
- ❑ Arrange a date and time when you will be picking up the box.

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Want to take your drives to the next level? Look Here for More Ideas!

*****Please note: These baskets will be distributed through the LICH “Boutique” – our free distribution center*****

Many individuals and families lose all of their belongings when they become homeless. When they are ready to get back on their feet and move into permanent housing, they have to start collecting household items from scratch. Here are some creative, fun ways to create special “housewarming” baskets for formerly homeless individuals and families to get them started in their new homes!

“Spice it Up” Campaign:

Ask friends to help you collect items for families to prepare a special meal, and create “gift baskets” out of new, usable kitchen items they will need to prepare the meal. Here are some examples (gift cards can be added in lieu of perishable food items):

- Large pots with food supplies and a ladle for making a special meal (recipes for the meal would be an added bonus! i.e. Family Pasta Night Basket) Be sure to include any needed spices!
- Cake Mix or items to bake a cake and a wooden spoon in a cake pan (add a recipe to make it personal!)
- Grandma’s favorite cookie recipe along with ingredients and a spatula, on a cookie sheet
- Stove casserole mix or special recipe with a skillet or pan and spatula

“Fresh Start” Campaign:

Ask friends to help you collect items to help families get started in their new homes. Here are some examples of “Fresh Start” Baskets:

- Laundry baskets with laundry cleaning items, dryer sheets
- Buckets with cleaning supplies, gloves, dust pans, mop, sponges, etc.
- Dish pan and dish drain with gloves, sponges, Brillo and dish washing liquid
- Bath set with shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc., in a bath caddy or some kind of bin that could be used for storage.
- Diaper bag or baby bath filled with baby items, diapers, baby shampoo, etc.

“Home Sweet Home” Campaign:

- New sheet sets, towel sets, pillows in a laundry basket
- New kitchen towels and pot holders in a bucket or dish pan

These are only some examples. You are limited only by your imagination! Need inspiration? Checkout Pinterest!

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January 10, 2020

Dear Concerned Community Member:

We are asking for your help in collecting donations for our annual Candlelight Vigil for the Homeless. This event brings together people from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties to help distribute donations to homeless people in our communities and to raise awareness about the issue of homelessness on Long Island.

For the next three months representatives throughout both counties will be working in collaboration with local parishes, businesses, and community groups to collect items that are needed by homeless individuals and families on Long Island.

You can assist by donating items on the attached list, or by setting up a box for donations.

The Vigil will be held on March 17, 2020, from 12 Noon – 8:00PM at Farmingdale State College, 2350 Broad Hollow Road, Farmingdale, NY. (info/health and services fair and items distribution from 12 noon – 5PM; Candle Lighting Ceremony and Vigil 7PM – 8PM).

For more information about donations or for further event details, please contact us at (631) 464-4314, gguarton@addresssthehomeless.org.

Sincerely,

Greta

Greta Guarton, LMSW
Executive Director

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“HAVE A HEART FOR THE HOMELESS” SHOPPING CHECKLIST

The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless will be collecting the following items and distributing them to homeless and at-risk Long Islanders. You can help by gathering or purchasing new/unused items on the list. Our group, _____, will be collecting items to help the Coalition in its mission. Please help us help the homeless on Long Island!

*****MOST NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE TOILET PAPER, BABY ITEMS,
SOAP/SHAMPOO/TOOTHPASTE/DEODORANT, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS*****

BABY ITEMS	TOILETRIES	NON-PERISHABLE FOODS	CLEANING SUPPLIES/HOUSEHOLD
Diapers (various sizes)	Soap (liquid)	Soup (cans)	Laundry Detergent
Pull-ups	Soap (individual bars)	Soup (boxes)	Fabric softener
Baby food (Stage 1, 2, 3, 4)	Shampoo	Cereal	Dryer sheets
Pediasure	Conditioner	Oatmeal	Dish soap
Pedialyte	Facial cleansers	Vegetables (cans)	Sponges
Formula (liquid)	Deodorant	Pasta	Brillo-type pads
Formula (powder)	Lotion	Pasta sauce (plastic jars)	Dish gloves
Baby wipes	Hand sanitizer	Juice (cans/plastic bottles)	Paper towels
Baby shampoo	Toothpaste	Peanut butter	Window cleaner
Baby bottles	Mouthwash	Jam/preserves/jelly	All-purpose cleaner
Pacifiers	Toothbrushes	Parmalat	Bathroom cleaner
Baby spoons, forks, dishes	Tissues	Powdered milk	Toilet cleaner
Teething rings	Feminine hygiene products	Evaporated milk	Bleach
Onesies	Razors	Cereal bars	Ammonia
Baby powder	Shaving cream	Granola bars	Lysol-type disinfectant
Corn starch	Combs	Snack bars	White vinegar
Baby lotion	Brushes	Baking mixes	Disinfectant cleaning wipes
Diaper rash cream/ointment	Toilet paper	Canned meats	Napkins
Baby oil		Hot chocolate	Clog Remover
		Instant coffee	Bathroom Accessories
		Tuna (pouches and cans)	(Shower curtains, towels, soap dishes)
		Supermarket gift cards	
		Beans (canned and bags)	Laundry baskets
		Rice	Laundry bags
		Kitchenware (pots, pans, spatula, oven mitts, potholders, silverware)	Buckets for mopping
			Dusters
			Mops/brooms
			Dustpans

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Farmingdale Campus Map

Buildings may be located by name – Laffin, number – (02), or map grid coordinates – C-6.

Admissions (Laffin Hall) (02)	C-6
Allard Field House (86)	B-4
Alumni Hall (65)	D-6
Aviation Center * (Please see note below)	
Bookstore (10)	D-4
Broad Hollow Bioscience Park (113/117)	G-5
Bus Stop, LIRR Shuttle	C-4 & C-6
Bus Stop, Main	F-3

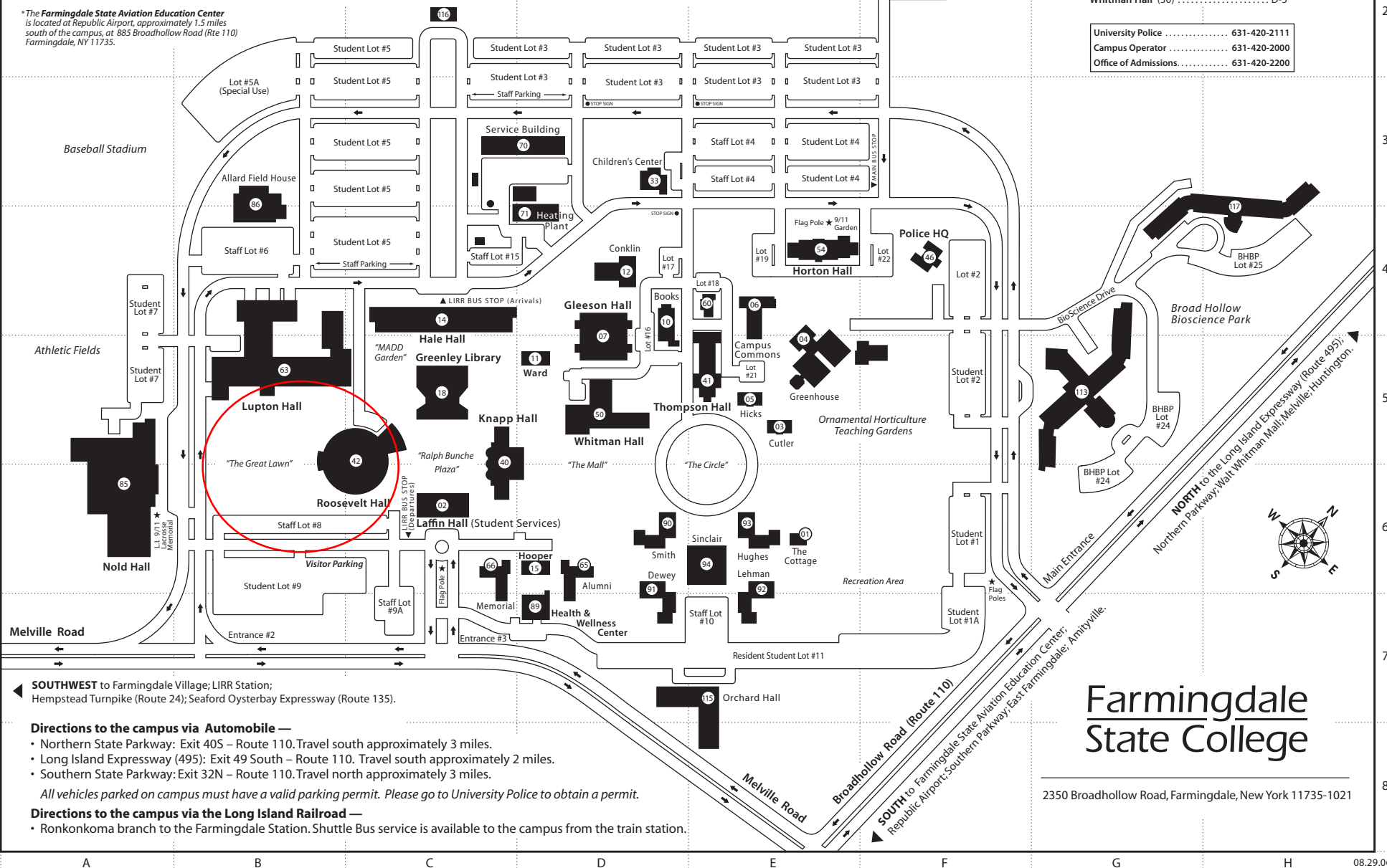
Campus Commons (06)	E-4
Canine Companions (78)	E-1
Children's Center (33)	D-3
Conference Center (76)	F-1
Conklin Hall (12)	D-4
Cutler Hall (03)	E-5
Dewey Hall (91)	D-6
Gleeson Hall (07)	D-4
Greenhouse (04)	E-5
Greenley Library (18)	C-5
Hale Hall (14)	C-4

Health & Wellness Center (89)	D-7
Heating Plant (71)	D-4
Hicks Hall (05)	E-5
Hooper Hall (15)	D-6
Horton Hall (54)	E-4
Hughes Hall (93)	E-6
Knapp Hall (40)	C-5
Laffin Hall (02)	C-6
Lehman Hall (92)	E-6
Lupton Hall (63)	B-5
Memorial Hall (66)	C-6

* The Farmingdale State Aviation Education Center is located at Republic Airport, approximately 1.5 miles south of the campus, at 885 Broadhollow Road (Rte 110) Farmingdale, NY 11735.

Nold Hall (85)	A-6
Orchard Hall (115)	E-7
Roosevelt Hall (42)	C-5
Service Building (70)	D-3
Sinclair Hall (94)	E-6
Smith Hall (90)	D-6
Student Services (Laffin Hall) (02)	C-6
The Cottage (01)	E-6
Thompson Hall (41)	E-5
University Police (46)	F-4
Ward Hall (11)	D-5
Whitman Hall (50)	D-5

University Police	631-420-2111
Campus Operator	631-420-2000
Office of Admissions	631-420-2200



◀ **SOUTHWEST** to Farmingdale Village; LIRR Station; Hempstead Turnpike (Route 24); Seaford Oysterbay Expressway (Route 135).

Directions to the campus via Automobile —

- Northern State Parkway; Exit 405 – Route 110. Travel south approximately 3 miles.
- Long Island Expressway (495); Exit 49 South – Route 110. Travel south approximately 2 miles.
- Southern State Parkway; Exit 32N – Route 110. Travel north approximately 3 miles.

All vehicles parked on campus must have a valid parking permit. Please go to University Police to obtain a permit.

Directions to the campus via the Long Island Railroad —

- Ronkonkoma branch to the Farmingdale Station. Shuttle Bus service is available to the campus from the train station.

Farmingdale State College

2350 Broadhollow Road, Farmingdale, New York 11735-1021



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SPREAD THE WORD!!!

The Have a Heart for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil is an important event, and an opportunity to raise awareness about Long Island's homeless individuals and families. It's critical that we have a huge turnout of people in support of this event so we can get the word out.

You can help us accomplish this goal!

Prepare to attend the Vigil with your group/team, etc. If you have a banner, please be sure to bring it! Also, wear your group's uniforms or colors. Also, please wear something **RED** in support of Long Island's homeless folks.

Tell others!

Send letters, emails and make calls to your friends, family, and other contacts to tell them about the event. Have a gathering at the Vigil! If you would like a sample of what to share, please let us know. We'll be glad to send one to you. Post it on your social media! Facebook! Twitter! Instagram! Like the Coalition's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LongIslandCoalitionForTheHomeless) page to share posts, follow us on [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/addresshomeless) to retweet! Use the Hashtag #Vigil2020

www.facebook.com/LongIslandCoalitionForTheHomeless

www.twitter.com/addresshomeless

Hang Fliers/Posters!

Hang fliers and posters in your local stores, supermarkets, deli's, libraries – anywhere that has a Community Bulletin Board! Feel free to add your own personal touch! For example, add "Please join (your group) at the Candlelight Vigil for the Homeless..."

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WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE VIGIL

The Vigil will be taking place on March 17, 2020, from 12 Noon – 8:00PM at Farmingdale State College. It will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room (old gym) and Great Lawn in Roosevelt Hall.

The event will be broken up into two parts:

12 noon – 5PM:

Health Fair, Information Tables, Services (Haircuts, face painting, Voter Registration, 2020 Census Support) and Distribution of Essential Items. This will take place in the Multipurpose Room. Agencies and groups will have tables with information about their programs and services; groups will be on hand to do health screenings for various conditions including cancer, hearing, oral health, blood pressure, cholesterol and HIV. Barbers and hair dressers will provide free haircuts. Face painting and Story Time will be available for the children. The Nassau and Suffolk Boards of Elections will be on hand to assist folks with registering to vote and demonstrating how to use voting machines. There will also a table to help people complete Census forms (online Census forms are available beginning March 12). Folks will be guided through the services, info and health fair. They will then be escorted through the Distribution area and assisted in obtaining what they need.

(5PM – 7PM: a light dinner will be offered to volunteers and those who stay for the fair and ceremony)

7PM – 8PM:

Candle Lighting Ceremony and Vigil. We invite members of the community to join us to raise awareness about homelessness and poverty on Long Island. Presentations by homeless and formerly homeless persons, elected officials and others serving the homeless community.

Inside, we will have information tables, areas to get a snack or hot coffee or cocoa, and places to hang your banners and meet up with group members.

Outside, we'll have designated areas for dropping off various items donated through the drives conducted by members of the community.

We will hold the Candle Lighting Ceremony just outside on the Great Lawn, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Multipurpose Room.

Groups are encouraged to bring banners, signs, etc., and/or wear items to represent their groups (group/club/team/school uniforms). We encourage folks to post photos with the Hashtag #Vigil2020

It will likely be **CHILLY OUTSIDE!** Be sure to dress warm, including wearing layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and thick-soled shoes.

Address the Homeless

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Vigil Honoring Homeless Lightens Long Island Hearts

by Lauren L. Haslett

Greta Guarton first spoke about the event she recently coordinated, the “Have a Heart for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil,” while running frantically around Long Island the day before with a colleague.

Guarton is the Executive Director of the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless (LICH), formerly the Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless. LICH is a non-profit organization that has worked for over 20 years to end homelessness on Long Island and improve the quality of life for all of the area’s residents. The LICH network now includes over 125 agencies, which provide an array of services to Long Island’s needy families and individuals.

Cell phone crackling as she jumped in and out of her car in the mounds of snow that arrived just before the event, Guarton was still nothing but excited and enthusiastic. The Vigil was restarted about four years ago after a 15-year break, and she shared her eagerness to “create the new face” of the Vigil.

“We used to have an hour-long ceremony outdoors,” she said, “but now it’s held mostly inside, and the candlelight ceremony is just a part of what we do.” The Vigil, which took place at the State University of New York’s (SUNY) Farmingdale campus on February 11, attracted close to 1,500 people this year.

One service provider who attended both this year and in 2009, Christine Lai, of Catholic Charities Diocese of Rockville Centre, spoke about her experience providing in-kind donations for this event, and about the changes she saw from the previous year.

“Catholic Charities also offered a new item this year. We made gift baskets, which would help an individual or family who would be moving into permanent housing to set up a new home, and we offered several food baskets, as well. These baskets were raffled off; however, each attendee who stopped by our table was given a free ticket. I was touched by the responses of the people who won their baskets. To see the happy faces as they won these basic items was moving,” recounted Lai.

The Vigil takes place around Valentine’s Day, both because of the cold winter weather (the hardest time of year for the homeless) and because of the clear symbolism of the holiday. It has become an entirely new event over the past four years, transforming into a lively evening that engages the entire community, and not limiting attendance to any one group of the many affected by homelessness.

Hundreds of organizations around the country hold candlelight vigils for the homeless, to honor those that have died on the streets or to



raise public consciousness of this overlooked group, like National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (December 21, the longest night of the year). The "Have a Heart" Vigil though, is not just about honoring the homeless, but also about distributing information and practical help, spreading empathy and understanding, and raising awareness about this critical issue. Few groups take their commemorative events as far as Guarton and her colleagues at the LICH.

In addition to the candlelight ceremony, the Vigil included an array of events for both adults and children, such as formerly homeless individuals sharing their personal experiences, tables of information with representatives from service agencies, and a distribution of donations (400 new winter coats, 2,000 pairs of socks, nonperishable food items, school supplies, linens, and toiletries). In order to better connect with the families and children the event has attracted, this year LICH also decided to hold its first ever story time for its younger participants.

"I thought it went really well," she noted. "A lot of the kids who were there stayed for multiple stories and we may make it more prominent next year."

The teenage volunteers who read books to the children to teach them about the struggles of the homeless were energetic and engrossed the children. They also made sure the kids and their parents knew where to pick up complimentary copies of the stories they had just heard.

"Many of our program participants are families with children who live on a very low income," said Lai of Catholic Charities. "Sometimes, the extra money to even purchase a book for their child is out of reach for our families. We were happy to bring those books back and offer them to the children in our programs."

One of the stories volunteers read to the children was *Saily's Journey*, the tale of Saily the

snail, who becomes homeless after a storm and consequently sets off on an adventure to find a new home.

A few extremely brave and formerly homeless individuals told stories geared toward the adults in attendance, too.

"It is important for them to share that story and take pride in what they've accomplished, and it's also good for everyone else to hear."

Aside from first-hand accounts and inspiring stories, there was also practical information available to those in need of assistance from nearly a dozen local service providers and advocacy groups.

The "Have a Heart for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil" is an event that has grown to include an entire community in Long Island—the homeless, formerly homeless, families with children, service providers, and even the media. Some participants traveled long distances to be able to attend, like one man who had to take two buses and walk quite a ways in order to make it to the Vigil on that snowy February night. Even with his difficulties traveling to the SUNY Farmingdale campus, he seemed to think the Vigil was worth the trek, as did the numerous other families, providers and individuals who, regardless of the bad weather came to be a part of it.

Such dedication says a lot about what the Vigil means to the community, and its organizers hope to continue the event's growth in the future. But of course, there are still plenty of other events and advocacy work to keep Guarton and her team at LICH busy in the meantime. ■

If you would like to submit your organization's work or events to be considered for an article in a future issue of UNCENSORED, please send an e-mail to UNCENSORED@icpny.org.