

HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY, ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE

ON THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR, DECEMBER 21ST, WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WHILE HOMELESS AND OPEN OUR DOORS SO THAT NO PERSON HAS TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS THAT NIGHT.

Scroll down the entire page for complete information.

0 COMMENTS

A call to action: Join Us

Homeless people die from illnesses that affect everyone, frequently without health care. Homeless people die from exposure, unprotected from the heat and the cold.

Homeless people die from violence, often in unprovoked hate crimes.

Join us as we remember those who live with homelessness and have lost their lives in our community this year.

Shelters in the community - ABCCM, the Salvation Army, and the Western Carolina Rescue Ministries - are open every day to provide shelter for those in need. Unfortunately, during the coldest months of the year, the shelters are stretched to their limit and struggle to shelter all of those who need it.

As a community we can stand in solidarity and make a commitment to join our neighbors and open doors to those who would otherwise sleep outside, in the memory of those that have and have suffered.

Join up with so many of us who will be participating:

- **Keep a light on in your window at your house or store front for the duration of the longest night of the year.** Or, alternately, if you can't leave a light on, put up the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day poster in your window! (click here to find a link to the poster)
- Donate food for the dinner, blankets for the overnight, or ad space on TV, Radio, or the newspaper to help us promote the



CONTACT INFORMATION

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PARTNERS

Homeless Coalition
Homeless Initiative

BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2007 (7)
 - ▼ October (3)
 - Memorial Service
 - Volunteers
 - Open Doors - a place to stay for the night
 - ▶ November (3)
 - ▶ December (1)

event

- Volunteer to assist with the memorial, the dinner, or the overnight. A community center downtown will open their doors for people, and we'll need you to help keep things running throughout the night (this will be done in shifts).
- **Please sign up to burn a light/hang a poster, donate, or volunteer by clicking [HERE](#)**

0 COMMENTS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name

Name

Name

Buncombe and Asheville make Joint Proclamation

On Tuesday, November 13, 2007, Amy Sawyer (coordinator for the Homeless Initiative) accepted a joint proclamation from the City of Asheville and Buncombe County: December 21st is Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, and to honor those who have died while homeless this past year, our community will open our doors and make a commitment that no one will sleep homeless on the longest night of the year.

Homeless Persons' Memorial day is a time to acknowledge the dangers of living in homelessness and recommit to ending homelessness so that our neighbors on the streets do not have to face the life-threatening challenges of homelessness!

0 COMMENTS

Food Donations Needed~!

Some of the best conversations and connections happen when people share a meal. After the memorial service, we will share a meal and take the time to remember those who have died, share our memories, and connect with each other.

The dinner will be a POT LUCK dinner. That means that if you can provide a casserole, a salad, or some other tasty food item, we need your help!

- If you are coming to the event, you can bring your meal with you.
- However, if you just want to drop off a dish - you can do that too. Drop the dish off between 2PM and 4PM at First Baptist Church on 5 Oak St. downtown Asheville.

If you plan on bringing a dish, contact Amy Sawyer (259-5851 or asawyer@ashevillenc.gov).

0 COMMENTS

Open Doors - a place to stay for the night

In an act of solidarity, our community will be opening our doors to places that can offer a safe place to rest for the longest night of the year in memory of those who have lost their lives this year while homeless.

First Baptist Church has graciously offered their space: they will offer a central location where people can sleep during the night of December 21, 2007.

If you have a community space you'd like to open for the night, please contact Amy Sawyer.

0 COMMENTS

Volunteers

Volunteers will help support the spaces that have been donated for this incredible act of solidarity in the face of homelessness that our community has committed to.

Help us bring our homeless neighbors into our hearts and welcome them in from the elements on the longest night of the year in memory of those who have lost their lives.

Because this is a community-wide undertaking and involves so many people, we're asking that you register ahead to volunteer. To register, click [HERE](#)
Or, if that doesn't work, call Amy Sawyer directly at 776-1393.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION will take place on MONDAY, DEC. 17th @6:30pm AT THE A-HOPE CENTER (N. Ann St, Asheville NC)

VOLUNTEER ROLES:

Below is a list of roles that volunteers will fill during December 21st, the day that Asheville and Buncombe County opens its doors to those who have no safe, secure housing of their own. Feel free to review the list, and contact Amy Sawyer with any questions you may have.

First Shift (4PM-8:30PM)

25 Volunteers needed to set up beds, tables, and dinner settings as well as direct people.

Dinner (5PM)

20 Volunteers needed to welcome and direct people, serve food, and clear tables.

Check-In (6PM)

30 Volunteers needed to help people check in and get the shelter set-up.

Second Shift (8PM-Midnight)

20 Volunteers needed for overnight shelter management.

Third Shift (Midnight-6AM) 20 Volunteers needed for overnight shelter management.

Breakfast - Fourth Shift (6AM-9AM on the 22nd)

27 Volunteers needed to help break down beds, set up for breakfast, and clean-up.

0 COMMENTS

Memorial Service

A non-denominational memorial service will be held on December 21, 2007.

Who: Everyone is welcome to join us

What: Memorial Service, followed by dinner

When: 4PM

Where: First Baptist Church Chapel

0 COMMENTS

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A PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY

GROUPS AND AGENCIES



ZERO TOLERANCE PROJECT WITH THE INTERLACE PROGRAM - THERE IS NEVER A CAUSE FOR VIOLENCE

BUSINESSES JOINING US IN REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

- AD LIB
- AMBIANCE INTERIORS
- APPALACHIAN CRAFT CENTER
- ASHEVILLE DISCOUNT PHARMACY
- BEADS AND BEYOND
- BLOOMIN ART
- CHEVRON TRADING POST & BEAD CO.
- DOLCE VITA
- EARLY GIRL EATERY
- EARTH GUILD
- ENVRO DEPOT
- GENTLEMENS' GALLERY
- LOFT
- LORETTA'S CAFE
- LUCY ANNE
- MALAPROP'S BOOKSTORE & CAFE
- MAST GENERAL STORE
- MAYFEL'S COME TO EAT
- MINX
- NATURAL HOME
- NEWS OF THE BLUE SKY
- OLD NORTH STATE CLOTHING CO.
- OPEN DOOR BOTIQUE
- PEOPLE'S PLACE
- STREET FAIR
- TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES
- TERRA DIVA