

Nourishing Bodies and Spirits



Are you, your company, service group, or congregation looking for an inspirational way to make an impact? Consider becoming an evening meal sponsor.

Our day shelter serves meals to those experiencing homelessness three times a day, five days a week. We also provide a healthy dinner on Saturdays and a scrumptious breakfast on Sundays. Daily, our shelter sees approximately 250-300 people walk through its doors. Often, our clients are tired, cold, and very hungry.

By volunteering to provide and serve a meal, you are ending hunger and suffering at the source. You will forever be transformed by this experience.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Annam Manthiram at (505) 242-4399 ext. 238 or via email at amanthiram@hopeworksnm.org.



P.O. Box 27258

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Find us on   at "St. Martins Hopeworks"

For more information about St. Martin's Hopeworks, or if you would like to take a tour of our programs and meet the clients you are supporting, please contact us!

Thank you!

WINTER 2018

ST. MARTIN'S hopenotes

During the summer of 2016, Outreach was notified of a homeless camp located inside one of the drainage tunnels under I-40 and Carlisle. These tunnels are dark, damp, and cold.

That afternoon, the Outreach Team made their way into the tunnel. A menacing voice brought them to a full stop. "Who's there?" With compassion, Outreach responded with a reassuring, "Outreach!" This was their first interaction with Jacob.

Jacob, one of many campers who called this place home, wanted to be alone. He wanted a quiet space. He found this in the tunnels.

Over the next year, Outreach would go to the tunnels to check on Jacob and his girlfriend, Amy. They were always in dirty clothing, covered in grime from the city's tunnels. Their eyes were dim. They had lost hope living in the tunnels. Yet they never turned away from Outreach. They gratefully accepted anything Outreach had to offer.

A friendship built on trust and hope developed. The light in Amy and Jacob's eyes slowly began to return.

Jacob and Amy had spent the last seven years struggling with heroin addiction. They'd had numerous episodes that would land them in the hospital. The couple spoke of recovery often, and Outreach was always there

to support them and provide resources on where they could go for recovery treatment.

Finally, in the summer of 2017, they sought help.

One night, after returning to their camp from treatment, Amy told Jacob she wasn't feeling well. Thinking she was sick from their Suboxone treatment, Jacob encouraged Amy to lie down and rest. That night, Amy passed.

Jacob couldn't bear the thought of staying in the tunnels after losing Amy. The next morning, he connected with Outreach, accepted a motel voucher, and developed a service plan. Over the next few months, Jacob stayed committed to his recovery. He sought mental health treatment and was eventually connected to permanent housing. On December 13th, Jacob signed his first lease in seven years.

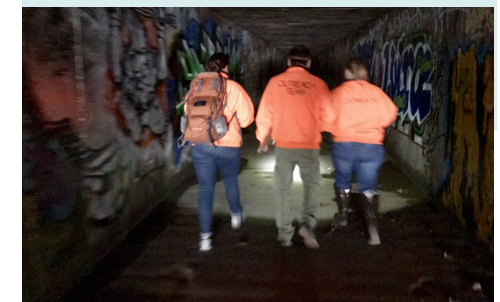
This work isn't easy, but it's necessary. On behalf of those living in tunnels, on street corners, and in ditches — thank you. Your profound partnership brings light to those — such as Jacob — who are still living in the darkness.

Outreach is often the first connection we have with clients. They help connect our city's most vulnerable to the services they need.



Hopeworks Outreach

On any given day, St. Martin's HopeWorks' Outreach Team will travel across the city. They will search street corners, hidden crevices on bridge overpasses, lowly drainage ditches, and abandoned, desolate buildings to find the community's most fragile individuals experiencing homelessness. From the foothills to the Bosque, our Outreach Team provides food, water, hygiene products, friendship, and referrals to our in-house and partner agency services.



Hopeworks Staff Interview: Trevor Ellis, Intensive Outreach

How did you become connected with St. Martin's HopeWorks?

I was hired in 2011 as the Day Shelter Assistant and Driver. I spent the next three years working for the Day Shelter program in various capacities. These positions gave me the opportunity to engage our clients one-on-one and made me feel like I was having a direct impact on their day-to-day lives.

I understand you left HopeWorks for about a year. What inspired your return?

During my time away from HopeWorks, I often found myself concerned with the well-being of folks I passed on the street.

I missed getting to engage with and help people. It inspired me to apply for a position with the Outreach Team. They work outdoors (which I love), and work with clients on a daily basis. It was a dream come true when I got the position. Now I work for HopeWorks as an Intensive Outreach Worker.

How does the work you did in the Day Shelter differ from what you are currently doing in Outreach?

At the Day Shelter, clients come to us, whereas for Outreach, we go to the them. At the Day Shelter, our clients are visible. The people who come through our doors may be there for different reasons, but most of them are able to identify their needs and ask for help.

"Some clients don't realize the severity of their condition, while others have faced too many 'wrong doors' that have led nowhere—leaving them hopeless and scared."

In Outreach, we actively seek out those resistant to care for any number of reasons. As an Outreach Team member, we work to build trust with those we serve, in hope that we will establish a rapport and help these folks identify their needs and connect them to immediate services.

What does a typical day in Outreach look like for you and the team?

We arrive at work a little before 8:00 AM (when our doors open) to start heating up water that will be used to make hot soup and hot cocoa while we are out in the community. We stay in the office for about an hour.

During this time, both clients we have encountered in the past, and clients who have been referred to our office by other staff or partner agencies, come in so we can hear their stories and direct them to appropriate services.

Shortly after 9:00 AM, we make sure the Outreach van is well equipped with supplies, such as snacks, bottled water, shoes, socks, hats, blankets, and hygiene products. From there, we will hit the streets of Albuquerque, peeking through alleys, climbing through tunnels, and searching parks, looking to connect with people who are sleeping/camping outside.

When we find someone who may benefit from our services, we break the ice with a hot Cup O' Noodles or hot cocoa. We then talk for a bit to better understand their situation. We encourage these folks to come to our office to complete an assessment so that they can get access to help and services. Then we provide them with a list of other resources available.

In the afternoons, we return to our office to update our database, and follow up on appointments/applications with clients we are assisting. We often have last minute errands such as transporting a client to the bus station or searching for a client being sought out by a partner agency.



Trevor helping to tie a client's shoe.

What is one skill that you find is most needed in being an Outreach worker?

Being able to navigate, and stay up to date with, available community resources.

What do you find are the most commonly requested items from Outreach clients?

Motel vouchers, bus passes, gloves, blankets, socks, and food.

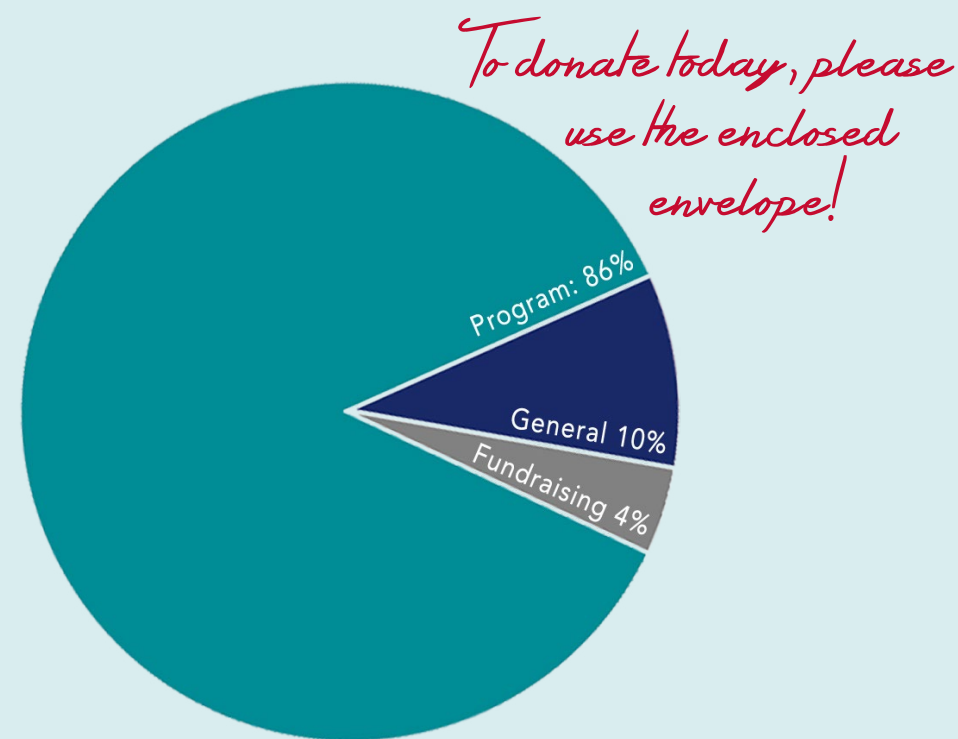
Will you tell us about a recent memorable moment or client from working in Outreach?

One morning while we were out doing our morning outreach with partner agencies (there were about 10 people total from different agencies), we approached a man sleeping at a residential park. When he woke, he was shocked to see how many of us had come to help. His reaction and gratitude were memorable. No two days are the same and I wouldn't have it any other way.

How Your Donations Make a Difference

HopeWorks is so grateful for your generosity and support. We especially need unrestricted funds to support our day-to-day operations. These donations, in support of general operating, enable us to keep our wheels turning and our doors open. We must always remain a resource to those experiencing homelessness—now and for however long we need to be. On average, it costs our day shelter \$92 per person to provide our clients with access to food, clothing, mental health, employment, and housing for one whole year—all necessary and critical components of self-sufficiency.

For every \$1.00 you donate, \$0.85 goes directly into HopeWorks' programs, which help our clients move out of homelessness.



How Will Recent Tax Reforms Affect You?

By now, you've heard about the tax overhaul and its proposed impact on non-profits. The most notable comes in the increase of the standard deduction. This increase could cause millions of Americans to forgo itemizing their deductions, which would prevent donors from receiving tax incentives for their charitable gifts.

What are your thoughts on the new tax act? How will it impact your giving?

Despite these changes, please know that we rely heavily on your support.

Individual contributions allow us the flexibility of meeting the demands of our clients, while implementing creative and innovative approaches to ending homelessness right now. Beyond the tax law, your gifts have a profound effect on shaping this forward movement.

Please continue to donate. Help us realize a world free of homelessness and a world full of hope. Visit our website: hopeworksnm.org

We appreciate the support from our community leaders!



Mayor Tim Keller and Sauce Pizza and Wine serve a hot, nutritious meal to clients and the Hopeworks Day Shelter.