



Summer 2015

We have been busy with so much this year. Here are just a few of the things going on in regard to the homeless.

♥ The Helping Hands workload has increased by about 50%. That's a lot of people in need in this community! The resources of the community and our organization are being tapped at rates higher than ever before.

♥ The state has implemented new programs this spring to encourage people who are able, to get jobs. The FSET program was a voluntary program in the past. Now it is mandatory if you are young enough and able-bodied without minor children, to look for work. The program provides great opportunities to those who are serious. For example, they will provide uniforms (including steel-toed shoes) if that is necessary for your job. They will also help with gas or cab vouchers until you get paid. Another program will help people get a no-interest loan on a vehicle if they find employment. There really are no excuses to not be looking for work. While many complain they can't find any, the most unlikely are doing it.

♥ Helping Hands has discontinued its furniture ministry and has instead partnered with Hope's Door, referring people to them, and working with them when we place a family in a residence. Our focus has always been on the homeless individuals and this partnership frees up time for us to do that.

♥ We have placed a large percentage of the men in Oxford House this year, and work with many of them as they try to get their lives straightened out. Some end up back in jail, some move on, but there is one we have been working with since February. Through this process we have asked the question, is it time for our community to have a house like this for women? The agencies involved with the AODA programs say a resounding yes! There is now an effort to assemble a team to get another house open.

♥ We continue to offer our "Least of These – Compassion Ministry from a Biblical Perspective" classes. Call or email if your group is interested.

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