

Dear, Council Members

Everyone has hopes and dreams. Life isn't about the big mistakes; it's about the little ones.

What outreach service tries to provide to someone, who is alone, beaten down, hungry, lost, frightened is an opportunity for tomorrow. Think what it might mean to you in a similar circumstance.

I have encountered people with no idea how or where to get help, or what resources are available to them. Some are literally lost, no idea of where The Ark is, or Queens and Adelaide, street names they are not familiar with. They have burns and wounds with no access to treatment because they don't know how. They search in garbage for food. They rely on street information that is frightening and incorrect. A recent example is if they went to the tiny homes they would be thrown in jail if they missed check in. Most do not have phones. We can make a phone call for them and connect them to someone with knowledge and resources. They are the walking wounded from family abuse, loss of a loved one, estrangements ,and bad decisions that have left them on a path they had no way of predicting.

I have witnessed joy for a pair of warm gloves to cover frost bite wounds, dry socks and in many cases a pair of shoes. What satisfaction to see someone gobble a meal down as soon as they receive it because they haven't eaten in so long! I have witnessed tears when I have just stopped and said how are today, and been able to give comfort and confidence that tomorrow can exist. How much better can we all think when our stomachs are satisfied and we have a safe place to sleep. What better options can we dream about when we have the knowledge on how to move forward, find a new path! Outreach services are one small stepping stone, not problem solvers but possibility makers. Not enabling but supporting, encouraging. A friendly face in a sea of scorn, shame, and in an enigmatic environment.

I respectfully request that continued funding be provided to these outreach services.

Sincerely

Patricia Burns-White