

Teens Tackle Homelessness —

A conference on Homelessness for High School Students



Bringing the housed and homeless together in community

All high school students welcome to attend

Saturday, November 12, 2011

Kent Place School

42 Norwood Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901

Conference from 3:30 p.m to 7 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. David Rodney Fox, Ph.D., has worked with thousands of homeless youth and the staff, donors and communities who serve them at Covenant House New Jersey for over ten years. As the first Pastoral Minister at the Newark site, he help found a community of care in the newly opened Crisis Center (2000), doing street outreach in the ghettos, prisons and shelters throughout the Newark area. He led morning reflections and retreats for crisis residents, built a network of community support and regularly counseled residents and staff during Newark's difficult early days. Later, Fr. David oversaw the reinstatement of the Outreach and Volunteer Programs, managed interns from local colleges and seminaries and served on the Leadership Team, which governed all Northern New Jersey operations. For the past three years, Fr. David has helped lead the fund-raising efforts for Covenant House New Jersey, which today is comprised of 7 buildings throughout the state, and for the parent Covenant House International, the largest not-for-profit program for homeless youth under age 22 in the world, serving 70,000 homeless youth in six countries and 21 sites throughout the Americas. He is now Vice President of Development, Covenant House International.

Workshops: Participants will choose one of three workshops to attend. The workshops are sessions of the "Just Neighbors" program designed by Family Promise of Summit, NJ. Each session is an interactive learning experience with the participant putting themselves in the place of someone experiencing homelessness and making difficult choices. Offered workshops are:

- Making Ends Meet
- What Would You Choose?
- Does Working Work?

Round Table Discussions: In this segment of the conference, teens will engage in discussion with someone who is currently homeless or has experienced homelessness. This is a unique opportunity for students to hear a personal perspective of what it means to be homeless.



Bringing the housed and homeless
together in community

P.O. Box 1444
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908-273-0176

www.bridgesoutreach.org

Bridges & Teens Tackle Homelessness

Bridges, an outreach program for the homeless established in 1988, reaches out every weekend to homeless and near homeless neighbors in New York City, Newark and Irvington, NJ. Over seventy volunteer groups, including hundreds of high school volunteers, participate in Bridges' Runs (outreach visits) each year. These Runs are transformative experiences for our volunteers. High school students return from these runs profoundly moved by their experience. Teens Tackle Homelessness was created to further educate our many teen volunteers and other interested high school students.

Teens Tackle Homeless Steering Committee

This steering committee, comprised of more than 30 teens from over 15 area high schools, is the driving force behind this conference. Students developed the contents of the conference specifically to educate their peers about the causes and issues of homelessness. This year, the teen committee went beyond organizing this conference and participated in several Bridges' Runs; helped to build a Habitat House; mentored children and befriended teens from a Newark shelter and much more. Many of the teens assumed leadership roles and helped to further the mission of Bridges *to bring the housed and the homeless together in community.*

REGISTER NOW

All participants are asked to bring non-perishable food donations for Loaves and Fishes, a Summit Food Pantry.

No fee for advance registration. \$20 at the door.

Register online at www.bridgesoutreach.org or complete and mail this form to:

Bridges, PO Box 1444, Summit, NJ 07902-1444

Name _____

Age and Grade _____

School/Affiliation _____

Email & Phone _____

Parent(s) Name (s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

For additional information, contact:

Lois Bhatt, Executive Director, lois@bridgesoutreach.net or 908-273-0176 or

Member, Conference Steering Committee