

Did you know?

- ⇒ In 2005, nearly one out of eight people in the U.S. was living below the federal poverty rate.
— *U.S. Census Bureau, August 2006*
- ⇒ Because of the high cost of living in NJ, one fifth of the state's population is considered poor.
— *Anti-Poverty Network of NJ, Dec. 2005*
- ⇒ In NJ, 24.5% of renters spent more than half their income for rent in 2005.
— *American Community Survey, 2006*
- ⇒ 40% of households that receive food from the Community FoodBank of NJ had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent. 41% had to choose between paying for food and paying utilities or heating fuel. 31% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.
— *America's Second Harvest Study: Hunger in America, 2006*
- ⇒ 16% of the U.S. population had no health insurance coverage in 2005.
— *U.S. Census Bureau Report, August 2006*
- ⇒ 90 percent of our 8.3 million uninsured children live in working families.
— *Children's Defense Fund, 2006*

Questions for Discussion

- ⇒ Who is homeless?
- ⇒ Why are people homeless?
- ⇒ What is minimum wage?
- ⇒ What is a living wage?
- ⇒ What types of jobs do not earn a living wage?
- ⇒ What does it mean to not have health insurance?
- ⇒ What can you do to make a difference?

Brown Bag Lunches—sandwich of meat on sliced bread, drink, fruit, salty and sweet snack. Deliver any Friday.

Breakfast Bag—any long-shelf life breakfast item. Suggestions: granola bar, dried fruit or fruit cup and spoon, cereal and long-shelf life milk, juice, coffee/tea/hot chocolate packet with cup. Deliver on Tuesday or Friday.

Fill the Bridges Truck

Bridges purchases over \$35,000 per year of new socks, underwear, toiletries and other necessities for our homeless friends. Contact us to find out how you can help by organizing to “fill the Bridges Truck” in your community.

Service Ideas—

Bar & Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation

- Prepare and deliver to Bridges any number of bagged lunches
- Prepare and deliver to Bridges any number of breakfast bags
- Take responsibility for a special drive for specific items needed. Contact us before organizing a specific drive.
- Request monetary donations to be made in your name to Bridges.
- Ask guests at your celebration to bring a pair of socks or new underwear for an adult or child or a toiletry kit for Bridges to distribute.
- Fill the Truck. Arrange to bring the Bridges distinctive yellow truck to your school, office or house of worship and fill the truck with needed items.

561 Springfield Avenue
P.O. Box 1444
Summit, NJ 07902-1444
Phone: 908-273-0176



*Bringing the housed
and the homeless
together in community*

*Make a difference—
Volunteer*

About BRIDGES

BRIDGES creates opportunities for the housed and the homeless to come together to share conversation, friendship and hope.

With the help of volunteers, BRIDGES delivers food, clothing and other necessities to sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families in lower Manhattan, Newark and Irvington, NJ.

Through advocacy, BRIDGES strives to increase public awareness of homelessness and the conditions that perpetuate it.

Volunteer Opportunities

BRIDGES has a variety of volunteer opportunities available weekly, monthly or yearly, and encourages individuals and groups to participate!

- Make brown bag lunches
- Organize a group RUN
- Collect toiletries and clothing
- Plan a special activity for sheltered children

“Time and time again, street friends tell us that the friendship and conversation we bring sustain them during this challenging time in their lives.”

—Lois Bhatt, Executive Director

Outreach: The RUN

A “RUN” is the outreach visit BRIDGES makes to street friends in lower Manhattan, Newark and Irvington. Volunteers, with staff support, distribute brown bag lunches, new and gently used clothing, toiletries and other essential items.

In our outreach, volunteers work directly with **BRIDGES** staff to foster an environment where street friends are served with dignity and respect.

BRIDGES promotes a cooperative spirit among our street friends, volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners to bring immediate comfort to homeless friends.

Since 1988, BRIDGES has not missed a weekly “RUN” into Manhattan.

Saturday RUNs to Newark began in 1996.

Initial RUNs to Irvington began in 2002 and expanded to Sunday RUNs in 2004.

Check our web site for news of upcoming events or sign-up to receive volunteer opportunities: www.bridgesoutreach.org.

www.bridgesoutreach.org
908-273-0176

Donate

BRIDGES is sustained by the generous support of individuals and gladly accepts monetary and material donations including:

- Brown bag lunches
- Seasonal clothing and toiletries
- Diapers and other baby supplies
- Holiday gifts and seasonal items

For a complete list of items to donate:
www.bridgesoutreach.org

Commemorate a special occasion with a gift to benefit a homeless friend. See website for gift ideas.

Monetary Contributions

BRIDGES is funded through private donation and foundation grants. Your monetary gift is appreciated.

BRIDGES Outreach
PO Box 1444
Summit, NJ 07901
908 273-0176

All gifts to BRIDGES, a 501 (c) (3) organization, are tax deductible.

Drop-off location and times

Non-perishable donations may be made to BRIDGES, 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit (Springfield Avenue side of Christ Church) on Tuesdays between 8:30 and 2:30 and Fridays between 8:30 and 6. Brown bag lunches may be delivered on Fridays.

Thank you for your support!