

LETTER FROM THE HOBOKEN SHELTER



Volunteers sorting donated clothes.

What are People Saying About the Hoboken Shelter?

We asked volunteers and guests as well as Sister Norberta (who heads up the shelter) questions about what they think of Hoboken's Homeless Shelter.

Here is what they had to say:

Any interesting stories?

Sister Norberta, head of shelter:

"A young woman from the community was about to get married, but the groom never showed at the church. She was so mad that she had the caterer send everything, including the wedding cake, to the shelter. We had an amazing meal that night!"

Jose, shelter guest:

"We had a great Thanksgiving dinner and lots of nice people brought things. This is a nice neighborhood. People treat us like normal people. Lots of volunteers come from the community to help—they are really great. I never thought this could happen. Other shelters have violence, drugs, things you never see here. The quality of this shelter is excellent, better ambience here than anywhere else. I really admire Sister Norberta for dealing with so many different types of people. She's an amazing person."

What is good about the shelter?

Sister Norberta:

"The people are what really make it, and this includes guests, staff, volunteers and the mix of these folks, which brings out the best qualities of everyone. The number one thing we hope that guests can take beyond this place, besides shelter and a hot meal, is a sense of caring, an ability to succeed in life and most importantly, an ability to regain trust and belief in themselves."

Jose, a shelter guest:

"It's really good for one simple reason—we don't have anywhere to go to begin. I was here last year and it was great for me. I've been saving a lot of money."

Erica, nursing student from Felician College, on psychiatric rotation, a volunteer:

"It's nice to give them somewhere to go, for food and warmth."

This Winter 2000 newsletter was created by volunteers of the shelter, Kerry Rood and Michael Lamarti. We're always looking for your input on the newsletter and/or the shelter, so feel free to e-mail us at krOOD@mfi.com or mLamarti@mfi.com.

What needs improvement?



Come join the volunteer family!

Sister Norberta:

"It's discouraging when people falter after working so hard with them. Also, in winter the shelter is always packed. We're looking for more space so we can further programs we've developed in order to have quality time with the guests and room to work with them."

Jose:

"It would be nice to have beds. They have only mattresses, and they are put down in the same room that they eat meals."

What's expected of you?

Jose:

"We have to be clean and showered every day and have to work and save part of our salary. We also have to keep busy, take part in shelter activities and help keep the shelter clean."



Shelter programs pay off!

THE HOBOKEN HOMELESS SHELTER is owned and operated by the Communities of Faith For Housing, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation. Membership includes ministers and laity from houses of worship, as well as several community leaders. The Shelter, established in 1982, has more than 350 volunteers who help provide services to our guests, adult homeless men and women.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING FOR THE SHELTER, CALL 201-656-5069.

From:
The Hoboken Homeless Shelter
300 Bloomfield Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
(201) 656-5069

STAMP
HERE

To: