



HSPN

New Bedford Homeless Service
Providers Network

Lead Entity:

City of New Bedford
Department of Planning, Housing & Community
Development

Alphabetical Membership Listing:

Catholic Social Services
Coastline Elderly Services
Community Counseling of Bristol County
Community Substance Abuse Centers
DEAF, Inc.
Department of Mental Health
Department of Transitional Assistance
Eliot Community Human Services
First Citizens' FCU
GNB Allies for Health and Wellness
GNB Career Center
GNB Community Health Center
Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.
Inter-Church Council of GNB
Island Foundation
Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford
Justice Resource Institute
Mercy, Meals and More
Mobile Loaves and Fishes
New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
New Bedford Community Connections Coalition
New Bedford Community Services
New Bedford Housing Authority
New Bedford Police Department
New Bedford Public Schools
North Star Learning Center
People Acting in Community Endeavors
Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction
Seven Hills Foundation
South Coast Legal Services
South Coast Regional Network to End
Homelessness
Southeast Center for Independent Living
Southeast Regional Network
South Shore Housing
Steppingstone, Inc.
The Women's Center
United Way of Greater New Bedford
Veterans Transition House of Southeastern
Massachusetts
YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts



Help New Bedford's homeless at extraordinary 1-day mission

We're asking for your help, so together we can guide New Bedford's homeless population to a better future.

New Bedford - Dozens of volunteers from businesses and organizations across SouthCoast will gather in one place for one day this October, helping the region's homeless residents connect with a better future.

New Bedford Connect, set for Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the downtown YMCA, will bring together dentists, veterans assistance, housing support, community volunteers, resources and services for area residents who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or have a friend or family member in danger of losing shelter.

All groups who participate in the event will be raising awareness of the services they provide while assisting the city's homeless in this extraordinary one-day outreach. Caregivers, volunteers and advocates from businesses, nonprofits and agencies will be at the event ready to provide direct services to homeless residents, free of charge.

Bus service will be available from locations throughout the city, bringing participants to the event at the YMCA, 25 South Water St. in New Bedford.

The goal of New Bedford Connect and its chief organizer, Rise Up for Homes, is to provide easy access to services and resources that support the transition of the city's homeless – helping them get off the streets and/or shelters and into more permanent housing. The event is scheduled in mid-October to reach homeless residents in the weeks before harsh winter weather arrives.

Here's how you can help:

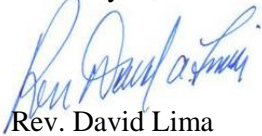
- Provide food or materials: Organizers are looking for ready-to-eat or easy-to-prepare meals for the event. Upwards of 150 homeless residents are expected to attend, along with numerous volunteers. Items for both breakfast and lunch are needed. Breakfast items include coffee, donuts, bagels, pastries, muffins, ready-to-eat breakfast meals, juice boxes, fruit and other foods. Lunch items include sandwiches, soups, salad, fruit, hot meals, cookies and other dessert items, coffee, soft drinks and water. Napkins, and disposable or recyclable plates, cups and utensils would also be helpful.
- Consider a direct donation: Money will be used for transportation, food, supplies and other necessities for the event, as well as to provide vital services for homeless in New Bedford throughout the year. Donations can be made by mail, online at www.RiseUpForHomes.com, or by texting RISEUP to 50155. Make checks payable to: Rise Up For Homes / First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, ATTN: Leslie Poulin / 200 Mill Road, Suite 100 / Fairhaven, MA 02719

- Pitch in at the event: Volunteers will be needed to record data from homeless participants, as well as for set-up, general organization, and cleaning up after the event. One task will be to assist homeless residents in obtaining a photo ID from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. To volunteer contact: Leslie Poulin at First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, Fairhaven.
- Become an organizer: This is the second of what is hoped to become a successful annual event. At present, most of the planning, organization and fundraising is being conducted by a volunteer group of business leaders. Rise Up for Homes is seeking members for a permanent board to oversee the event in future years. If you're interested, contact Leslie Poulin.

This event is sponsored by First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, Bay Coast Bank, Southcoast Health Systems and YMCA Southcoast.

For more information or questions email us at info@riseupforhomes.com or visit www.riseupforhomes.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rev. David Lima".

Rev. David Lima
HSPN Chair
Executive Minister
Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford