



Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house?... Then you shall call and the lord will answer.” Isaiah 58: 6-7, 9a

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

Job layoffs in Illinois are now affecting thousands of low-income workers who will need assistance to stay in their housing while looking for work. With primarily rent and utility assistance, the Family Homelessness Prevention Program, established in May of 1999, has thus far **prevented over 35,000 Illinois families from becoming homeless with 80% remaining housed 6-18 months after receiving assistance.**

ILLINOIS SAVES THOUSANDS , FOR EVERY FAMILY PREVENTED FROM BECOMING HOMELESS.

The Homeless Prevention fund spends an average of \$500 to prevent a family from becoming homeless. The Illinois Department of Human services spends an average of \$3,400 to shelter a family of three for two months in a state-funded shelter. On average, families remain homeless for at least eight months.

In FY 2004, with \$5 million in funding:

- ◆ **88% of provider agencies surveyed said they did not have enough funds to meet the need in their community and that they had to turn families away.**
- ◆ **More than 13,000 requests for assistance were not able to be met last year due to lack of funds**
- ◆ **58% of agencies reported that at least twice of much funding was needed to meet their communities needs.**

INCREASED FUNDING

\$5 million has been allocated for the program for the past three years. This funding level is not adequate to meet the need. We are advocating for \$10.7 million in funding for direct client assistance and an additional \$700,000 to provide services.

How you can help

- **Sign a postcard to Gov. Blagojevich asking for \$10.7 million for the Homelessness Prevention Program in his FY '06 budget.**



- **Sign up to receive alerts from the Diocesan Legislative Action Alert network at www.paxjoliet.org or contact the Peace and Social Justice Ministry at peace@dioceseofjoliet.org or call 815-834-4028**
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