

Find out how it feels to be homeless Nov. 16-18

Written by George Browning
Wednesday, 17 October 2012 00:00 -

Exit 0 and Park Memorial United Methodist Church
teaming up to raise money for local homeless outreach

Do You have what it takes to be Homeless for the Weekend?

Join Exit 0 and Park Memorial United Methodist Church on November 16-18 to find out.

On Friday, November 16, 2012 the church and Exit 0 will be home to a Cardboard City – a two-night youth & adult event – to raise money and awareness for both the homeless in the community and the work being done by Exit 0.

Families are also welcome!

How will the money be raised?

Participants will raise a minimum of \$50; families raise \$75. Ask your family and friends or Local Businesses for donations to sponsor your night at Cardboard City, just as you would for a walkathon.

Paul Stensrud, who along with his wife Michelle, run Exit 0, said the event is to raise awareness for homelessness and also show people, particularly at a young age, what it is like to be homeless.

“This isn’t going to be an easy weekend as far as living conditions,” Stensrud said. “We want everyone who participates to see and experience what the homeless in our community do on a daily basis.”

Stensrud said those who attend will also be helping to clean up some of the homeless camps in the area.

All money raised goes towards Exit 0 Ministry. (Sponsorship’s Available)

Exit 0 provides food and case management services to homeless families with children, partnering with churches, volunteers and social service agencies. This event will change your thinking or maybe your life regarding homelessness.

Stensrud said while those attending are encouraged to raise \$50 a person, he doesn’t want finances to be an obstacle.

“We think \$50 is an easy amount, each person who collects only needs five sponsors at \$10 each,” he said. “That will cover their (cardboard house) lodging and food while they are there.”

Stensrud said organizers chose to make it a three-day event because it will provide a better feel of what living on the streets feels like.

“Anyone can make it for one day, but doing it over a weekend gives it a more real feel,” he said. “Being in the elements, not being able to shower when they want to, all of that is designed to show what the homeless experience every day.”

The following are answers to questions that are likely to come up.

What is the registration deadline? Monday, November 12! RSVP by 11/12 but keep raising the money until the day of the event!

What about food? Food will be provided by Exit 0 Ministry. Food restrictions will need to be stated on the registration form.

What about security? Security will be onsite at all times.

What do the youth groups need to provide for themselves? Tents (if you prefer not to build with cardboard) or materials to create the home with cardboard (cardboard boxes, duct tape, etc.)

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and the 1 to 5 ratio! Also DRESS

FOR THE WEATHER we are homeless and will be outdoors for the weekend. Sturdy boots or shoes are suggested.

Do you provide cardboard? YES If your youth group would like cardboard boxes, please contact us at info@Jesuscaresatexit0.org so that we have enough on hand. Cardboard will be available on the day of the event.

What else can I bring? Any items brought in must fit in a backpack except sleeping bag/pillow. (We suggest that you bring Adult size sleeping bags and if you are able to donate the sleeping bag to the ministry this would be great).

What about electronics? We would encourage you to not bring valuable personal property. Remember, we're homeless for 2 nights!

Can I bring my teddy bear for protection and supervision? Okay, but each group needs to bring enough adults to provide the 1 adult to 5 youth ratio.

For more information, or to RSVP a spot for your youth group, call Stensrud at 502-541-2353.