



Homelessness in  
Cincinnati

---

Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

October 2015

“Stand Firm in the City”

Urban & Inner-City Mission Conference

# Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me.

Amen.



# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



- LCMS Church – Since 1871
- Inner-City of Cincinnati, OH
- Over-the-Rhine neighborhood (OTR)
- German Immigrants / Brewery / Pig “Capital” of U.S.
- 1950’s Neighborhood Changed
- 1969: Congregation Split / Day-School contingent moved
- The contingent that remained: Prince of Peace
- 1969 - Change in Focus: Serve Homeless and Working Poor
- We Stand Firm in the Inner-City of Cincinnati

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

## Vision Statement



Help build God's Kingdom  
in Over-the-Rhine by Proclaiming the  
Good News of Jesus' Salvation, Lifting up  
the Downtrodden, and Unite All God's  
People Together in Worship, Service,  
and in Love.



# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

- Word & Sacrament – Means of Grace
- Law & Gospel proclaimed
- Call to Repentance & Absolution
- **Also a Focus on Homeless & Working Poor:**
  - Physical Needs: Food, Clothing, Shelter, Counseling, etc...
  - Cold Shelter – Dec. through Feb.
  - The Bridge Ministry – Homeless Ministry
  - Mentoring Program
  - Community Meal (Wed.) for over 30 years
  - Breakfasts (2 days), Lunches (3 days)
  - Adult Literacy Class
  - Addiction, Tutoring, Kid's Church...



# Inner-City / Homeless Ministry

- Unique - Different from other City, Suburban, or Rural Ministry
- God's Grace through Faith in Christ is so very Real on the Street
- The prince of this world is also real
- Incredible Highs and Devastating Lows
- Inner City Ministry Secret – It is a Blessing to Us
- Need Time / Place to Escape & Recharge / Someone to Confide
- Centered around Word & Sacrament, but also... Civil Ministry
- Issue: Enable vs. Empower
- Sense of Entitlement / Endless Avenues to Help
- Looking to learn from others that have a Ministry to the Homeless





Study Area Definition: Custom Polygon ID# 235503:235503 - Prepared For: Ohio District, LCMS - 1528 Race Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 - Date: 2/17/2011 Sources: Percept

# Over-the-Rhine (OTR)

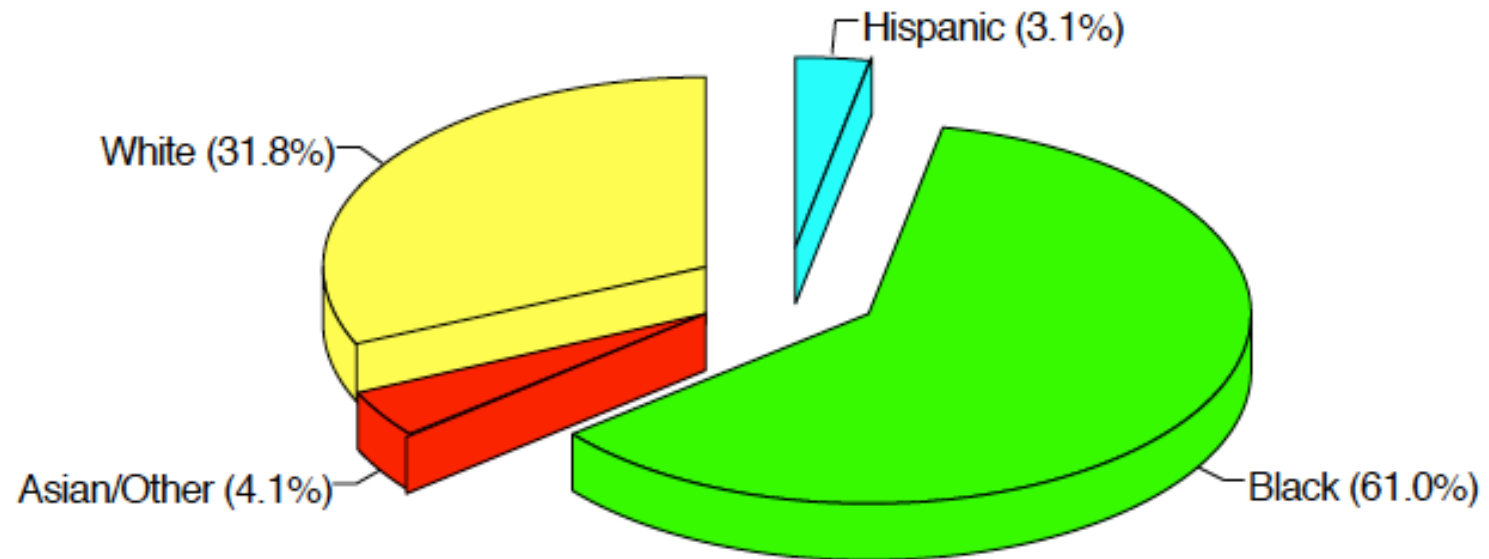
- OTR: Violence, Shootings, Drugs, Prostitution
- Gradual decline of neighborhood: “Bombed Out”
- Police practiced a policy of containment
- Washington Park was a myriad of various homeless camps
- April of 2001 Riots Erupted in OTR
- Fatal police shooting of an unarmed teenager - Timothy Thomas
- "Thirteen black men!"—a tally of the suspects killed by the Cincinnati police since 1995





# Over-the-Rhine

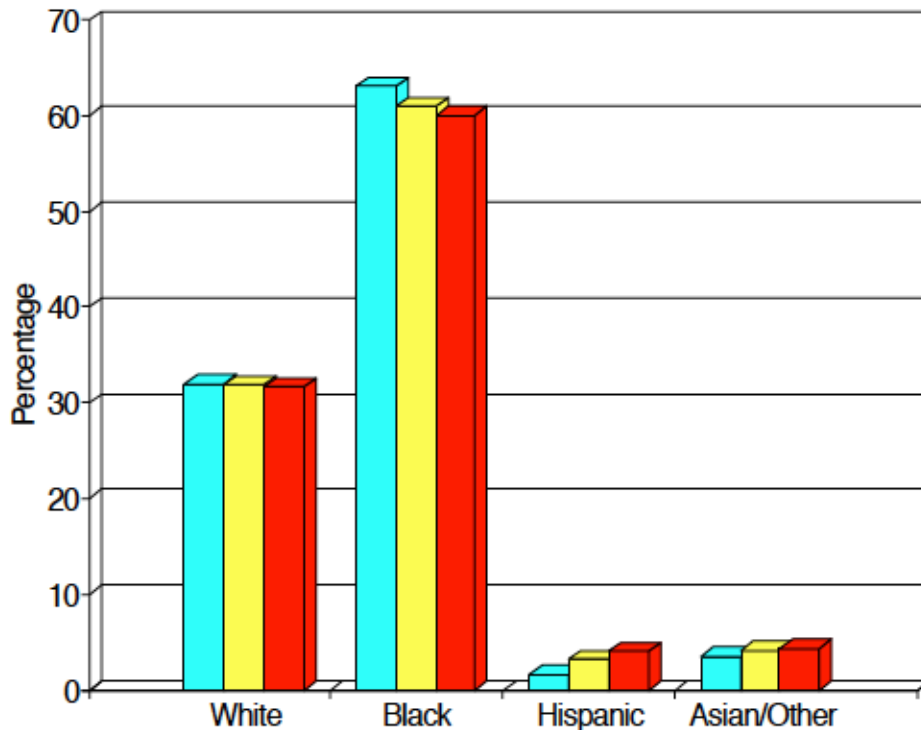
## Population By Race/Ethnicity-2010





# Over-the-Rhine

**Population By Race/Ethnicity Trend**

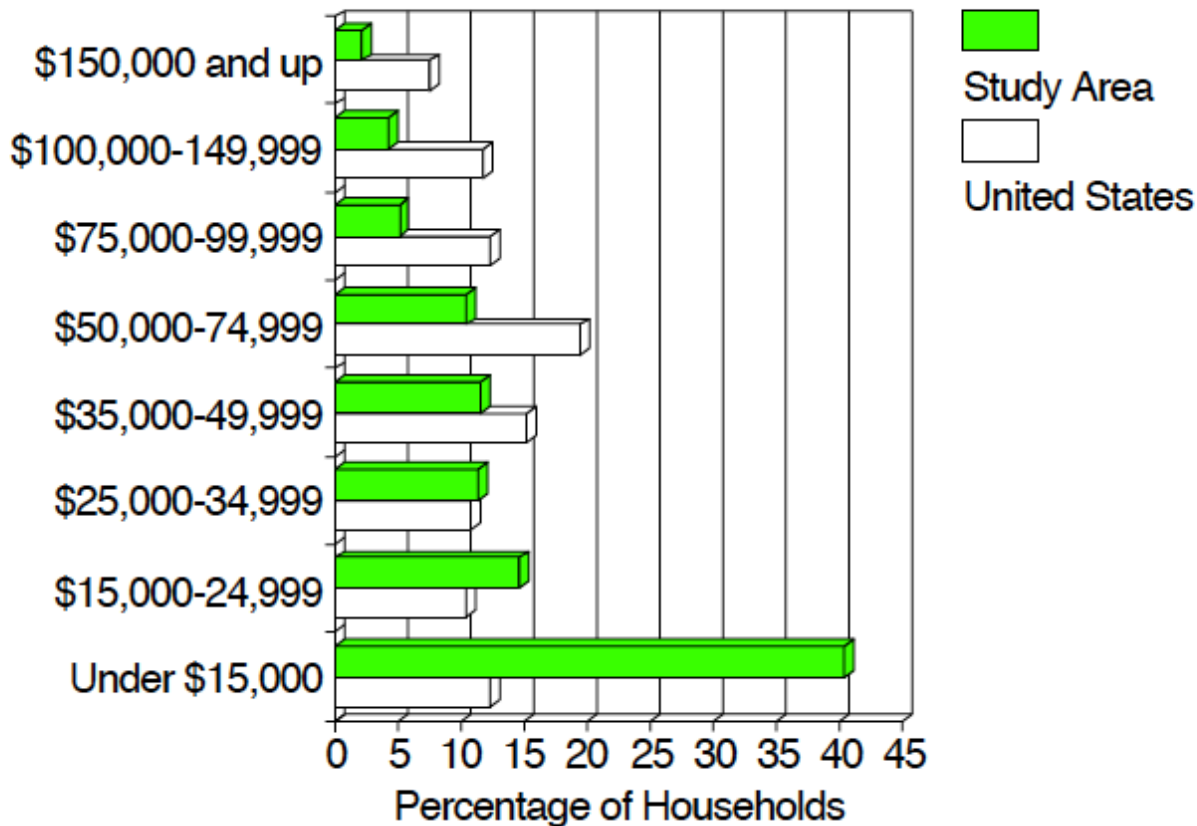


2000 2010 2015

Between 2010 and 2015, the White population is projected to decrease by 212 persons and to decrease from 31.8% to 31.7% of the total population. The Black population is projected to decrease by 590 persons and to decrease from 61.0% to 60.1% of the total. The Hispanic/Latino population is projected to increase by 233 persons and to increase from 3.1% to 3.9% of the total. The Asian/Other population is projected to increase by 62 persons and to increase from 4.1% to 4.3% of the total population.

# Over-the-Rhine

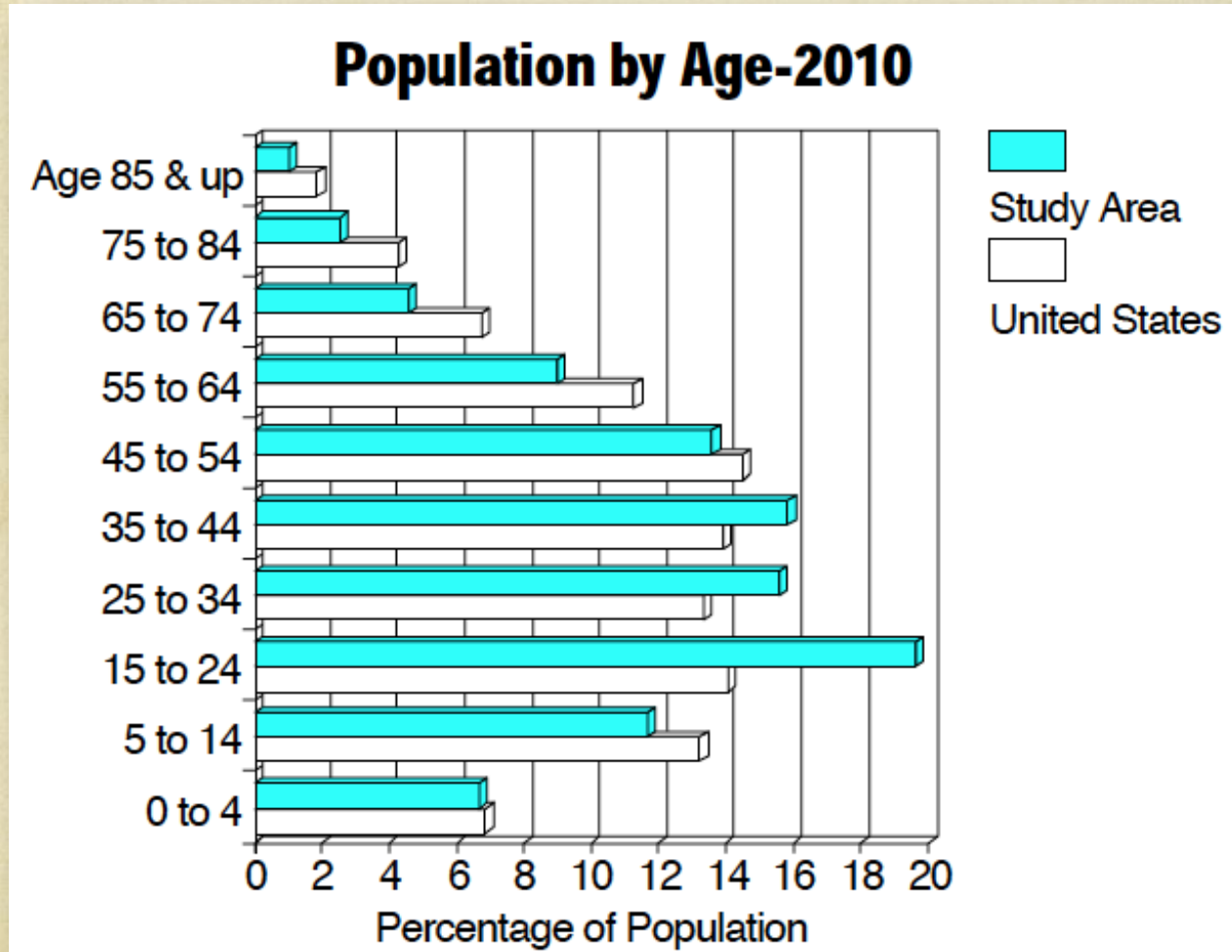
**Households By Income-2010**



The average household income in the study area is \$36230 a year as compared to the U.S. average of \$69376.



# Over-the-Rhine



The average age in the study area is 34.7 and is projected to increase to 35.9 by 2015. The average age in the U.S. is 37.6 and is projected to increase to 38.4 by 2015.

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

- OTR is currently going through **Gentrification** and about to hit our block
- OTR / Prince of Peace is about to go through change







- Launched a RESTORATION program in 2014
- Seeking God's Will to RESTORE our People, our Ministry, and our Church Sanctuary (we have not used our church sanctuary in over 30 years)
- The Holy Spirit is now expanding our ministries, and our church membership, and restoring our church!



## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

Isaiah 58:12 ESV



## Isaiah 58:6-12 ESV

“Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps 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;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

If you take away the yoke from your midst,  
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,  
if you pour yourself out for the hungry  
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
then shall your light rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be as the noonday.

And the LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your desire in scorched places  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters do not fail.





## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Isaiah 58:12 ESV

# Inner-City / Homeless Ministry

- Inner-City Issues:  
(or...The Broken Family Structure):
  - Men - Jobs / Dignity
  - Women - Head of Family Structure
  - Children - the Future of our Cities







## Mission Statement

Restoring the City to God by Intentionally  
Sharing Christ and Connecting God's  
People in Service to our Urban  
Communities.



## Inner-City Ministry

- Kid's Church / VBS Every Week
- Tutoring Program / (Urban Family Learning Center)
- Church Plants





The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless presents:

# Homelessness in Cincinnati

# Homeless in Cincinnati Today....

Total Homeless  
counted in shelters/  
street:

# of homeless people  
on the street, in  
shelters and  
transitional housing in  
Hamilton County  
INCREASED from  
7,983 people in 2012  
to 8,271 in 2013...

a 3.6%  
increase

Homeless on  
street:

There was a 38%  
increase in the # of  
homeless people  
who were living on  
the streets or in  
places unfit for  
human habitation  
from 2012-2013.

+38%  
1,531 people

In comparison?

We started counting  
people we encountered  
sleeping in places not  
meant for human  
habitation in our  
community since 2006.

This is the largest  
# of people ever  
counted



# People with Disabilities

- Average annual income of a single individual receiving SSI payments: \$8,714
- This is 19.2% of the national median income for a one-person household.
- And, this is 22% below the 2012 federal poverty level.
- In Cincinnati, there are 38,083 adults (18 and over) and 3,569 children (17 and under) with one or more disabilities.
- The Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities: total number of individuals served by their organization who are income eligible for housing assistance but are NOT currently receiving assistance and are not on the waiting list: 2,839.

# The CAP Line

- The Central Access Point is the homeless services hotline. The entry point into many programs for homeless and at-risk households.
- In 2013, over 2,900 people in families contacted CAP requesting services
- 489 of these people were placed by CAP into a family shelter.
- We do not know what happened to the other 2,411 families
- Over 1,000 single individuals contacted CAP.



# Family Homelessness

- Families are being turned away because programs are full.
- 2013: 2,185 unduplicated heads of household requested placement in an emergency shelter for themselves and their children.
- Only 30% were placed into shelter.
- Only 226 families were offered homelessness prevention services instead of shelter, and 25 households with children and adults were encountered on the street. These numbers include families of Veterans.

# People Experiencing Domestic Violence

- Between 18% - 39% of all families are homeless due to domestic violence
- 2013: Hamilton County Pre-Trial Services reported 2,729 Domestic Violence arrests ..... 421 protection orders were issued.....5 domestic violence homicides
- YWCA: the only domestic violence shelter in Hamilton County
- 72 beds for women and their children.
- 2013: 462 families of 944 women and children served
- The YWCA also provides transitional short and long-term housing and support for women and their children
- The YWCA cannot serve all families who contact them for assistance.



# SINGLE ADULTS IN EMERGENCY SHELTER

- 4,461 single adults were served by the emergency shelters in Cincinnati and Hamilton County.
- 59% of these adults suffer from at least one disabling condition
- 34% suffer from a mental illness
- 28% have a chronic health condition.

# Shelter

## BEDS

- 1,200 year round emergency shelter beds
- 100 seasonal shelter beds
- 550 transitional housing beds
- 4,500 existing permanent supportive housing beds
- Under development: 400 permanent supportive housing beds

## Shelters

- Lighthouse Sheakley Center for Youth
- Parkway Center, operated by Talbert House
- In development: Drop Inn Center Single Women's Shelter- The current 42 bed shelter for single women will be relocated into a free-standing, 60 bed women-only facility.
- Drop Inn Center Men's Shelter- The current 180 shelter beds for single men will be relocated into a



# Homeless Factors

- Mental Illness
- Drug / Alcohol Addictions
- Social Disorder of some kind
  - History of Poverty/Homelessness
  - Education / Learning Disability
  - Aversion to Social Structures



Moving from Dependency to Independency  
based on Christ

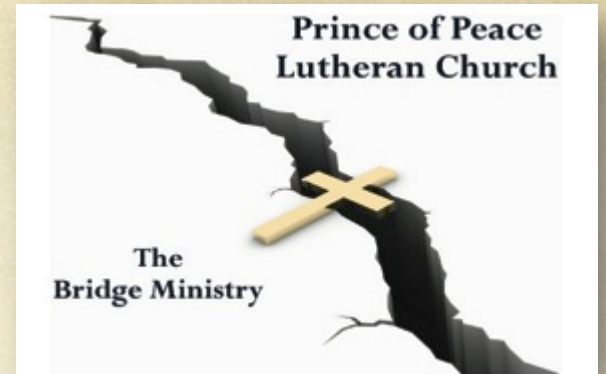


# The Bridge Ministry

## **Mission Statement:**

Jesus Love in Action: Moving People from Dependency to  
Independency

If you are seeking to reclaim your life, the Bridge Ministry is a good place to start. We are a Christ centered ministry who, using Jesus' example, reaches out to offer support and hope to individuals desiring to make positive changes in their lives.



# Agencies and other ministries



Venice on Vine



Cincinnati State  
TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



St John's

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca



Off the Streets



Mary Magdalene House



First Lutheran Church  
1208 Race Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (513) 421-0065



Nast Trinity





# The Bridge Ministry

- Provide a place for Relationships to happen
- Assistance with Contacts/Resources in OTR
- Bible Study
- Fellowship
- Community
- Spiritual Guidance
- Food / Clothing / Immediate Relief
- Transformation (Mentoring)

# The Bridge Ministry

Through the Bridge  
Jesus' love in action via:

- Listening
- Caring
- Praying
- Sharing Ministry
- Mentoring





**Enabling vs. Empowering**

**Crisis vs. Chronic**

**Helping vs. Hurting**

**Relief vs. Rehabilitation**

**Creating Dependency vs.  
Transforming Lives**

# MENTORING





# MENTORING

## Primary Responsibilities:

- Relationship

*Establishing a committed and trusting personal relationship*

- Life Skills

*Discovering and supporting the development of life skills*

- Resources

*Assisting in obtaining community resources*

# MENTORING

- Take Inventory of Associate

*Identify Strengths / Weaknesses / Needs*

- SMART Goals

*Set Goals and an Action Plan to Achieve them*

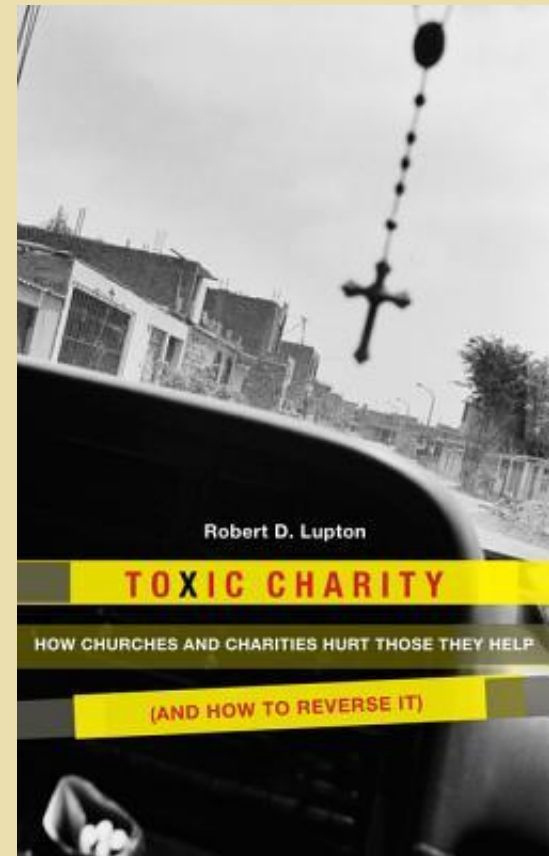
- Associate Take the Initiative

*Mentor Advices / Associate Follows Through*



# Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It

by Robert D. Lupton



# Combining Mercy & Justice

- Immediate Care with a Future Plan
- Emergency Relief and Responsible Development
- Short-term Intervention and Long-Term Involvement
- Heart Responses and Engaged Minds



# One-on-One Mentoring

## Limited Success



# Something New...



The Open Table, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation

7000 N. 16th Street / Suite 120-238

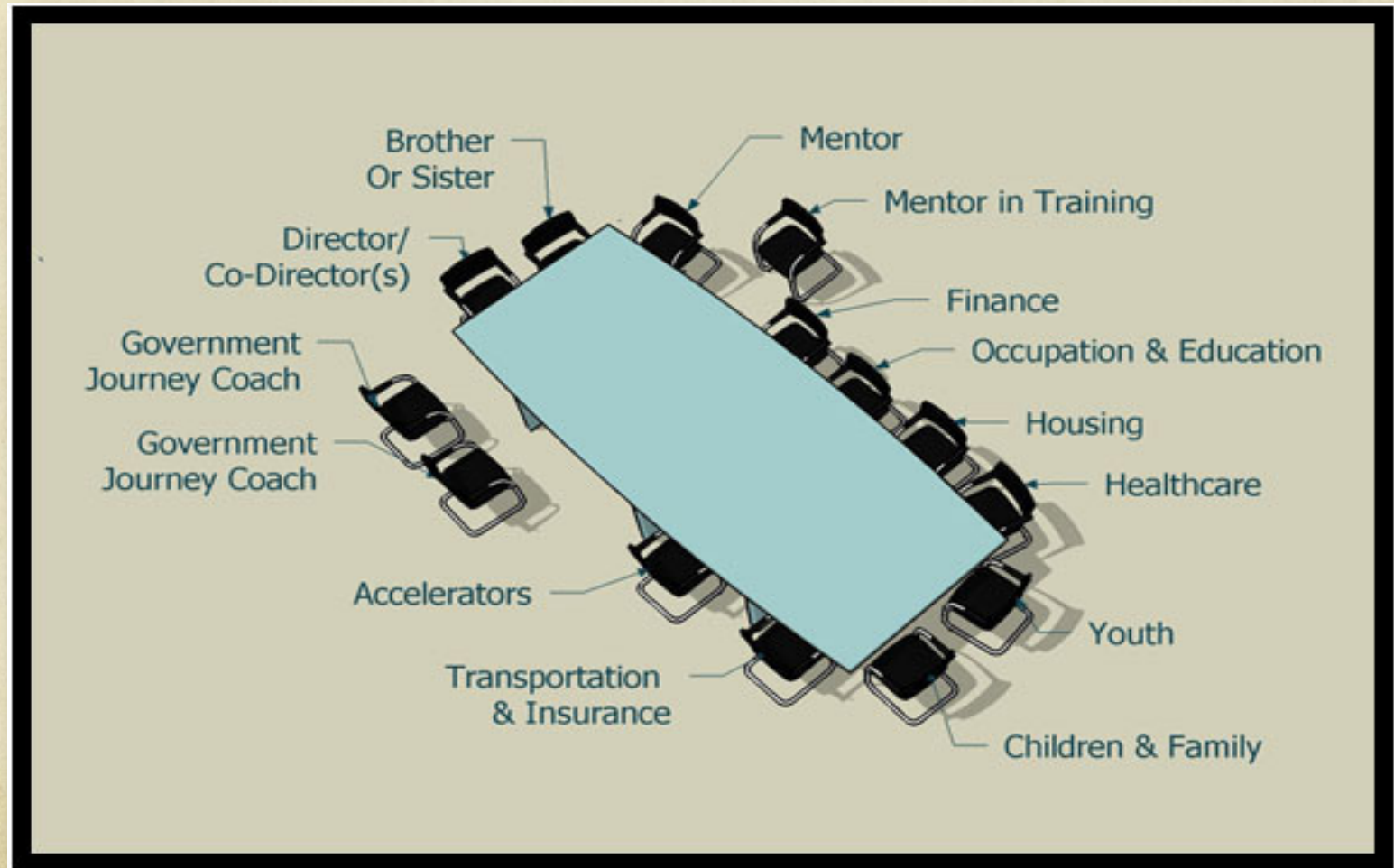
Phoenix, AZ 85020-5547

**Email:** Please direct all inquiries to [info@theopentable.org](mailto:info@theopentable.org)

**Primary contact:** Jon Katov, Founder & CEO



# Open Table Model





- Creates Community
- Empowers instead of Enables
- Develops Skills needed for Success
- Provides the Hidden Rules
- A Group of Mentors in a Table
- Eliminates Individual Inhibitions
- Success seen in Other Cities



# Where do we go from here? The Open Table Model

- **Mission:** Train congregation members, through the Open Table Model, to form communities – called Tables – that transform their vocational and life experiences into tools our Brothers and Sisters in poverty can use to develop and implement plans that create change.
- **Vision:** A movement of servants restoring people in poverty to our communities through relationship and the investment of our own vocational and life experiences and personal networks.
- **The Movement:** A collaboration of faith communities, government, business and non-profits working through Open Table, a shared community model, to transform poverty.
- **Community:** The Open Table process is the catalyst for the deployment of a Missional Community committed to the transformation of a family or individual in poverty

# Table Model

- A Table is formed by 10-12 volunteers who bring their vocational and life experiences along with their personal networks to mentor an impoverished family for approximately one year.
- 
- The individuals and families served by the Table are called “Brothers and Sisters,” answering Dr. Martin Luther King’s call: “We are inevitably our brother’s keeper because we are our brother’s brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” — Martin Luther King, Jr



# Operating A Table

- In Open Table, people in poverty who have the will to improve their lives are empowered through the intensive Table model that can help lift one family at a time to sustainability.
- A Table is the platform through which our Brothers and Sisters in poverty and congregation members become partners in developing a plan to achieve sustainability and wholeness.

# Operating A Table

- Each Table is composed of a group of volunteers that make a year commitment to act as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates for impoverished Brothers, Sisters and families.
- Each Table is hosted by a congregation or two or more congregations partnered to launch a Table. A required team of volunteers (10-12 people help an adult or family – 6-7 help a young adult aging out of foster care) over an 8 – 12 month period.
- Tables generally meet once a week for six months and then at a lesser intensity as the work progresses.
- Table members are generalists, work as teams and also provide leadership for a certain aspect of the plan such as occupation, education, spirituality, health, transportation and other categories.



# Summary



- Licensing Fee for Open Table participation
- Churches / Organizations would join
- Individual / Couples are supported
- Individual is screened by Psychologist

# Next Steps



- Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Open Table Presentation in Cleveland – Anyone is welcome to join us. Transportation will be provided
- Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – afternoon – Individual meetings in Cincinnati
- Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – morning – individual meetings in Cincinnati



# Cost Burden: The Most Common Problem

46% of renters (35,744 of 77,950) and 20% of homeowners (11,075 of 54,640) spent more than 30% of their income on housing.

27% of renters (20,899 of 77,950) and 11% of homeowners (6,135) were severely cost-burdened, or spent more than 50% of their monthly household income on rent.

## Rental Gaps Analysis, 2009

| Income Range  | Renters |         | Maximum<br>Affordable<br>Rent | Rental Units |         | Rental<br>Gap |
|---|---------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
|   | Number  | Percent |                               | Number       | Percent |               |
| Less than \$5,000   | 8,582   | 10%     | \$ 125                        | 5,775        | 5%      | (2,807)       |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999  | 14,040  | 17%     | \$ 175                        | 3,954        | 4%      | (10,086)      |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999                                      | 9,945   | 12%     | \$ 300                        | 7,686        | 7%      | (2,259)       |
| \$15,000 to \$19,999                                      | 8,109   | 10%     | \$ 425                        | 20,055       | 19%     | 11,946        |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999                                      | 7,440   | 9%      | \$ 550                        | 29,813       | 28%     | 22,373        |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999                                      | 9,654   | 12%     | \$ 775                        | 24,463       | 23%     | 14,809        |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                                      | 11,943  | 14%     | \$ 1,125                      | 9,981        | 9%      | (1,962)       |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                                      | 7,881   | 9%      | \$ 1,750                      | 3,424        | 3%      | (4,457)       |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                                      | 3,438   | 4%      | \$ 2,350                      | 1,788        | 2%      | (1,650)       |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999                                    | 1,847   | 2%      | \$ 3,575                      | -            | 0%      | (1,847)       |
| \$150,000 or more   | 708     | 1%      | \$ 4,825                      | -            | 0%      | (708)         |
| Total   | 83,587  | 100%    |                               | 106,939      | 100%    |               |
| Total gap for households earning less than \$15,000/year: |         |         |                               |              |         | (15,152)      |

There is a shortage of affordable rental units priced less than \$300 per month.

There is an abundance of units in the \$425-\$775 rental range.

Source: BBC Research & Consulting. Graphic from PLAN Cincinnati 2011 Housing Market Study.



# Affordable Housing

- 2013: Just over 20,000 units of affordable housing in the City of Cincinnati
- Affordable units lost: 1,500 assisted units (vouchers,

| Affordable Housing in Cincinnati |                       |                        |                      |                               |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type of Assistance               | Tenant Based Vouchers | Project Based Vouchers | Public Housing Units | Other CMHA Affordable Housing | Shelter Plus Care Vouchers | Total Assisted Housing Units/Vouchers |
| # in City                        | 7,452                 | 6,887                  | 4,763                | 27                            | 981                        | 20,083                                |

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, January 2013

The affordable units in the table above represent 22% of the total renter-occupied units (90,694) in the City of Cincinnati as of January 2013.

# Foreclosure

- 2013: 4268 new foreclosures were filed in 2013—down 37% since a high of 6800 in 2009.

Foreclosure's longlasting impact for many years to come:

Population

Property values

Tax base

Quality of life



# Public Housing

- CMHA: 5,300 public housing units – most in the City of Cincinnati.
- Scattered site single family homes throughout Hamilton County and the following developments:
- High-Rise Buildings – Park Eden, Riverview, Redding, Marquette Manor, The Evanston, Maple Tower, San Marco, The Beechwood, Stanley Rowe Towers, President, and Pinecrest
- Apartments and Townhomes – Findlater Gardens, Winton Terrace, Millvale, and Sutter View
- Multi-Family Homes – Horizon Hills, Washington Terrace, Setty Kuhn, Liberty Apartments, Marianna Terrace, Clinton Springs, and Beacon Glen
- At this time, there is no waiting list for public housing units, but there is a waiting list of over two years for housing choice vouchers.

# Where we are...

- Homelessness prevention resources are **not adequate** to meet the need in the community.
- **Not enough** affordable housing for families that need it and long wait lists for public housing.
- **Inadequate resources** to assist with exiting households from shelters (e.g. utility assistance)
- **Lack of consistent shelter-based daytime services**, and/or operating funds to support such services.
- We do not know **the extent of the need** of: LGBTQ persons, persons with limited English proficiency, couples without children, sex offenders.
- **No seasonal shelter** capacity for homeless families.
- There is **not enough funding** for services like case management, transportation, day care, and employment programs



# (Re)emerging Trends

- Criminalization of the poor
  - Income inequality
  - Shrinking tax revenues
    - Hate crimes
- Opposition to affordable housing
  - Privatization of public assets

# Temporary Solutions

- 1. Homeless Prevention
- 2. Shelter Diversion
- 3. Supportive Services for Homeless Veterans and their Families
- 3. Youth Aging out of Foster Care
- 4. LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative
- 5. Winter Shelter
- 6. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is a nationally recognized best practice for quickly ending episodes of homelessness in a cost efficient and effective way. RRH has become a high priority in our community
- 7. Permanent Supportive Housing



# Systemic Solutions

- Changes in housing and land use development and management priorities and funding
- Changes Labor Practices: Living Wage, Maternity Leave, Sick Leave
- Housing Trust Fund
- Inclusionary Zoning
- Overcome local opposition
- And one more....

# Support the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition!





# Final Thoughts...

Adequate Services

Political Will

Moral Outrage

Calls to Action, Tipping Points



Homelessness in  
Cincinnati

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Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

Welcome Home  
Collaborative



# Welcome Home Collaborative

## *Overview*

This is a home restoration program serving the inner-city of Cincinnati. The program is based on the needs of the homeless and poor that I've seen while serving at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in the inner-city of Cincinnati for the last thirteen (13) years.

# Welcome Home Collaborative

The program seeks to accomplish  
THREE (3) good things:



# Welcome Home Collaborative

## 1) Build Community

This program would restore buildings that are vacant or in poor condition. This program would seek to improve, remodel, and/or upgrade existing single family houses or multi-unit apartment buildings in the city of Cincinnati.





# Welcome Home Collaborative

## 2) Put Men (& Women) to Work; provide dignity.

So often I see individuals that have construction skills but cannot find employment due to police records. They have made mistakes in the past, but are now ready to move forward. But due to police records (felonies) in their past, they are unable to find a job. The program seeks to give individuals a sense of self-worth and escape the vicious cycle of poverty and homelessness.





# Welcome Home Collaborative

## 3) Provide Sources of Low-income, Transitional Housing (Men, Women & Children) Cincinnati.

This program would provide hope and a path for those struggling on the streets for housing. One of the struggles that homeless experience is the lack of affordable housing.



# Welcome Home Collaborative

The program does so many good things at the same time. The ideal situation would be to acquire distressed or vacant buildings at little or no cost. We would employ homeless and/or struggling men, who can't find a job, but have construction skills, or would like to learn, to remodel these buildings. After the buildings are completed, instead of selling these units at high-priced condos, we would rent them or sell them out to people struggling to find housing.



# Welcome Home Collaborative

In so doing, we would seek to LIFT GOD'S PEOPLE UP... and TRULY BUILD HOPE IN THE CITY!

The program would also beautify the city. Put men to work, and instead of driving the poor and homeless out of these neighborhoods, we would seek to establish low income housing, and provide a path of hope for those individuals that are struggling to find a place to live.



## Homelessness in Cincinnati

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Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

What is it like being  
Homeless?



# Larry



# Homeless Experience

- Experienced being homeless
- Summer - Rev. Steve Schave & were homeless for a night
  - Slept on a cement parking lot
- Winter – Slept in a homeless camp
  - Slept in a tent under the trees next to the highway





Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

















CITY OF CHICAGO  
IF YOU ARE A MINOR AND WANT  
TO BE A PUBLIC POLICE OFFICER IN THE  
CITY OF CHICAGO YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS  
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BE RESPONSIBLE  
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**(available.)**

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**C** **ity**

















FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
U.C.A.  
**SUNDAY**  
**BIBLE STUDY 10:15**  
**WORSHIP 11:00**

DO JUSTICE  
LOVE MERCY  
WALK HUMBLY  
WITH GOD

NEXT  
CLOTHING JULY 14 12 NOON  
COMMUNITY MEAL JULY 28 12 NOON





















































# MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE

DIGNITY  
IS THE  
BEGINNING  
OF HOPE























## Homelessness in Cincinnati

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Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

Thank You!