



Join us on January 20-22nd, 2012 for the Shelter of Peace Weekend of Prayer and Learning

We look forward to your participation in our Shelter of Peace Weekend of Prayer and Learning. We will be providing you with additional resources to educate and engage your congregation on this issue.

Facts & Figures on Youth Homelessness in NYC:

- At least 3,800 youth live on the streets of NYC every night. This doesn't count youth who are couch surfing, bouncing around from apartment to apartment, having survival sex, or staying in other unstable or unsafe situations to avoid being on the street.
- There are less than 250 beds for homeless youth in NYC.
- Governor Cuomo and the NYS legislature last year slashed state funding for homeless youth shelters by 50%.
- Last year Mayor Bloomberg sought to cut funding for homeless youth by 60%.
- Shelter beds are funded by a combination of city and state funding. Every year, Mayor Bloomberg has tried to cut funding substantially, so every year we have to fight back along with our allies in the City Council.

Our Moral Obligation:

- Every young person deserves to be provided with safe shelter. Youth should not be thrown out of their homes, nor should they be left out on the street.
- We need to add enough capacity so that every young person has a safe place to sleep. We cannot afford to lose a single bed -- we need more beds!

LGBTQ Youth Homelessness:

- 40% of homeless youth in NYC identify as LGBTQ.
- As many as 25% of LGBTQ teenagers are rejected by their families when they come out, and end up on the street.
- LGBT youth are poorly served by the city's shelter system. They experience violence and harassment because of their sexual orientation and gender expression. Many find that it is safer to live on the street.
- More than 1,000 LGBTQ youth are homeless in NYC on any given night. Over the course of a year, many more experience homelessness.
- 62% of homeless LGBT youth have considered or attempted suicide, and many are at high risk for HIV infection and hate violence.

How to take action!

Call Governor Cuomo: 518-474-8390

Tell him: "I support the Campaign for Youth Shelter. I am calling as a member of my faith congregation and a New Yorker to let you know how important it is to us that you add an additional \$3 million to the Homeless Youth Services budget, every year, until all our youth have a safe place to sleep every night."