



Minnesota
Coalition for the
Homeless

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Homeless Memorial March and Service Remembers 268 Individuals Who Passed Away in 2022

Minneapolis -- For 38 years, hundreds of community members have come together for the Homeless Memorial March and Service to remember people who have died while homeless. This year the Homeless Memorial March will bring together hundreds of community members to remember **153 people that died while homeless, 95 individuals that were previously homeless, and 20** advocates who passed away in 2022. The silent march and vigil begins at 5:00 pm at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403. The March route begins and ends at Plymouth Congregational Church, looping through Loring Park. A memorial service at the Plymouth Congregational Church begins at 6:00pm and will also be livestreamed on facebook.com/simpsonhousing.

“We are making progress, but we still have work to do to end homelessness in our state; no one should have to die without a place to call home,” **said Steve Horsfield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing Services.** “Tonight, we remember our friends and loved ones who died while experiencing homelessness.”

In December of 1984, the first official Minnesota Homeless Memorial was held, launching the collaboration between Simpson Housing Services and the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) that exists to this day. Unidentified people began to be included in the service throughout the years, as it was presumed that these people were likely experiencing homelessness when they passed away.

“Right now, about 20,000 children, youth, adults, veterans and seniors across our state are experiencing homelessness,” **said Rhonda Otteson, Executive Director of Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.** “We pause to remember the lives lost and it fuels our next step. It’s our job to take this message to the Capitol in 2023: Shelter saves lives and housing ends homelessness. We will not stop until everyone has a place to call home.”

Of the individuals remembered, the average death age of individuals that died while experiencing homelessness is 44 years old, and the average death age of individuals that were formerly homeless is 50 years old. The march honors and commemorates families, friends and advocates of individuals who passed

away while experiencing homelessness. Names of the individuals that will be remembered are painted on signs and carried during a march and silent vigil. During the service, the names of each individual are read aloud and honored during the service. The Homeless Memorial March and Service is open to all.

QUICK FACTS:

WHAT: 38th Annual Minnesota Homeless Memorial March & Service

WHEN: Thursday, December 15, 2022
5:00 pm (*silent march begins*) and 6:00 pm (*memorial service*)

WHERE: Silent march begins and ends at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

ADDITIONAL

MEDIA: Photos and more background: simpsonhousing.org/event/memorial-march/

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About Simpson Housing Services

Simpson Housing Services began as an emergency overnight shelter at Simpson United Methodist Church in 1982. For four decades, we are a leading nonprofit helping people experiencing homelessness. In response to unmet community needs, our programs have grown to include five key programs: emergency shelter, supportive housing programs for youth, single adults, and families – along with developmental and educational services for children. We annually support 2,000 people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness, including 300 families with 650 children.

About Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization focused on improving public policy and using the power of advocacy to ensure statewide housing stability and economic security. MCH works with people experiencing homelessness and housing instability along with over 70 member organizations across Minnesota. These members reflect the full continuum of housing solutions, including shelter providers, transitional housing providers, support services, housing developers, health care providers, recovery providers, and state agencies. The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is to generate policies, community support and local resources for housing and services to end homelessness in Minnesota.