

We Carry Their Names

by Carina Aleckson

In solidarity with
All who sleep outside
Who sleep in shelters
To show they are us, and we are them

All: We carry their names

To remember, to mourn, to celebrate
To offer our support
To ensure that no life, no death
No passing from here to the beyond
Is unseen or unacknowledged

All: We gather together

We speak the names of those who are no longer with us.
Names of people we knew
Names of strangers
Names of relatives
Names of ones whose names are not known.

All: We speak their names

We share memories of struggles:
Tears, battles lost
Memories that haunt us, and fuel our work.
We share memories of good times:
Laughter, successes
Memories that heal, and keep us warm.

All: We remember together

Buoyed by embracing loss
And sharing comfort
We leave with full hearts
Until we gather again

All: We carry their names



38th ANNUAL

Minnesota Homeless Memorial MARCH & SERVICE

Honoring people who have died while
homeless in Minnesota.

38th Annual Homeless Memorial Service

Thursday, December 15, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.
Plymouth Congregational Church - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Opening Music

Minnesota Orchestra cellist Esther Seitz

Welcome

Robert Hofmann, Simpson Housing Services Shelter Manager

Opening Reading

(found on back of program, to be read responsively)

Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis, Plymouth Congregational Church Lead Minister

Reflection

Buffy Moore, Community Volunteer

Reading of the Names and Lighting of the Candles

Deb Holman and Jesse Wiley

Music

Minnesota Orchestra cellist Esther Seitz

Community Remembrance

You are invited to come forward to share a memory of a friend,
family member or loved one who died during 2022.

Closing

Steve Horsfield, Simpson Housing Services Executive Director

Closing Music

Vinny Dionne and the Little Earth Singers

Following the memorial service please join us for light refreshments
in the Jones Commons.

Memorial Service Speaker: Buffy Moore, Community Volunteer

Buffy was a Simpson Housing program participant 25 years ago. After obtaining permanent housing she began working at Hennepin County where she has been for 21 years now. During this time she earned her associate degree in addiction counseling, her bachelor's degree in human services, and she is currently pursuing her master's degree in Social Work. She will graduate in May 2023.

Buffy is a mom of 5, grandmother of 8, and a dog mom of 2. She is passionate about housing and has seen firsthand the impact that safe, stable, affordable housing can have on an individual's life. Buffy is passionate about giving back. She has served as an advisory council member for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and a board member for Simpson Housing Services. After graduation she hopes to make positive impacts in the policies that govern affordable housing.

Acknowledgements

Kathy Arendt and Minnetonka United Methodist Church
Plymouth Congregational Church members, volunteers, and staff
Simpson Housing Services staff and volunteers
Rhonda Otteson, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Current & former Simpson Housing Services shelter guests
Minnesota Church Center
The Homeless Memorial Planning Committee
Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office
The UPS Store, Golden Valley
Street Voices for Change

Sponsoring Organizations

Simpson Housing Services - simpsonhousing.org
Plymouth Congregational Church - plymouth.org
Catholic Charities - cctwincities.org
The Salvation Army - usc.salvationarmy.org
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless - mnhomelesscoalition.org
Our Saviour's Housing - oshousing.org
Agate Housing and Services - agatemn.org
Align Minneapolis - alignmpls.org
Peace House Community - peacehousecommunity.org