



For Immediate Release

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Photos available upon request

Additional information at: simpsonhousing.org/events/homeless-memorial

Homeless Memorial March and Service Remembers 266 Individuals Who Passed Away in 2024

Minneapolis -- For 40 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 **119 people who have died while homeless, 124 individuals who were previously homeless, and 23 advocates who passed away in 2024.**

Event Details

Date: Thursday, December 12

Location: Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Time:

- 4:45 p.m. | Vigil and Silent March
 - **The March route begins and ends at Plymouth Congregational Church, looping through Loring Park**
- 6:00 p.m. | Service of Remembrance
- 7:00 p.m. | Community Meal

A memorial service at the Plymouth Congregational Church begins at 6:00 pm and will also be livestreamed on facebook.com/simpsonhousing, with a community meal following the service. All are welcome.

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.

“It is our job to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness,” said Steve Horsfield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing Services. “We are making progress but won’t stop until everyone has a

place to call home. Tonight, we remember our friends and loved ones who died while experiencing homelessness.”

“We pause to remember the lives lost while experiencing homelessness this year,” **said Matt Traynor, Interim Executive Director of Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.** “It’s our job to take this message to the Capitol in 2025: Shelter saves lives and housing ends homelessness. We will not stop until everyone in Minnesota has a place to call home.”

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. Minnetonka United Methodist Church and Plymouth Congregational Church will host a complimentary community meal directly following the service. The Homeless Memorial March and Service is open to all.

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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: extended-stay 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.