



## News Release

January 2, 2012

Brooklyn Youth Night Out Event, Sponsored by Brooklyn Area Ministerial Association

Office at: No Hassles Youth Food Shelf

Brooklyn United Methodist Church, 7200 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429  
612-860-3701

Rev. Rachel McIver Morey: [revmorey@yahoo.com](mailto:revmorey@yahoo.com), Rev. Lisa Stordahl: [lisablumb.stordahl@gmail.com](mailto:lisablumb.stordahl@gmail.com)

### Inaugural Youth Night Out Event

#### To Raise Awareness and Support for Homeless Youth Crisis

**Brooklyn Park, MN**—The Brooklyn Area Ministerial Association, in conjunction with Brooklyn Mosaic, CEAP, TreeHouse, the A-List, Channel 12, Liberty Carton and the Cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center is launching an inaugural event to raise awareness of and funds for the basic needs of homeless youth in the Brooklyn communities.

The event will be held on the night of Friday, February 24. The event will engage 300 youth, ages 13-18 in a night that will change their own lives forever.

### The Need

**Youth Homelessness is on the rise. Everything begins at home. Stable housing means youth do better in school and in life. Without it, their world collapses.**

- The no-hassles youth food shelf opened in August and served 12 kids the first night. Since the beginning of October, the lowest number of kids served has been 35, with a high of 60.
- Park Center High School so far has identified 36 young people who are homeless in school year 2011-12.
- Within the first 24 hours a young woman finds herself on the street, she will be propositioned to or will engage in survival sex (ie, exchanging sex for shelter).

## **Event Highlights**

The Brooklyn Youth Night Out event includes several highlighted elements.

- Panel discussion with homelessness experts and formerly homeless individuals
- Dinner served, homeless shelter style
- Information on how to make a change in our communities
- Sleeping outside in cardboard boxes to experience homelessness
- Some youth will win a lottery to ride the city bus all night and experience what some homeless youth do with their nights
- Breakfast and de-brief in the early morning hours

## **How You Can Help**

You are invited to participate in the Brooklyn Youth Night Out event in a variety of ways:

### **Raise Money**

Collect pledges of \$50 to sleep in a cardboard box or \$75 to have a box for a friend who can't raise the \$50. The basic unmet needs of youth in our communities have grown in these tough economic times. The funds raised will address the housing and food needs right here in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center.

### **Sleep Out!**

We invite you to sleep out at the Noble sports Park after the evening program and dinner. Experience what it's like to be without a warm place to call home. Bring your sleeping bag and wear warm clothes. Raise pledges to sleep in a cardboard box. Be sure to ask your friends and family to support your effort through donations to the event.

### **Donate**

You can donate the night of the Sleep Out event or mail in a check to:

Office at: No Hassles Youth Food Shelf, Brooklyn United Methodist Church  
7200 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, MN 55429, 612-860-3701

Please make checks payable to CEAP with the words "Youth Homeless Initiative" in the memo line.

### **Volunteer**

If you are interested in volunteering your time for the entire night or just a few hours, there are many opportunities, including set-up, serving food, supervising activities, sleeping out, tear down and clean up. If interested please email Rev. Rachel McIver Morey: [revmorey@yahoo.com](mailto:revmorey@yahoo.com) or Rev. Lisa Stordahl: [lisablumb.stordahl@gmail.com](mailto:lisablumb.stordahl@gmail.com).