



Minneapolis / Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness
 Research, Planning and Development Department
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St. Stephens' Street Outreach Program

Street Outreach

Since 2007, the City of Minneapolis and local foundations have supported a team of outreach workers at St. Stephens Human Services to work in collaboration with the Minneapolis Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to provide targeted outreach to homeless individuals and families in downtown Minneapolis. Since its inception in 2007, St. Stephens Street Outreach has housed over 180 people directly from the street, mostly without subsidies. Outreach staff has access to the downtown security community's RadioLink and can be dispatched to 911 calls when appropriate in order to intervene with a human services response rather than a criminal justice response. Police records indicate a 14 percent reduction in arrests for people with no permanent address between 2008 and 2009.

To Date:

- From June 2007 through June 2010, the Street Outreach team has housed more than 225 individuals experiencing homelessness directly from the street.
- These individuals have been housed largely without any subsidies.
- Between 2008 and 2009, the Minneapolis Police Department has reported a 14% reduction in arrests of people experiencing homelessness in the downtown area.
- The integration of the Street Outreach team as part of the Downtown Safe Zone has helped greatly in shifting public policy from a criminal justice response to homelessness to a social service response.
- The success of the Street Outreach team has saved thousands of taxpayer dollars in the form of decreased use of police man-hours, jails, and detox centers.
- Through expansion of the Currie Avenue Partnership model, Street Outreach will receive programmatic support and 3 new Housing Case Managers will be hired to support the Outreach team's efforts.

