

## Local News

## Homeless

Continued from Page 3

Rochester/Monroe County community are homeless. On any given night, however, the number of people seeking shelter may range from as few as 200 to 225 people to as many as 375 to 425 at peak periods.

- A relatively small number of people — 25 or fewer — live "on the street" outside the shelter system.

- The community currently has 356 beds in shelter programs designed to serve the homeless — 121 beds in facilities (including the Parish Shelter Network) offering shelter and few other services, and 235 beds in transitional shelter facilities (such as Bethany House and Melita House) that provide services beyond shelter.

- On a typical night, about 2/3 of the transitional beds and about 75 percent of the emergency shelter beds are filled.

- The numbers of people using the three parish shelters declined between the winters of 1985-86 and 1986-87, but the average length of stay per person increased from 14.4 to 18.8 nights per person.

- The problem of homelessness is year-round, with several non-winter nights showing high numbers of emergency placements.

- Most of the county's homeless people have local connections. More than 70 percent of the people staying in emergency shelters and 95 percent of those staying in transitional shelters listed a Monroe County address as their last permanent home. More than 55 percent of the homeless reported having one or more immediate family members or relatives in the Rochester area.

- The numbers of homeless people are likely to increase slightly over the next five years unless actions are taken to prevent more people from becoming homeless and unless new and expanded services are put in place to reduce the existing homeless population.

- Among the major unmet needs for services among the homeless population are: housing referral and placement services, educational

support, job training and support, psychiatric services, medical care, transportation assistance, drug and alcohol counseling, case management and systems advocacy support to help access available services.

Although the report provided some surprises, Privett said it also confirmed some of the beliefs held by shelter providers in Rochester.

"The report suggests we need a permanent facility with adequate social-service facilities," he said.

In support of this claim, Privett cited one of the findings from the study. "The fact that 41 percent of people staying in emergency shelters are suffering from mental or emotional illnesses points to a need for outreach and case-management services for the mentally ill homeless," he said.

Privett further noted that the Parish Shelter Network — Blessed Sacrament, St. Bridget's and Corpus Christi — had become increasingly aware of the need for more services as they have worked with the homeless, and began to expand the services they offered even before the report was released. Blessed Sacrament, for example, now has a social worker present in the shelter one evening a week. St. Bridget's has hired a full-time staff person. Corpus Christi's shelter has moved from the basement of the church to Dimitri House, which also houses the parish's food-distribution program, and has a social worker on staff.

"The development of services (in the parish shelters) has been an evolutionary process, as we've continued to meet the needs (of the homeless)," Privett said. "We need to make these services available more intensively than we've been able to. This report suggests we need to make these (services) permanent."

The report also made plain the importance of the Parish Shelter Network, Privett said.

"The overall sense of the report is that there are an adequate number of beds for the homeless in the community — based on the premise that a volunteer shelter network would continue," Privett said. "If the parish shelters closed, the community would have a problem."

Privett added, "It's good that we have enough beds, but to say that the system relies

on voluntary shelters, I think that's terrible."

Woods agreed that the report pointed out the importance of the Parish Shelter Network as part of the county's shelter services. Whether these shelters should continue operating — and what consequences their closing would create — are questions the task force will need to consider. "The Parish Shelter Network may be an issue we'd want to make some recommendations about," she suggested.

She also noted that the issue of access to services will have to be addressed. "There needs to be an on-site person available (in the shelters) after hours," she said.

A permanent shelter facility offers possibilities for offering ongoing services, but creating such a facility will not be easy, Woods remarked. "There are so many things to be taken into mind before you develop a program like that — you'd need real cooperation among agencies and the (city and county governments)," she added.

The report also emphasized the need for adequate, affordable, low-income housing Woods said. "One of the reasons for increasing homelessness is the unavailability of low-income houses," she noted.

The low-income housing problem is double edged, Privett added. The destruction of a substantial number of low-income units as a result of urban renewal in the last eight years helped to create the problem of homelessness. The current lack of available units helps the problem to continue.

"The Rochester Housing Authority has 5,000 people on its waiting list for affordable housing," Privett said. "The proposed \$2.5 million project for Westfall Road would create only 50 units — that's small compared to the overall problem."

Privett said the report also indicated that many people receiving public assistance and living in low-income housing are still on the edge of homelessness. According to the report, in March, 1987, the average welfare grant provided \$197 per month for shelter while the average welfare household paid \$272 for rent.

On January 1, 1988, the shelter allowance was increased, but still falls approximately \$25 short of covering shelter costs. This additional money must come out of monies allocated

for clothing, household supplies, transportation and food not covered by food stamps. In addition, the higher "income" from the shelter allowances causes recipients' food-stamp benefits to be reduced.

Thus, Privett remarked, many low-income people are at risk of becoming homeless. "The community needs to apply itself to addressing the housing situation," he concluded.

The report indicates that the overall homelessness problem could grow worse depending on a such factors as the national and local economies, family stress, job pressures, state deinstitutionalization policies and practices, a continued lack of affordable housing and possible reductions in the number of subsidized housing units.

"(The situation) potentially could worsen," Privett acknowledged. "It all depends on factors which we can't predict at this point." Many of these factors, he suggested, will be addressed in the task force's recommendations.

Developing these recommendations is the next step for the task force, now that the report has been completed and can provide accurate data and indicate specific areas to be addressed, Privett noted. "(The task force) will have to begin looking at the data and come to some consensus about what we are going to do," he said.

Privett added that task force members — together with representatives from the city, the county and social service agencies — will need to analyze the information from the report in order to develop recommendations for action.

"There's a great opportunity to work with governmental services and to come up with a more structured system with them," Privett suggested.

A further advantage of having the report available is that the findings can help the task force to develop specific recommendations, Woods added.

"This is Rochester, not Albany, Syracuse or New York," Woods said. "Now we have Rochester data to help us look at what types of people (are homeless) so we can develop recommendations. The report will help us to recommend services that are targeted and much more accurate."

**Cannon's**  
1551 Mt. Hope Ave.  
(1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd.  
exit of Rte. 390.)  
461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 23 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. For the late night diner we serve until 1 am Mon.-Sat., and midnight Sun. Lunches are served daily from 11 am till 3:30.

**Crystal Barn**  
Corner Clover & Jefferson  
at the Barn Bazaar in Pittsford  
(716) 381-4844

A pleasant blend of crystal chandeliers and Victorian motif set in an authentic country barn, creates a memorable atmosphere... for lunch, cocktails or an enjoyable dining experience. Your hosts George and Katherine Gerakos and Chef Russell Brindisi pride themselves in presenting you with the most carefully selected and prepared lunches and dinners as well as unique special daily creations. We most sincerely hope that you'll find our quality uncompromising and our service unsurpassed. Reservations are appreciated.

**Fornataro's**  
2155 Long Pond Rd.  
(corner Longpond &  
Spencerport Rds.)  
426-1240

Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just

off a kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Serving dishes like Filet Fornataro (beef dressed in a sweet sauce with melon balls and grapes), Saltimbocca, Veal Marsala and Madeira, Fettucine Alfredo in its golden cheese dressing, and Beef Tenderloin flavored with spices and cognac in a marinara sauce. Most pastas are homemade. Wines and liqueurs are used liberally in the cuisine as are artichoke hearts and fruits. Lunches served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

**(Oswald's) Hof Brau Haus**  
406 Lyell Ave.,  
5 min. from downtown  
254-9660

Authentic German cooking in an olde world Gasthaus decor. Specializing in German wines, and featuring more than 50 imported beers. Special arrangements for groups. Serving lunch and dinner. Live Bavarian entertainment on weekends.

**Irondequoit Town Lounge**  
705 Titus Ave.  
342-3465

Serving lunches 11:30-3 p.m. daily except Sunday. Featuring an Early Bird Special every night but Friday. Fish Frys every Friday. Our party room can accommodate up to 60 people for your next gathering. Clip out this ad and receive \$5.00 off two dinners (specials not included), offer good Sunday thru Thursday, during the month of February.

**National Hotel**  
Rte. 20A & 39  
Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481  
(716) 382-3130

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. and Sundays, 12-8 p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Geneseo or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.

**New Sodus Pt. Fish & Crab House**  
Sodus Pt., N.Y. 14555 (on the Seaway Trail)  
(315) 483-2314

Discover Sodus Pt. at its finest! The area's first waterfront fish and crab house serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on beautiful Sodus Bay. Surrounded with glass and decking, every seat has a breathtaking view second to none. Join us for dining or dancing in our authentic Cape Cod nautical atmosphere. Located on Greig St. in Sodus Pt. Reservations appreciated.

**Rund's On The Ridge**  
2833 Ridge Road West  
(In Ridgemoor Plaza)  
Greene, New York  
(716) 227-2510

"It's Rund's for serving the finest Seafood in Rochester since 1906." Four dining rooms, four fireplaces. Full seafood menu. Also serving steaks and chops. Open 7 days a week, noon to 9 p.m.

**Strebs Steak & SeaFood House**  
4484 Ridge Rd. West  
352-1400

If it's succulent seafood or a thick, juicy steak you're craving, our name speaks for itself. But don't let our name fool you... We also feature a wide array of full course dinners including prime rib, veal and chicken. Daily and weekly specials. Set in a romantic, homelike atmosphere. Serving lunches Tues.-Fri., 11:30-2:30; Dinners Tues.-Thurs., 4:30-10:00; Fri. & Sat., 4:30-midnight; Sun., 12:00-10:00. Major credit cards accepted.

**Yellow Rose Cafe**  
1784 Penfield Rd.  
Penfield, New York 14625  
(716) 385-3673

Come and dine at this historic landmark; former home of Daniel Penfield, founder of Penfield. We offer good cooking, good service and a quiet, gracious atmosphere. Hours are Mon-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m.; Sat. 11:30-2:00 a.m. and Sun. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Both lunch and dinner are our special talents. See you there!

## Dining Around the Diocese

The first issue of each month, the Courier-Journal will be featuring some prime dining spots in and around the Rochester diocese. If you, or someone you know would like to have your restaurant included in our Dining Guide, call the Courier-Journal at 328-4340. Look for our Dining Guide in the upcoming months, and pay a visit to the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy a pleasant evening of "Dining Around the Diocese."

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