

## **REACH HOUSING**

Last January 2019, you may recall from some of our previous email blasts that St. Peter's was spear heading a committee to find a use for the empty rectory on our property that would be a collaborative effort between agencies. To make a long story short, the goal was achieved. In late August. Permission from the Coptic Church, owners of our campus and part of that committee, granted REACH Transitional Housing, led by Andy Carey who was also a part of the committee, to set up housing in the rectory for the winter of 2019 to 2020.

We were overjoyed to know not only that the rectory would be in use, but also that it would be a true compliment to all that is happening here in the West side of the City of Rochester.

In our small Bulls Head Area alone, we have:

St. Peter's Kitchen – emergency food service and emergency social services

Monroe County Department of Health – STD clinic

Open Access (Delphi Drug Rehab) – 24 hour service to help move clients quickly into detox and rehab

Unity Health – (the old St. Mary's Hospital) – 24 hour mental health emergency help

And now REACH – transitional housing is here– help for the homeless and also those waiting for beds in rehabilitation facilities.

Along with REACH came a slew of agencies ready to lend a hand and help move clients through the homeless process. 36 different agencies ie: United Health Care, Roc-venture, Counseling agencies, Job Training agencies... to offer their help to those in need. This is an amazing display of community organizations working together.

Andy explained it was the philosophy of treating the whole person and not just the crisis they find themselves in.

St. Peters is sharing the space of this campus, providing food service for lunches and also some weekends and evenings. We have been able to share with them, pillows, gloves, blankets everything we get for our community we are able to share with REACH also.

It has been a dream come true for us as we always felt that this area was well suited to being, a hub in fostering independence for our disenfranchised members of the community. Reach is a tremendous addition and so far, it has been an exciting adventure.

Please keep this project in your prayers. If you would like to donate anything to REACH through St. Peter's, they could really use milk! (We need it for our pantry too.) That's one thing we do not get much of.

They are here temporarily from Nov to April...through the harshest winter months. We hope if all goes well that might be a yearly location for them or even grow into a year-round organization.

You, our fellow supporters are allowing us to grow and collaborate and truly bring stabilization and hope to many of our neighbors. Thank You!