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Emmaus Newsletter – August 2016

# EMMAUS MISSION CENTER

## Welcome

Autumn is just around the corner now, and that means cooler weather, stronger winds and grayer, tumultuous skies. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those whose lives have been shattered by the powerful tornado that ripped through Kokomo, destroying homes and damaging businesses.

We give thanks that there were no lives lost and that we can recover, rebuild and repair, all in due time. The relief efforts, that will be ongoing for quite some time, are a testament to the way that we are asked to treat one another: with respect, dignity and love.

God bless you all.



Jason Mitchell  
Executive Director

## Drug Free Team

**To further the community aspiration of a “Safe and drug free Cass County”, Emmaus is part of the Cass County Resource Network's Drug Free Team**

It's clear to anyone that the problems of drug use and abuse are increasing every day. In almost every community, big or small, there are articles in the newspaper and arrests made in relation to both illegal drug use and the misuse of legally prescribed medications. Alcohol abuse is another huge issue and something that, in part, has become socially acceptable in some instances. It seems that alcohol has almost escaped the reality that it is a drug too. In fact, it is probably the most widely used drug in America today.



The Drug Free Team is currently focusing on a number of preventative initiatives, designed to protect teens and school-age children from the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption. The “Parents Who Host” program seeks to educate communities and parents about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen parties. It is also a criminal offense to do so with up to at least a \$1,000 fine!

# Permanent Support

**Many organizations who work with homeless clients see Permanent Supportive Housing as the ultimate solution**

We've talked about Permanent Supportive Housing a few times in our bi-monthly newsletters, but why does this seem like such a good thing in the eyes of so many of the nation's foremost homeless prevention organizations? Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a type of subsidized housing, meaning that it is a government sponsored, economic assistance program that seeks to reduce housing costs and expenses for low-income families and individuals. More specifically, PSH is intended to be used by people with disabilities who have either experienced, or are at risk of being homeless. In addition to low-cost housing, PSH offers voluntary social services, usually in the same building or area that residents are living, which are provided by case management professionals. These services may include counseling, medical treatment, victim support, job skills training, basic education, free legal advise or any of a number of other helpful resources. Providing these kinds of services on-site makes them far more accessible to PSH residents and allows for more direct, personal care



The National Coalition for the Homeless states that such housing has proven effective for those who have difficulty living independently and are likely to fall back into homelessness without some extra support and guidance.



Emergency Shelters like Emmaus and Transitional Shelters help anyone, regardless of disabilities, to find permanent housing and get back on their feet. Some people only require a very temporary, short time stay while others need a few months to get things back in order. Homelessness strikes people in a variety of different ways, so the solutions need to be many and varied. Permanent Supportive Housing is a great way to start.

**“Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, and in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places.”**

*- Isaiah 32:18*

Permanent Supportive Housing is just one type of housing program that can assist in the struggle against the very real issue of homelessness across the entire United States.



## Keep an Eye Out

- Our website at [logan-emmaus.org](http://logan-emmaus.org) contains a lot of information about our mission.
- Click on the Thrift Store tab on the main page to see our monthly store calendar, check out our current item of the week and keep updated on any special events and sales.
- You'll also find information there on store opening times, our contact information, how to donate items and our efforts to recycle whatever we can,
- At the bottom of the Thrift Store page you can fill in a form if you feel led to volunteer to help us help others. Your help would always be very much appreciated!
- Keep an eye out for what's going on and we hope that you stop by and see us when you get the urge to hunt for great bargains!



Emmaus Mission Thrift Store

# SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH.



## Hunger Action Month

**September every year marks Feeding America's Hunger Action Month that seeks to raise awareness of food insecurity across the United States.**

Data from Feeding America suggests that there are 48 million Americans, our very own friends, family and neighbors, who do not have enough food to eat. Among those are 15 million children. Those numbers are so huge; so astounding that they don't even sound real...but they are. In a country where we throw away so much good, edible food, why do we have a group of people that is larger than the population of the state of California who are suffering from hunger in some way? Take a stand with us, with your local food pantries and with food banks in your area to advocate for those in need. This year, Feeding America's nationwide campaign is focused on "What can't you do on an empty stomach?"

They are encouraging people to write their answer to that question on a plate, take a selfie and post it to all of your social media sites with the hashtag #HungerActionMonth. 1 in 7 people in the United States struggle with hunger as a part of their daily lives. Together we can make a positive difference in the lives of others, by offering our time, talents and resources in the fight to end this unnecessary hardship on American families. Everyone deserves the right to have enough healthy, nutritious food to feed themselves and their family. Our food pantry sees over 600 families every month who come to us asking for help to get by. Let's stop these numbers from rising.

## AND FINALLY...

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up in the next few months, there'll be plenty of opportunities to give of your time and talents as a volunteer for Emmaus. Feel free to contact us by e-mail, telephone or regular mail; or just stop by at any of our sites and we would be more than happy to sign you up for something! Please let us know, too, if you'd like to see an article on a specific topic in our next newsletter.

### Homeless Shelter

805 Spencer Street,  
Logansport, IN 46947  
574-739-0107

### Thrift Store and Food Pantry

1203 College Street,  
Logansport, IN 46947  
574-753-3500

[www.logan-emmaus.org](http://www.logan-emmaus.org)

## Home

**The concept of what makes a place a home is different for each one of us and can go far beyond the traditional concept of bricks and mortar**

One of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary's simple definitions of home is "a place where something normally or naturally lives or is located." When it comes down to it, we usually think of a home as a permanent dwelling, most commonly a house or an apartment, which we go back to after work or school to do whatever it is we do before we go back to work or school. A safe place; a sanctuary of sorts, away from the outside world. There may be other family or friends there, or we may live alone; but it's a place, a real, concrete place in which to live. Interestingly enough, the dictionary definition above doesn't mention time at all.

A home can be permanent or temporary. The definition also doesn't mention a particular structure or location. A tent in the woods, a patch of grass beneath an overpass, or the back seat of the truck you own. Any and all of these can be a home. Some people struggle with the concept of people living on the streets, in the woods, in abandoned buildings or in their vehicles by their own choice. That doesn't make their home any less of a home. A home doesn't have to be four walls and a roof. It simply has to be a place where you normally or naturally live. A life without walls must give you a great sense of freedom at times. Let people live freely.



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