

# Homeless & Hungry 2011 Annual Report

Prepared by Erik Hatch

2011 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Homeless & Hungry event for the Fargo-Moorhead area (October 15-16, 2011). *The mission of Homeless & Hungry* is to empower people to raise awareness for homelessness, to financially assist shelters and their partnering entities, and to change the hearts of participants and sponsors to serve as God's hands and feet.

Homeless & Hungry was started in 2006 by members of First Lutheran Church (Fargo, ND). It has since grown into a community-wide event that is led by FLC but invites all who are willing to participate.

The following pages will provide a summary of Homeless & Hungry 2011 and additionally outlines the efforts put forth by those involved.



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## **Changes in 2011:**

Homeless & Hungry has continued to grow and adapt as time has gone on. In 2006, H&H was hosted just at First Lutheran Church. In 2007, Oak Grove Lutheran School and Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church joined up at FLC. In 2011, H&H boasted 16 different host sites with an additional ½ dozen churches partnering with these host sites.

2011 proved to be the 1<sup>st</sup> year for H&H to **infiltrate NDSU's campus**. Two fraternities (Alpha Tau Omega & Theta Chi) joined as host sites as well as the University Lutheran Center. Nearly 50 students from NDSU stepped up to the challenge as participants in 2011.

**The planning/leadership team** took on a new form in 2011. Adult leaders representing different congregations served as the backbone for planning and implementation of the Homeless & Hungry event. Special thanks to Erik Diederich (First Lutheran Church), Norma Tessmer (First Lutheran Church), Janel Swenson (Messiah Lutheran Church), Amy Kippen (Faith Lutheran Church), Jessica Miller (St John Lutheran Church), Andrea Paulson (Atonement Lutheran Church), & Art Phillips (First Lutheran Church) for their leadership and willingness to serve.

This year host sites were asked to beef up both their **small group time and the simulation** (which previously was held on Sunday afternoon). The situations and questions were very focused and helpful for those who chose to dive in to these.

Some of the biggest changes in 2011 had to do with the **tweaking of our Sunday afternoon event**. This year we spent our final hours of the H&H event at Fargo North High School. Participants took part in volunteering as personal shoppers for those in need, a panel discussion (featuring people from local shelters and those who have been homeless in the past), and a chance to have a Q&A with featured keynote speaker Jay Bakker. As always, at 6pm participants are invited to break their fast in the cafeteria with a sandwich and soup.

The most concentrated place for change was with our **Sunday afternoon happenings**. We were intentional on inviting in more of the impoverished communities. Additionally, we relied on the help of close to 700 volunteers for Sunday afternoon in regard to sorting over 30,000 lbs of donations. Smoothing out this process and staying focused on helping participants to connect with those who are in need proved to be worth the efforts. This improvement was miles ahead of where we had been in the past.

Homeless & Hungry will continue to seek out different ways to get people involved. 'Satellite' events continue to sprout up – including a golf scramble, a carwash, and a chili feed. Our hope is to grow this even more in the future.

## **Participants:**

The H&H event itself asks participants to fast for 30 hours – sleep in a cardboard box – live with only the clothes on their backs – raise money for the local shelters – participate in service projects throughout the weekend – and participate in the weekend activities.

### **Participants had the choice of getting involved at the following host sites:**

Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, NDSU  
Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Faith Lutheran Church, West Fargo  
First Baptist Church, Fargo  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
Hope, Page, & Ayr Lutheran Churches (participated with First Lutheran Church)  
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church, Harwood (participated with Zion Lutheran Church)  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Oak Grove Lutheran School, Fargo  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead  
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo  
St John Lutheran Church, Fargo  
Theta Chi Fraternity, NDSU  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Sabin (participated with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church)  
University Lutheran Center, NDSU  
Zion Lutheran Church, Harwood  
(Note – a church from Kindred also chose to participate but did their own modified H&H experience)

***We estimate that roughly 520 participants were a part of Homeless & Hungry 2011.***

***If each participant fundraised for 2 hours – then we estimate over 16,000 hours were donated to Homeless & Hungry in 2011 from the participants alone.***

***“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” Mother Teresa***

## **Volunteers**

With the intent to help the Sunday afternoon activities run smoother, an influx of volunteers was needed for 2011. The main focus had to deal with this issue:

Unload 30,000+ lbs of donations, weigh these donations, sort these donations, distribute these donations to people in need, pack up the remaining donations, and so on. All this had to be done in the span of 4.5 hours!

And so, the call was placed to congregations, student groups, service groups, businesses, and the community as a whole. We needed help, and lots of it. The response was impressive. Nearly 700 volunteers stepped up to lend their time and talents to Homeless & Hungry.

***At the end of the day, we estimate over 2,000 service hours were donated by this group alone.***

***When coupled with the volunteer time from local host sites and leaders – we can double that number to a total of 4,000 total hours from just our volunteers!***

## **Service Projects:**

Each participant was assigned different service projects to participate in (on either Saturday or Sunday) Additionally, dozens of fleece blankets were assembled and donated to the needy.

Service projects were completed at the following organizations: YWCA, Churches United for the Homeless, YouthWorks, The New Life Center, Sharehouse, The Dorothy Day House, The Gladys Ray Shelter, The Great Plains Food Bank, Fargo North, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Additionally, a large number of participants volunteered with the United Way as an extension of the United Way Day of Caring. Close to 70 different households were visited and served by the Homeless & Hungry participants.



## **Item Drive at Local Schools:**

The timing of Homeless & Hungry is a bit difficult when trying to partner with schools. Schools are just beginning to hit their strides when we have a chance to go in and share the vision of Homeless & Hungry. It becomes increasingly tricky as we try to partner ourselves with Fill the Dome when working with local schools. Since 2006, H&H has been working with local schools collecting donations – and since 2007, Fill the Dome has done a marvelous job of working within those same schools. In attempts not to step on each other's toes, H&H has decided to do item drives (collecting toiletries, cleaning supplies, diapers, etc – anything but food) to support the local shelters.

2011 was our most successful year to date in partnering with local schools. A record 19 different schools joined in the campaign and held their own item drives! H&H leaders would go into classrooms to promote giving and awareness for those living in poverty. The efforts proved to be fruitful as we filled our trucks with all sorts of donations.

### **The following is a list of schools that participated and the amount we collected from them (in lbs):**

Kennedy Elementary – 1,215 lbs  
Centennial Elementary – 956 lbs  
Bennett Elementary – 580 lbs  
Lincoln Elementary – 1,025 lbs  
Lewis & Clark Elementary – 1,043 lbs  
Fargo South High School – 314 lbs  
Roosevelt Elementary – 260 lbs  
Horace Mann Elementary – 350 lbs  
Fargo North High School – 145 lbs  
Longfellow Elementary – 75 lbs  
Woodrow Wilson High School – 65 lbs  
Cheney Middle School – 396 lbs  
Washington Elementary – 1,078 lbs  
Hawthorne Elementary – 254 lbs  
Clara Barton Elementary – 431 lbs  
Horizon Middle School – 580 lbs  
Discovery Middle School – 576 lbs  
Stem Center – 620 lbs  
Glyndon-Felton Elementary – 594 lbs

### **The work of these dedicated students helped to collect a whopping 10,557 lbs!**

In the end, when partnering with the door-to-door food drive during the event and collections at churches, we collected over 30,000 pounds of donations which were distributed to local shelters and outreach organizations the Sunday of the H&H event.

## **Money Raised**

The following is a breakdown of all monies raised for Homeless & Hungry 2011.

Fund balance as of 1/1/11	\$6,101
2011 Campaign Contributions	\$64,514 (Some participant fees were included here)
Car Wash Fundraiser	\$2,639
Golf Scramble Fundraiser	\$9,364
Chili Feed Cookoff	\$2,880
Participant registration fee	\$5,995
T-shirts	\$395 (some of this money was included in the contributions)
Debit Card Redemption	\$16
TOTAL INCOME	\$85,873

## **Expenses**

The following is a breakdown of expenses for Homeless & Hungry 2011

Soup Kitchen Expenses	\$3,988
Car Wash Expenses	\$281
Chili Feed Cookoff Expenses	\$28
Golf Scramble Expenses	\$3,550
Jay Bakker Expenses	\$2,417
Cardboard Boxes	\$2,600
T-shirts	\$5,190
Video Expenses	\$226
Broken Table @ Fargo North	\$1,058
Misc Expenses	\$1,682
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,020

Please note – Each participant was charged \$25 in an attempt to offset expenses. Additionally, corporate events such as the carwash and the golf scramble are used to offset any additional expenses not recouped from the participant fees.

New in 2011 – we ordered a few hundred extra t-shirts and then sold these to interested individuals for \$15 each.

\*\*\*A \$2,000 gift from the Dakota Medical Foundation is pending

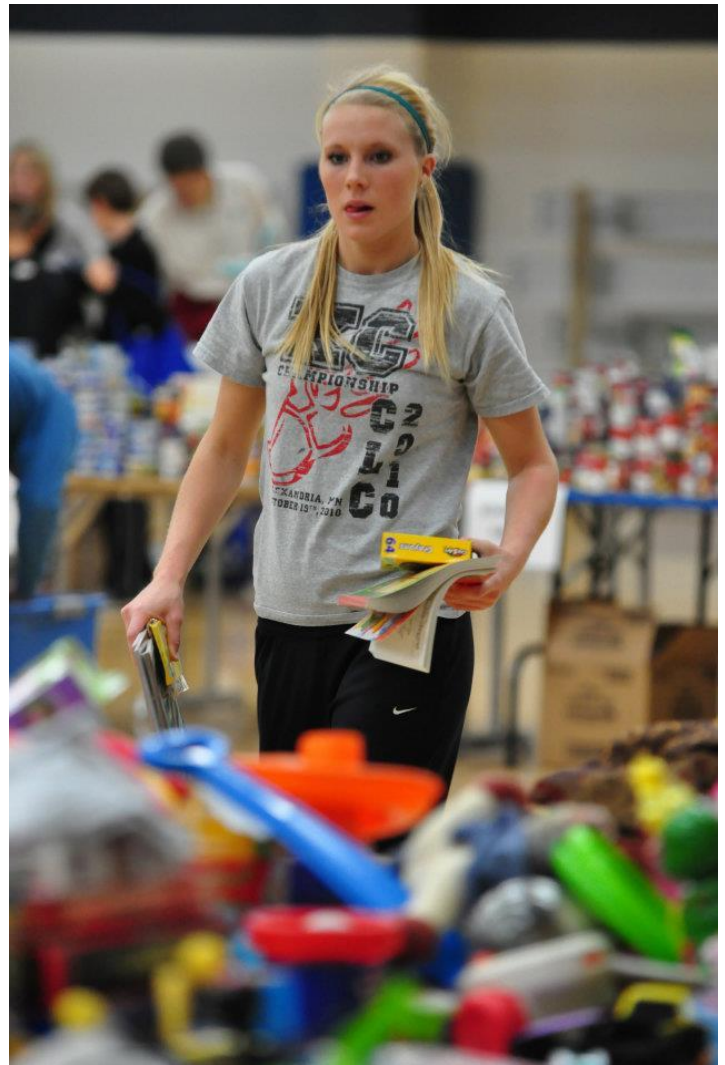
## **Homeless & Hungry Account Balance as of 12/11/11:**

\$73,916

\*Includes the 1/1/11 account balance of \$6,102 plus the net 2010 campaign income received & disbursements made after 1/1/11 of \$2,961.

## **Distributions**

Churches United for the Homeless	\$8,000
The Dorothy Day House	\$8,000
The YWCA	\$8,000
The New Life Center	\$8,000
The Gladys Ray Shelter	\$8,000
Stepping Stones Resource Center	\$8,000
Youthworks	\$8,000
Project Hart	\$2,000
Central Cities Ministries	\$2,000
The Salvation Army	\$2,000
FM Coalition for Homeless Persons	\$2,000
Homeless Health Services	\$2,000
Sharehouse	\$2,000
Great Plains Food Bank	\$2,000
FM Emergency Food Pantry	\$2,000
Remaining balance in the H&H Fund	\$1,915



## **Final Numbers:**

### **In 2011:**

Over \$85,000 was raised

Over 520 participants registered for the event

19 local schools stepped up their investments and worked to collect over 10,000 lbs of donations

Over 30,000 pounds of donations were collected to benefit the local shelters

Over 700 volunteers gave up part of their weekend to serve

20+ different host sites stepped up to be a part of the H&H movement

Over 20,000 total hours were sacrificed for Homeless & Hungry

### **Since 2006:**

Over \$720,000 has been raised

Almost 3,000 participants have experienced what it's like to live as a homeless & hungry person for a day

Over 250 people have served as a part of a planning team

Over 130,000 pounds of donations have been collected to benefit the local shelters

Over 1,600 volunteers have stepped up to the challenge

Homeless & Hungry started out at one church and has now spread to over 30 locations in the FM area.

Churches in Marshall, MN, Washington DC, Madison, WI, and a college campus in MN have all adopted the Homeless & Hungry model and are running their own programming from our model.

Over 100,000 total hours of community service have been sacrificed for Homeless & Hungry.

**“We can do no great things; only small things with great love.”**

**Mother Teresa**



## **Final Thoughts:**

Dollars will disappear – donations will run out – and unless we work towards changing the lives of our participants (one by one), our success will be futile. Homeless & Hungry isn't about numbers – or dollars. H&H is about transforming lives.

***We trust that God is up to something here...***and in the meanwhile, we will do our best to cultivate the good soil that God has provided.

In 2006, a small group of dedicated youth set forth to bring the excitement and passion of a mission trip to their own backyard. A goal of \$10,000 and 75 participants seemed lofty at the time. Who would have ever thought that 6 years later we would have grown exponentially – we have surpassed our financial goal 70x and our participation goal 40x...all in 6 years.

Additionally, Homeless & Hungry strives to keep **empowerment** as its primary focus. We continue to experiment with new ideas, tactics, and strategies to best lead this movement. We are constantly wrestling with content while keeping the core the same. What the future holds is only known by God. We are open to allowing ourselves to mold into the best possible movement for God that we can be.

We won't know the impact of our efforts in the upcoming months or years. We pray that the seeds of Homeless & Hungry provide good fruit for generations to come.

- Thank you to all who have had a part in the movement of H&H. From parents to sponsors, from participants to committee members, from volunteers to outreach organizations – we are forever indebted for your investments.
- Thanks to First Lutheran Church for believing in the vision God has fueled so many of us with. So many people sacrifice for and trust in this process. We're so grateful!
- A special thanks to Jackie Jabens and the financial gurus at First Lutheran Church. What a blessing you all are!
- Thanks to the team members who gave so diligently and helped shape H&H into something that this whole community can rally behind. I'd be lost without them. Their work is invaluable.
- Thanks a million to the churches of the FM area who have decided that we can accomplish much more together than we ever could alone. It isn't about different churches – it's about 'the church.' Thanks for your trust and your support – I'm so lucky to have you all as peers and mentors!
- And last but not least, special and sincere thanks to the directors who sacrificed so greatly of their time and talents (Art Phillips, Andrea Paulson, Norma Tessmer, Jessica Miller, Amy Kippen, Janel Swenson, & Erik Diederich). These wonderful people are world changers.

God's abundant blessings to you,

Erik Hatch