

May 1 **HARRISBURG**
 3:30 PM Launch from Brethren Housing Association.

May 1 **ELIZABETHTOWN**
Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren; 777 S. Mount Joy Street; 17022
 6:00 PM Arrival, dinner 7:30 PM Taize service in Sr. Hi Room *

May 2 **LEBANON**
Cup of Hope – Jubilee Ministries; 10 North 9th Street; 17046
 3 PM Set up camp 5 PM Soup & Sandwiches
 4 PM Press Conference

May 3 **EPHRATA**
 11:30 AM Tour Cloister Heights facility in construction

May 3 **LANCASTER**
 2 PM Set up camp – Call (717) 571-5285 for location!

May 4 **YORK**
York Friends Meeting; 135 West Philadelphia Street; 17401
 2 PM Set up camp
 4 PM Press conference
 7 PM Presentation and Friends Worship on local homelessness

May 5 **GETTYSBURG**
SCCAP; 153 North Stratton Street; 17325
Gettysburg Church of the Brethren; 1710 Biglerville Road; 17325
 3 PM Setup encampment 6 PM Dinner at church
 4 PM Press conference 7 PM Taize service*

May 6 **CARLISLE**
First Presbyterian Church; 2 N Hanover Street; 17013
Carlisle Church of the Brethren; 1340 Forge Road; 17013
 1 PM Set up camp 6 PM Dinner at church (tent.)
 2 PM Press Conference 7 PM Taize service* at Church of Brethren

May 7 **NEW BLOOMFIELD**
Veterans Housing Project; 13 North Carlisle Street; 17068
 Noon Arrival and photo opp at Perry County Veterans Housing Project

May 7-8 **MECHANICSBURG**
Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren; 301 Gale Street; 17055
 6 PM Arrival & Dinner 7 PM Taize service*
Sunday
 8:15 AM Early Worship 10:15 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Sunday School session 11:30 AM Departure

May 8 **HARRISBURG**
 2 PM Arrival/Homecoming Picnic – Brethren Housing Association

Homeless Horizons Bicycle Tour

A mission of Brethren Housing Association in conjunction with
 Other Central PA Homeless Advocates & Service Providers

May 1-8, 2011

Contact: Christopher Fitz
 (717) 571-5285 (cell)

*Did you know?**

- † More than 1 in 3 homeless people are under age 18 and 4 in 10 of these children are under age 6.
- † Homeless families who are “doubled up” – sleeping in cars and friends’ living rooms – account for an untold majority of the homeless.
- † Families with children comprise one of the fastest-growing segments of the homeless population today.
- † In 2009-2010, Brethren Housing Association turned away services to 564 homeless individuals in Harrisburg because of lack of capacity; *three times the number* as three years prior.

But there is hope for homelessness in Central Pennsylvania!

Join the Homeless Horizons Bicycle Tour to meet some of the people making a difference. From local homeless advocates to tireless service providers to people of faith, the tour will shine a light on creative, collaborative responses to the challenges of homelessness in Central Pennsylvania.

What is BHA? The Brethren Housing Association is celebrating 20 years of service to homeless families in Harrisburg by answering God’s call to serve the poor and expand services. The Homeless Horizons Tour kicks off the 20/20 Vision Campaign and connects with other courageous projects making a difference in Central PA.



- May 1** **ELIZABETHTOWN**
Host: Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren
Local Focus: Elizabethtown is a community of relative wealth that reach out and walk beside those with fewer means. This church already does that significantly through BHA.
- May 2** **LEBANON**
Host: Lebanon County Coalition Against Homelessness and Jubilee Ministries
Local Focus: The Lebanon County Coalition Against Homelessness has identified an urgent county need for an emergency family shelter for 10 families and seeks community support and funding.
- May 3** **EPHRATA**
Host: Ephrata Church of the Brethren
Local Focus: Even as a small town, Ephrata is the site of a major project to rehab a former motel for homeless families. Other projects show the community's commitment to the poor.
- May 3** **LANCASTER**
Local Focus: Downtown Lancaster churches cooperate to offer temporary shelter space in cold months. The Council of Churches even offers free bicycles for low income commuters.
- May 4** **YORK**
Host: York Friends Meeting, YMCA
Local Focus: Though it has many service providers, York currently lacks a coordinated coalition to serve homeless people and many now want to reform that.
- May 5** **GETTYSBURG**
Hosts: South Central Community Action Program & Gettysburg Church of Brethren
Local Focus: Though a small community, Gettysburg and Adams County have formed several community partnerships to address homelessness, most recently in the renovation of a shelter and creation of a culinary arts training program for low income adults.
- May 6** **CARLISLE**
Hosts: Safe Harbour, First Presbyterian Church & Carlisle Church of the Brethren
Local Focus: Cumberland County is challenged by expensive rental housing, pushing many families prematurely into homelessness. Threats of government cuts exacerbate that. Nevertheless, the commitments of Project SHARE, Safe Harbour and others have helped.
- May 7** **NEW BLOOMFIELD**
Host: Veterans Housing Project
 With few guidelines for rural homelessness and sparse resources, the Perry County Housing Partnership has marshaled volunteers to face its challenges with transitional and affordable housing, including the unique Veterans Housing Project.
- May 7-8** **MECHANICSBURG**
Host: Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
 Mechanicsburg is for many a relatively wealthy bedroom community of the Capital region, directly affected by the needs in Harrisburg and beyond.
- May 1, 8** **HARRISBURG**
Host: Brethren Housing Association
 As a state capital, Harrisburg is home to a disproportionate number of low-income and homeless people and families, a challenge exacerbated by a city government in disarray.

Times subject to change. Call (717) 571-5285 for real-time updates.

More facts about homelessness and poverty today**

- † 13% of Americans live in poverty, including one in five children, the highest rate in the industrialized world.
- † 2 million additional American children will fall victim to the foreclosure crisis over the next two years.
- † In Harrisburg, 13% of all the homeless polled lived on the streets. The rest lived in shelters and other temporary housing. Many more are uncouncted living “doubled up” with friends or family.
- † Studies show that investing in homeless support can save public expenditures more than \$1,000 per person/year. **

What can I do?

- † Know someone who is homeless or at risk of losing their home? Take a moment just to listen to them. What do they need? Refer them to an appropriate local agency like those listed on the right.
- † Contact a local agency like those listed and ask what you can do, how you – or your group – can make a difference by volunteering.
- † Donate to your local homeless service providers; the state and federal budget crises have made this even more urgent.
- † Remind your political representatives that investing in homeless services now saves us all money down the road. And it's humane.

Since 1989, Brethren Housing Association has served hundreds of families with housing, support services and loving kindness. Supported by dozens of churches and hundreds of individuals, 14 apartments have been renovated by volunteers to serve the homeless in Harrisburg.

Brethren Housing Association welcomes donations and volunteers to mentor parents and children and to rehab new apartments. For more information or to make a donation contact:

Brethren Housing Association
 219 Hummel Street; Harrisburg, PA 17104
 (717) 233-6016 † www.bha-pa.org

* *Taize* refers to an ecumenical, multi-lingual style of worship begun in Taize, France after World War II to heal the wounds of a divided Europe. Meditative with simple but lush repeating chants, silence and prayers, our service will focus on “*poverty and blessings.*”

** Facts gathered from <http://familypromise.org/fast-facts> and <http://1.usa.gov/kFZYdq>

Follow the Tour on Facebook or: www.2020VisionforHope.org