

Companionship Training for Working with Homeless Persons
- October 31, 2009
North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St, Indianapolis

8:00 – 8:30 – Check-in and Continental Breakfast

8:30 -Session One “The Way of Companionship”

I. Approaching ...

- A. relational outreach and engagement – “from the street to stability”
- B. companionship – a public relationship responsive to suffering, supportive of healing
- C. the visible suffering of homelessness
- D. sensitivity, compassion and concern – natural capacities of a healthy brain

9:30 –II. “Invisible” Suffering in the Human Brain

- A. symptoms of mental disorder, for front line staff and volunteers
- B. beneath the signs of mental illness – what is going on in the brain
- C. suffering and healing – caring for the whole person

10:30 – III - The Five Practices of Companionship

- A. Introducing ourselves – as persons, “professionals,” neighbors, human beings
- B. hospitality –creating safe space; respect; nourishment and refreshment
- C. a side by side stance – looking out at the world together
- D. listening – the gift of hearing another person’s story in depth
- E. accompaniment – taking next steps

11:30 – Lunch Break -

12:15 Session Two “Creating Circles of Care and Compassionate Neighborhoods”

I. Building Healing Partnerships

- A. making a referral – basic steps and major pitfalls
- B. collaboration – roles, limits and boundaries
- C. “hands around the table” in support of recovery and wholeness

1:15 – II. Moving Toward Mutuality

- A. growing authenticity
- B. increasing personal responsibility
- C. developing connections of family, friendship, neighborhood and intimacy
- D. a strengthening of spirit and soul

2:15 – III. Advocacy and Action

- A. the front lines – assertive outreach and “no wrong door”
- B. comprehensive community treatment

3:00 Closing

3:00- 4:00 – Chaplain Rennebohm offers to meet with those who are interested in becoming local companionship trainers.