

# Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



DECEMBER 2019

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*All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish a  
single candle.*



## UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

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Rahway

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CAU Consultant

**Reverend Ronald C. Thomas**  
Fountain Baptist Church  
Summit

**Elder Arthur "Skip" Winter**  
Cranford Presbyterian Church  
Cranford

## About the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

### Our Mission

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council works to facilitate regular interfaith meetings in order to make way for the building of bonds within the interfaith community.

We respect and encourage the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability. We strive to be proactive on social issues.

### Our Goals

- To grow the network of faith-based organizations in Union County.
- To encourage representatives from all faiths to join the Interfaith Coordinated Council including those of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Islamic, and other faiths.
- To be engaged in:
  1. **Community Building** within faith-based organizations and the general Union County population.
  2. The advancement of **Social Justice**.
  3. The intentional **inclusion** of others regardless of gender, faith, race.
- To be active in activities that are inclusive and community building.

### Our Objectives

- Sponsor regular engagement opportunities that facilitate the building of bonds within the Union County interfaith community and their congregations.
- Strengthen the Union County religious congregations through involvement, action and education in self-help.
- Build working relationships between Union County religious organizations and Community Access Unlimited that create opportunities for youth and people with disabilities and their support staff.

### Potential Advantages to Joining the Interfaith Community

- Develop interfaith solidarity.
- Avail yourself of increased visibility within the interfaith community and build opportunities to share educational and community events with the group.
- Build religious membership.
- Gain exposure for you and fellow congregation members to educational opportunities regarding entitlements, housing, and other services, including but not limited to: programs for seniors, youth, people with physical and developmental disabilities, etc..
- Create full and part time employment opportunities for congregation members with CAU.

## Skip Winter -First Presbyterian Church Cranford

**ALL THE DARKNESS IN THE WORLD CANNOT  
EXTINGUISH A SINGLE CANDLE**



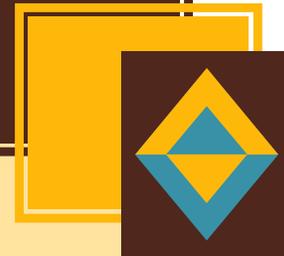
Every month our UCICC Newsletter Team gathers to come up with an appropriate title for our monthly newsletter. This month was no different. Pastor Carmine Pernini of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway proposed the above quote which we will be using.

On November 8 and 9 I attended a conference sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Synod of the Northeast is made up of all of the individual Presbyteries in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. The title of the conference was “Come to the Table – For Such a Time as This: Change Crisis and Opportunity.” The two primary speakers were The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, who along with The Rev. Dr. William Barber leads the Poor People’s Campaign and The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, who is the co-moderator of the PCUSA.

I would add one word that I came away with from the conference: CHALLENGE. As people of faith, we are always being challenged to do more, even if in our own minds we do a lot. Folks who have something, have to give a bit more. Persons who have a lot, have to step up and give more, whether it be in their time, talents or resources. Which brings me to Pastor Carmine’s quote which we are using for this month: “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish a single candle.”

All of us at the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and all of the members and staff of Community Access Unlimited challenge you and the members of your individual faith communities, within your own faith traditions, to keep that candle burning and to make it burn brighter, not only during the month of December, but also into 2020. Faith communities need to stand together to fight all of the darkness in the world and to show everyone that the candle can never be extinguished.

# Homeless Sabbath December 13-15, 2019



## Fourth Annual Homeless Sabbath Weekend

As many of you prepare for the upcoming holiday celebration in your homes and congregations, please remember the many individuals, families, and children who do not have a home for the holidays or throughout the year. **Please give them a voice, hear them, and help them.**

### **How Many of our Neighbors are Homeless in Union County?**

On January 23, 2018, NJ Counts conducted a “snapshot” of homelessness on that one night.

283 households (459 people) were homeless on that night  
41 households (41) people were unsheltered, on the street  
There was a decrease in family homelessness from 2017, by 3%

Primary factors for cause of homelessness:

Asked to leave shared residence 29.6%

Eviction 19.5%

Loss or reduction of job/income 12.5%

### **Homelessness Can Happen to Anyone**

“I’m educated. I look just like you. I walk and talk well. But I don’t have a roof. And I don’t have my own key,” said one of our homeless neighbors.

She became homeless when her rent became unaffordable. Her story illustrates how one crisis can cause someone’s life to spiral into homelessness.



## What can I do to help my homeless neighbors?

**Donate** – Union County has a full continuum of services for the homeless provided by nonprofits. Even a small contribution can help their clients find a place to call home;

**Volunteer** – all the nonprofits need volunteers to help in their work to end homelessness. Every age, skill and talent is needed;

**Participate in Homeless Persons Memorial Day Vigil** – attend the vigil and help remember our neighbors who died due to lack of housing and supportive services;

**Engage** – talk to your family, your neighbors, your co-workers and elected officials about homelessness in Union County and how we need to work together to end homelessness. To achieve that goal, we need to change the conversation and focus on the needs of our neighbors; and

**Form a homeless ministry** - Begin discussions that focus on what more your congregation can do to end homelessness.

### Homeless Persons' Vigil

Tragically, some of our most vulnerable neighbors die on the streets each year. **On December 19, at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 215 Elm Ave., Rahway at 7 PM, a vigil will be held for those who have died in the last year.**

We remember them on the day with the least amount of daylight and the longest night because it symbolizes the struggle of those who are homeless, and who often live out their lives on cold streets or in dangerous abandoned buildings.

*As people of faith we are all called to serve the poor, the homeless, the sick, the hungry...*

**Remind us, O God, that we cannot rest fully secure in our homes each night until all your children have a place to call home.**

*A Little Black Sheep Production*

# *An O. Henry Christmas*

*By  
Howard Burman*

*Directed By  
Lisa M. Black*

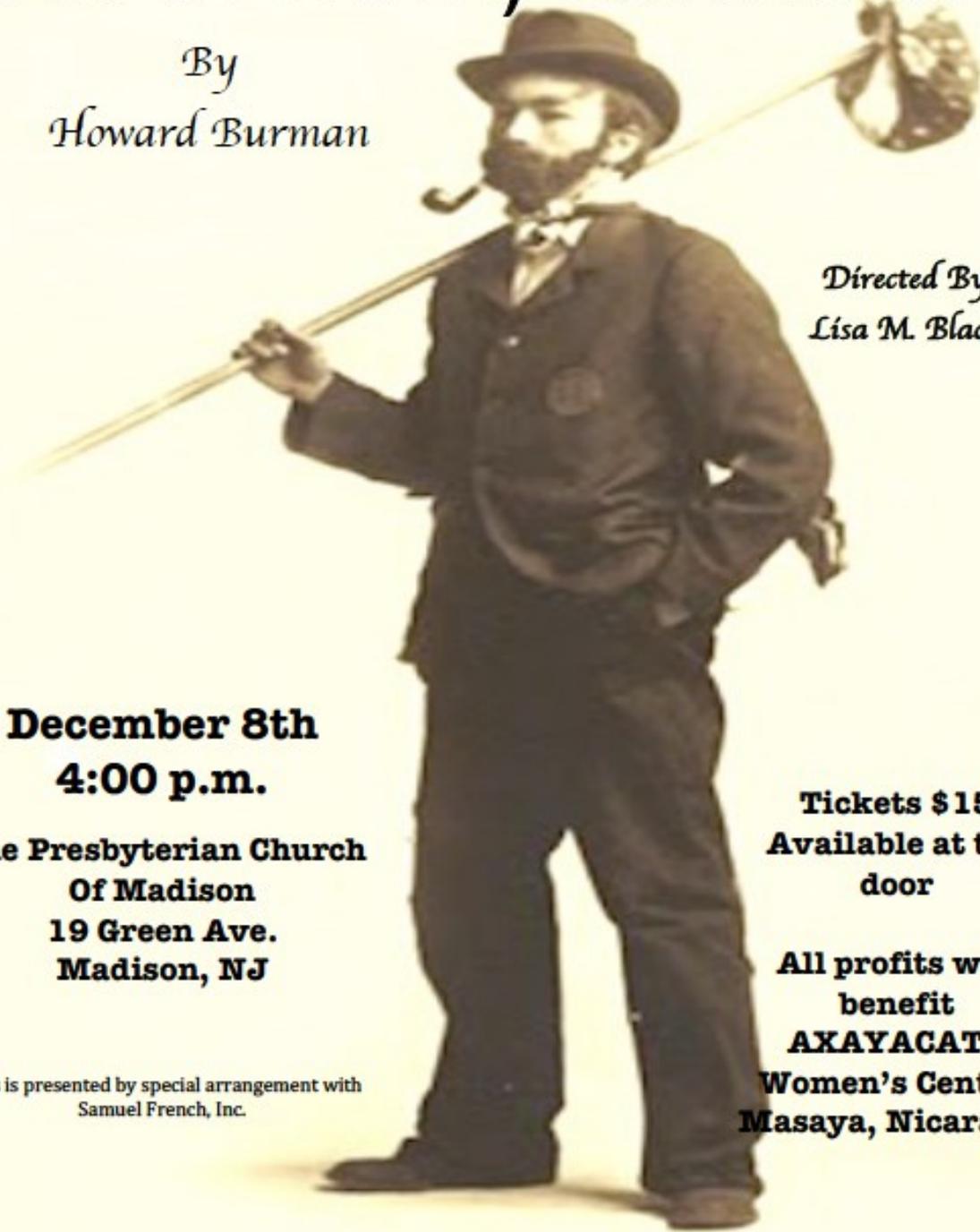
**December 8th  
4:00 p.m.**

**The Presbyterian Church  
Of Madison  
19 Green Ave.  
Madison, NJ**

**Tickets \$15  
Available at the  
door**

**All profits will  
benefit  
AXAYACATL  
Women's Center,  
Masaya, Nicaragua**

This is presented by special arrangement with  
Samuel French, Inc.



# MEMBER ACTION COMMITTEE COAT DRIVE

Do you have an extra coat or two?

**Donate it!**



## Member Action Committee

Is holding a coat drive collecting clean, gently worn  
coats of all types and sizes

Donated coats will be distributed in our local community!

**Donations will be accepted at:**

80 W. Grand St, Elizabeth NJ  
07202 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

11/11/19-12/13/19



**For More Information Contact:**  
Marie Guillaume: [mguillaume@caunj.org](mailto:mguillaume@caunj.org)  
& Howard F. Wingard: [hwingard@caunj.org](mailto:hwingard@caunj.org)

## “A PLACE TO CALL HOME”

by Rev. Ron Thomas

President, Board of Trustees

Homefirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services

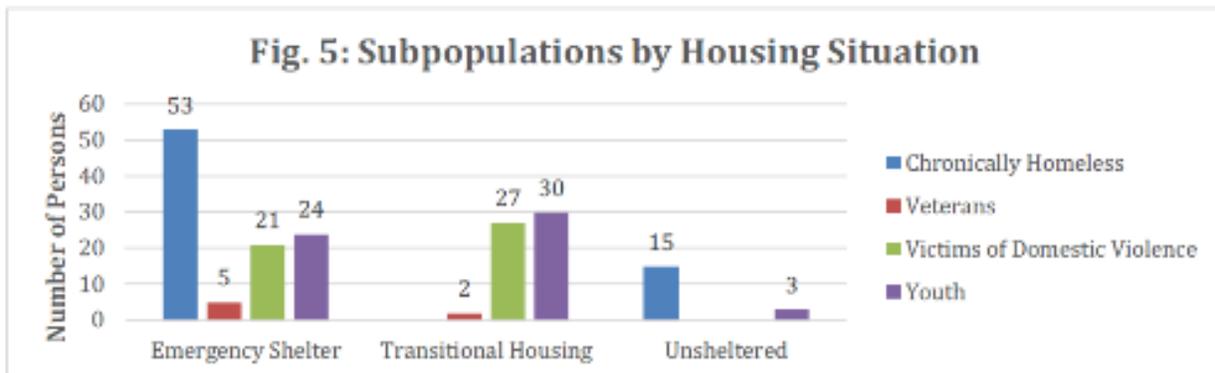
Plainfield, NJ

These words are found on the website of Homefirst Interfaith Housing and Family services and are echoed by many of the non-profit agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations and that provide shelter and housing for those in need across Union County. Our faith and beliefs tell us that we are to care for the least, the lost and the left out, yet homelessness is an ever-present reality that reminds us that one of the most basic needs we all have, has not been met for everyone. Food and clothing needs can be and are met by a number of initiatives on an on-going basis. We all feel good when there is a drive for winter coats to clothe those in need or for food to feed the hungry. However, homelessness is more difficult to respond to because it requires more than the few dollars it takes to buy a coat or for a bag of groceries. Ending homelessness requires a concerted and sustained effort of awareness, advocacy and action in and by the community.

In December 2016, the first annual Homeless Sabbath Weekend took place on behalf of all people who are homeless in Union County. This year Homeless Sabbath will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway. Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council has joined with non-profit agencies and interfaith congregations, including Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Family Promise of Union County, Homefirst, and Monarch Housing Associates to raise the level of awareness of extent and impact of homelessness in Union County.

All too often, we assume homelessness is the result of something a homeless person did. Don't be so sure. The next time you witness a neighbor living on the street, consider the fact that lack of affordable housing is the most likely reason they have nowhere else to go. The next four most common causes of homelessness are Unemployment, Poverty, Insufficient Wages, and, for women, domestic violence.

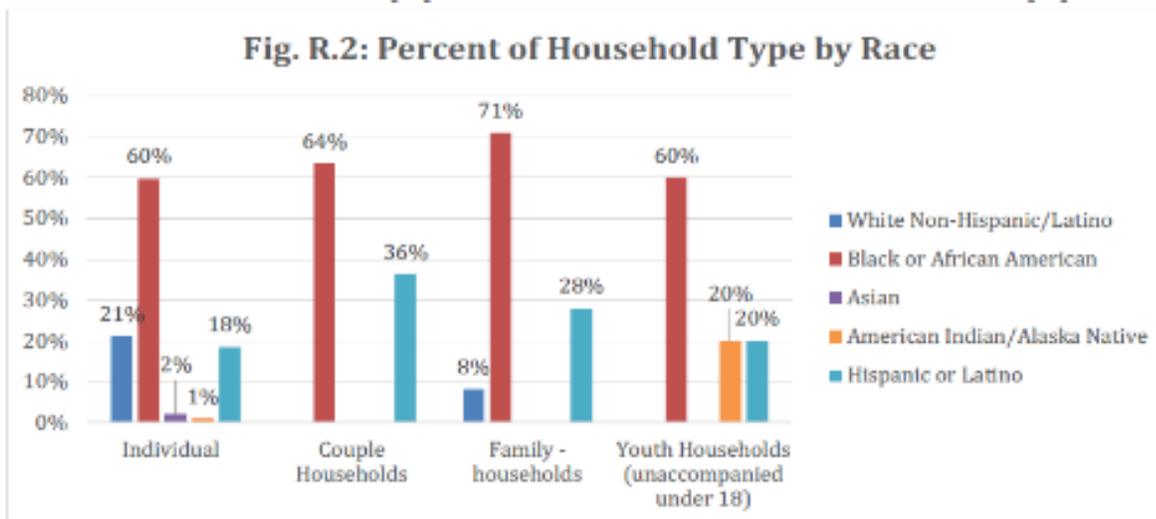
There are numerous homeless statistics that are available at: <https://monarchhousing.org/endinghomelessness/njcounts/> regarding homelessness in Union County, but the figure below tells the story of how many households lack permanent housing.



On the night of January 22, 2019 out of the 438 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 68 Chronically Homeless persons, representing 15.5% of the counted homeless population. There were 7 homeless veterans representing 2.2% of the counted adult homeless population. 48 Victims of Domestic Violence were identified representing 11% of the total homeless population counted. Homeless Youth (individuals and families with heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 13% of the counted homeless population with 57 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type. As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of Chronically Homeless and Veterans were in emergency shelter, while the majority of Youth and Victims of Domestic Violence were in transitional housing.<sup>1</sup>

In looking at the racial breakdown of those experiencing homelessness in relation to the racial breakdown in the general population and those living in poverty, disparate impacts along racial lines become evident. According to the American Community Survey 2017 annual estimates prepared by the Census Bureau, about 557,320 people live in Union County, and

10.2% (56,826 persons) of Union County residents are living below the poverty line. There is a strong correlation between poverty and homelessness, however, the racial determine who will experience homelessness. Given the disparities present in the data, it is evident that systemic racism plays a significant role in factors contributing to homelessness.<sup>1</sup>



Affordable housing is needed to provide a long-term solution to homelessness in the county, the state and the country. The reality is that New Jersey is the 6th most expensive state in the US, requiring earning \$26.52 per hour or \$55,161.60 per year to afford a two-bedroom apartment at a fair market rate of \$1,379 per month. That is out of reach if you are making minimum wage and very difficult even for the average renter's wage of \$16.98.

This affordability gap requires advocacy and action by the community and the response should be led by the faith community. This not a call to start from scratch but rather to partner with and support the organizations that are already providing housing and family services in the county. They need financial help as the government reduces and redirects its efforts to combat homelessness. Even when these non-profit organizations have housing solutions, they need money to maintain their properties, pay staff and provide services beyond what is funded by government grants.

The faith community needs to lead the conversation about the extent and impact of homelessness. Homeless Sabbath is a great time to begin to increase awareness about the issues surrounding homelessness. The challenge is to embrace it by getting involved. Visit a shelter and take the time to talk to someone there. When you do, you will find out that they are not a statistic but God's creation deserving love and compassion. If you leave saying, "There but for God's grace go I", then also say, "Because of God's grace, I have to do something." Sometimes, we can advocate for a homeless person by listening to their needs and offering to go with them to the county One-Stop Career Center to help them connect with the services they need. You will be surprised at what a difference that can make.

Homelessness will not go away by itself. The faith community can have an impact when we come together for a common cause. We cannot do it all and we cannot do it alone. But together we can influence and direct the response, and the outcome.



## Member Action Committee



Please help us collect nonperishable food items for the Our town Food Bank. The food bank serves many families in need within our community. Items needed include canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, rice, beans, pasta, and juice.

**Items can be drop off :**  
**80 W. Grand St,**  
**Elizabeth, NJ 07202**  
**Monday—Friday**  
**Between 8Am—5Pm**  
**11/1/19-12/13/19**



## Food Drive



**Please Contact:**  
**Marie Guillaume [mguillaume@caunj.org](mailto:mguillaume@caunj.org)**  
**Howard F. Wingard [hwingard@caunj.org](mailto:hwingard@caunj.org)**

# Religious Services at CAU

Did you know that the CAU community is exploring religion and having worship in a unique and innovative way?



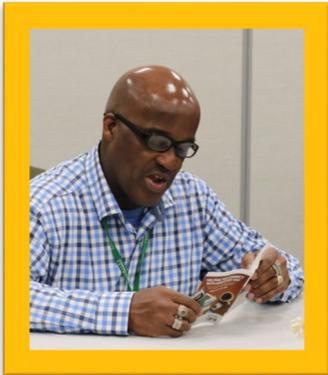
UCICC member, Reverend Aleyah Lacey of Mount Teman A.M. E. Church on Saturdays gathers members of CAU's (Community Access Unlimited) DD Community and TOP youth to explore faith and worship. You are invited to share your faith and talents at these interfaith services. Services are held on Saturdays at 11 am and 1 pm and are for an hour long. If you have a positive inspirational message, would like to provide worship, and have a willing heart to serve please consider being a blessing at these interfaith services.

*Rev. Aleyah Lacey pictured left*

## Our objectives are:

1. To provide a safe space for our members to worship God
2. To foster spiritual growth through the diverse understandings of God
3. To build up the community in faith, hope, and love

If you would like to volunteer in this amazing ministerial opportunity or find out more, please contact Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council at [UCInterfaith@caunj.org](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.org)



# Santa Isabel Lutheran Ministry to Immigrants



This ministry began when I went to the Lutheran vigils at the Elizabeth Detention Center and different persons were talking about what happens inside while we were outside. I remember thinking, and how do we know what really happens inside?

That was nine years ago, and Santa Isabel Lutheran Church has been doing ministry at the detention center ever since. This ministry is not about conversion or about being the one and true church. This ministry is about love, hope, and presence. This is accompaniment with those human beings which freedom has been taken away. We worship, pray, study, and learn from one another being part of the great family of God no matter of race, religion, country, sexual preference, or any other matter that could divide us.

I do not bring God to them, God is already there working in their midst. We are brothers and sisters that gather to reflect how God has been presence and did we felt his presence in our midst.

The message is “We are with you.” Who are we? These are the persons that represent the “we”: pastor, congregation, seminary professors and students, the whole Church, and the members of community.

The people in detention also need to see and hear that not only the local pastor is praying and supporting them but that the whole church is also with them. The photograph is from December 2018 when we brought a Puerto Rican Parranda. The Parranda at the Elizabeth Detention Center followed the Puerto Rican tradition. We gathered not in a porch but in a Conference room with guitar and Cuatro Puertorriqueño (instrument on the right side of the photograph) to practice and began the Parranda to the dorms where we surprised the men and women (separate dorms) with “Feliz Navidad/I want to wish you a Merry Christmas” and other songs. They were awakened not because they were sleeping but because their faces lit up with the joy of the music and the friends who came to their temporary residences. As in the Puerto Rican tradition we went dorm by dorm and even sang a request in the second dorm for “Burrito Sabanero” a song that we sing but learned that is originally from Venezuela. People sang, clapped their hands, and even high fives were shared. The week after the Parranda they were still expressing the joy felt during that time together. This is part of what we do to bring our presence, hope, and love.

God bless you,

Rev. Ramon Collazo

# CAU Provides Support To Homeless Youth



November is National Runaway Prevention Month. According to a study from the University of Chicago, one in 10 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 experience homelessness each year. That's an estimated 4.2 million youth. Running away from home decreases the likelihood that youth will graduate from high school, and homeless youth are at high risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.

Community Access Unlimited works to halt the cycle of homelessness and operates a shelter in Union County. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter is one of the many services provided by the Transitional Opportunities

Program (TOP). The shelter is funded by a variety of resources for flexibility in accommodating at risk youth in Union County and across New Jersey.

“Runaway youth from all over the state can access the shelter, and even those from outside the state can be eligible,” said Marshall Christie, assistant executive director of youth services. “We work with them and whatever resources are necessary to make a path forward.”

The shelter provides short-term emergency/respice care for youth that are referred by law enforcement, schools, social services, family and friends, or those who refer themselves. Services include 24-hour assistance for youth ages 13-17, food, clothing and medical attention, educational and employment assistance, advocacy and support with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, family reunification and linkage to transitional and permanent housing options.

CAU is expanding its youth shelter program through the federal Transitional Living Program (TLP) to now serve young males, as well as females aged 16-22.

TLP services follow a positive youth development approach that offers safety, a sense of belonging, opportunity, independence, and close interpersonal relationships.

CAU outreach workers are bilingual and distribute materials in both English and Spanish. Staff meet homeless youth on the streets, around schools and at other places they congregate.

TLP offers life skills training, including money management, budgeting, education, use of credit, interpersonal skills, job attainment and mental and physical health care. It complements the CAU Basic Center Program, which has operated for 8 years to provide immediate housing and personal counseling needs to homeless youth.

TLP assists members in planning for self-sufficient living and provides follow-up support.

Additional info about the TOP program can be found at [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org)



***Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Vigil  
Thursday, December 19, 2019 at Zion Evangelical  
Lutheran Church, 215 Elm Ave Rahway , NJ @ 7 PM***



*"We are all called to serve the poor, the homeless, the sick, the hungry."*

***Join us for a Sabbath Vigil in praying for the homeless and discussing our call to effect change. Tragically, some of our most vulnerable neighbors die on the streets each year. We remember them on the day with the least amount of daylight and the longest night because it symbolizes the struggle of those who are homeless, and who often live out their lives on cold streets or dangerous abandoned buildings.***

***We are encouraging all who are attending to bring a donation of hats, gloves, sock and scarves to help provide warmth for our homeless neighbors.***

***For a list of participating congregations, please visit:***

***<https://www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil/>***

*Materials for your House of Worship are available.*

***Sponsored by:***



***For More Information, Please Contact:  
Skip Winter at (908) 625-9676or [ahwinterjr@aol.com](mailto:ahwinterjr@aol.com) or  
Rebecca Kasen at (908) 354-3040 ex 4371or [rkasen@caunj.org](mailto:rkasen@caunj.org)***

# *Celebrating* LOVE IN ACTION

*Celebrating those who are demonstrating Love in Action across New Jersey*



Rabbi Elliott  
Tepperman



Christ Our Light



Wind of the Spirit



Dr. Jessica Brater



Sister Veronica Roche



Rev. Barry E. Wise II



Archange Antoine



Muslim Community  
Center of Union County



Rev. Karen Granzen



Jorge Torres



St. Lucy's Church



Reginald Johnson

DECEMBER 5, 2019 • 6:30 PM • \$75 PER PERSON  
THE WINDSOR BALLROOM AT THE HOLIDAY INN  
399 MONMOUTH ST. EAST WINDSOR, NJ 08520

**PURCHASE TICKETS ON LINE**

<https://loveinaction2019.eventbrite.com>



# Union County Homeless Services Resource Information

## Prevention Services & Rapid Re-Housing (rent/mortgage/security/utility assistance)

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark-** 505 South Ave East, Cranford, NJ 07016, (908)497-3900, M-F 9-4:30pm

**Elizabeth Coalition-** 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5pm W 1-5pm

**Plainfield Action Services-** 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-3519, M-F 9-5 pm

**PROCEED, Inc.** – 1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-7727, M-F 8:30-4:30pm

**Salvation Army/Elizabeth-** 1018 E. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)352-2886, Open 24 hours/7 days

**Urban League of Union County-** 288 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)351-7200, M-F 9-5 pm

**Family Promise-** 402 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)289-7300, M-F 9-5 pm

## Emergency Shelters

**Elizabeth Coalition-** 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, ((908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5pm W 1-5pm

**Family Promise-** 402 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908)289-7300, M-F 9-5 pm

**FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.-** P.O. Box 5440, Plainfield, NJ 07061, (908)968-5857, M-F 9-5 pm

**Plainfield Area YMCA-** 518 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-6060, Open 24 hours/7 days

**YMCA of Eastern Union County-** 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/ 7 days

**YWCA of Eastern Union County-** 1131 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-1500, M-F 9-5 pm

## Transitional Housing

**Community Access Unlimited-** 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, (908)354-3040, M-F 9-5 pm

**Elizabeth Coalition-** 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-2060 x 0, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5 W 1-5pm

**Flynn Christian Fellowship of New Jersey-** 1089-1091 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-2265, M-F 6-6 pm

**Homefirst, Inc.-** 905 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-4001, M-F 9-5 pm

**PROCEED, Inc.-** 1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)351-7727, M-F 8:30-4:30 pm

**Raphael's Life House-** 231 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206, (908)354-4750, M-F 9-5 pm

**YMCA of Eastern Union County-** 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/7 days

## **Permanent and Supportive Housing**

***Bridgeway, Inc.*** – 265 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, (908)355-2060 x 0, M-F 9-4:30 pm

***Community Access Unlimited***- 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, (908)354-3040, M-F 9-5 pm

***Elizabeth Coalition***- 118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)353-4006, M/T/Th/F 9-12 and 1-5 W 1-5pm

***Faith, Bricks, & Mortar, Inc.***- 164 East Front Street (Rear), Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-5774, M-F 8:30-4:30 pm

***Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity***- 315 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)769-5292, M-F 10-1

***Homefirst, Inc.***- 905 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-4001, M-F 9-5 pm

***Plainfield Area YMCA***- 518 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)756-6060, Open 24 hours/7 days

***Volunteers of America***- 205 West Milton Avenue, Rahway, NJ, (732)827-2444, M-F 9-5 pm

***YMCA of Eastern Union County***- 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-9622, Open 24 hours/ 7 days

***YWCA of Eastern Union County***- 1131 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)355-1500, M-F 9-5 pm

## **Food Assistance**

***American Red Cross***- 121 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090, (908)232-7090, M-F 9-5 pm

***Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark***- 505 South Ave East, Cranford, NJ 07016, (908)497-3900, M-F 9-4:30pm

***El Centro Hispanoamericano***- 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060, (908)753-8730, T/Th 10-6 W 12-7 S 10-2

***Elizabethport Presbyterian Center***- 200 Second Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206, (908)659-2184, M-F 9-5 pm

***Jefferson Park Ministries***- 477 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07201 (908)469-9508, M-Th 9-5 pm F 9-4 pm

***First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth***-402 Union Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208,(908)352-0519, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Th 4-7pm 4<sup>th</sup> Th 10-1 pm

***Liberty Baptist Church***- 515-517 Court Street, Elizabeth, NJ (908)354-3362, M 10-12 pm

***Salvation Army/Elizabeth***- 1005 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201, (908)352-7057, M-F 9-5 pm

***Saint Mary of the Assumption***- 155 Washington Ave, Elizabeth, NJ (enter church basement), (908)352-5154, Last Tuesdays of the month

**PEACE  
STARTS WITH  
ME**



WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY  
**HEZEKIAH WALKER  
KIM BURRELL  
JOANN ROSARIO**  
AND MANY MORE!

*what the world needs now*

FEATURING THE  
**2000 VOICES**  
**FOR PEACE CHOIR**

Producer and Director

**A. CURTIS FARROW**

**DEC 28** 2019

**RALLY STARTS @ 3:00PM**

JOIN THE CHOIR AT:  
**VOICESFORPEACECHOIR.COM**  
INFO LINE: (973) 643-6262

# Christmas Caroling & Feeding the Homeless



"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish  
the light of a single candle."  
St. Francis of Assisi

**Tuesdays, December 3 & 10, at 7:30pm at Rahway Train Station  
with Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway**

## **Socks and Gloves Weekend December 13-15**

Kindly bring a pair of socks or gloves to worship, to be  
distributed to the Homeless of Union County.

There will be a collection box at the back of the Sanctuary  
next weekend.

**December 21** is the Winter Solstice- the longest night of the  
calendar year. On Thursday, December 19, we will remember  
those who lost their lives, because they had no shelter from the  
cold, at a **Vigil for the Homeless**, at Zion Lutheran Evangelical  
Church, 215 Elm St. Rahway at 7p.m.

# Why Your Faith Community Should Become a 2020 Census Official Partner

The 2020 Census is fast approaching, and faith leaders play a key role in this important effort. The U.S. Constitution requires a complete count of the nation's population every 10 years. Census data impact decisions at the national, state, tribal, and local levels—from congressional representation to the annual allocation of more than \$675 billion. These resources are essential to the well-being of all of our neighbors, supporting schools, hospitals, fire departments, and more.

The U.S. Census Bureau partners with the faith community to get the word out about the importance of the count. Faith leaders are trusted voices in their communities. You know how to reach your congregation and members; hard-to-count families, individuals and children; other national and local leaders; and key stakeholders. By being a 2020 Census partner, you can inspire your community to support a complete and accurate count.



## What is a 2020 Census partner?

Your community of faith or faith-based organization would join a network of nonprofit, corporate, public sector, and community organizations working to educate the public about the 2020 Census and encourage households to fill out their census form. Together, we can develop solutions to reach everyone. Faith community partners—including religious denominations, faith communities, and national and regional faith-based organizations and institutions, governing bodies and councils, and local congregations and members—are important 2020 Census voices.

## What does a partner do?

You can make a difference in the places we live, work, and worship. We ask you to join us in ensuring we count everyone living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place, including helping us reach hard-to-count members of the community. The Census Bureau will provide resources that make it easy to help, including social media posts; handouts and posters; and e-mail, bulletin, and newsletter content.

## Here are some of the ways you can help:

**Communicate to your members:** Highlight the 2020 Census in e-mails, bulletins, newsletters, and mailings to increase awareness of why the census is important. Hang posters in common areas, like the cafeteria. Link to <2020Census.gov> on your Web site and include 2020 Census messages on social media and in faith-based media.

**Add your voice:** Write a blog, op-ed, or letter to the editor on why participating in the 2020 Census is important to those you serve. Mention the 2020 Census in speeches. Tape a public service announcement or testimonial and post it to your Web site or share it with faith-based media. Serve on or support a Complete Count Committee, or start one of your own. (Visit <2020census.gov/partners> and click on Complete Count Committees to learn more.)

**CONTACT US TODAY!**  
CENSUS.PARTNERS@CENSUS.GOV  
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS

**Shape  
your future  
START HERE >**

**United States  
Census  
2020**



# SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE

at TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## ROCK OUT FOR

## “SANTA IN BLUE”

# HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

A rock festival to help the Union Police Department collect toys for needy children.

*WITH PERFORMANCES BY.....*

ROBERT HILL BAND: MELINDA DAVIS: JAKE THISTLE  
RAY POWERS/MIKE ZUKO & FRIENDS *feat:* ERICA COHN:  
CARLA ULBRICH (Singer/songwriter/comedienne)  
slam poetry by SAINT PAT *and more.....*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM**

**ADMISSION per person: A new, unwrapped toy with a value of  
\$20.00 (or \$20 cash at the door)**

*Admission includes hot & cold snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts*

Original art by Local Artist **ANDREW WASHINGTON** will be on  
display at the **ROADHOUSE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS**

The show will be recorded by UNION TV34 for their "UNION AFTER DARK" nightly music series  
Plenty of free parking in our two lots and on the street

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ 829 SALEM ROAD UNION NJ 07083**

PHONE: 908-686-1028 (leave message) E-MAIL: [salemroadhouse@gmail.com](mailto:salemroadhouse@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [www.roadhousecafe.org](http://www.roadhousecafe.org) FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse](http://www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse)



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

Community Access Unlimited welcomes those with a big heart! Due to our continuing expansion, there are a number of *full time* and *part time* openings for those interested in guiding people with disabilities and youth at risk who are on the road to independence.

For those looking for part-time positions, CAU offers available house on the weekends and overnights! Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purpose
- Original High School Diploma/GED/College Degree

Experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or youth at risk are a plus! Of course compassion for the work and a flexible schedule is also required when providing support to our members.

Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org) for more information and current listings. openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## CAU Hosts weekly Open Houses

**Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM**  
**Fridays from 12 PM - 2 PM**

**80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202**

Don't forget your resume and come prepared to fill out an application

To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 4203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to [rwright@caunj.org](mailto:rwright@caunj.org).

## UCICC –CAU COMMUNITY HELP LINE

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH FOOD? HOME HEALTH OR PERSONAL CARE  
HOME AND PROPERTY CARE  
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

Call CAU's Information and Referral Office at  
**908-354-3040 [X 4272]** for answers and resources.

CAU's community service mission includes providing direct services to people in need as well as information on how to locate services provided by other agencies.

This month we highlight **one of CAU's services available to qualified recipients** in our Union County communities.

**Free home delivered meals** [6 week program; one meal per person per day] for Union County residents who are US citizens and their families who need food and who are:

\*Age 59 or younger [head of household]; \*Living in low income households;

\* Unable to access adequate food for themselves and their families.

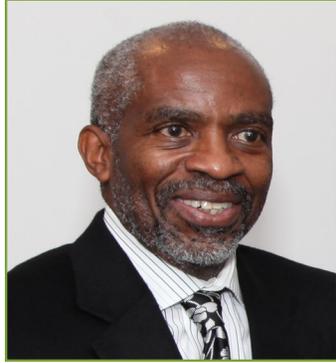
\* Documents and interview are required to qualify.

**Contact extension 4272.**

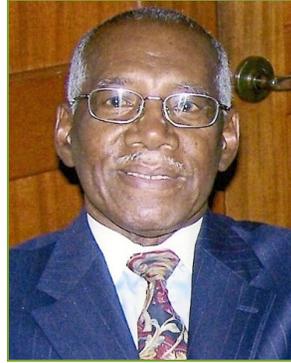
# UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,  
Executive Director  
Community Access Unlimited  
sblanchard@caunj.org*



*Roderick (Rod) Spearman  
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
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*Pastor Howard A. Bryant,  
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
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UCICC Interfaith Coordinator  
cpernini@caunj.org*



*AH 'Skip' Winter  
UCICC Steering  
Committee Member*



*Michelle Mobley  
CAU Director of Youth  
Service Residential  
mmobley@caunj.org*



*Rebecca Kasen  
Director of Advocacy  
Community Access Unlimited  
rkasen@caunj.org*

## Join & Be Active Today!

- Attend monthly meetings.
- Invite other community leaders to attend our meetings and events.
- Support or host fundraising programs to support the Record Expungement Grant Program.
- Sign up for our mailing list.
- Share useful information about your organization.

Contact Rod Spearman at  
908-354-3040 x 4324  
for more information on becoming  
a member



### Advertise in the UCICC Newsletter!

Have an exciting event or program happening?

Reach out and build bonds with members of the interfaith community in Union County by advertising in this newsletter!

Please send all print-ready ads to Rod Spearman at [rspearman@caunj.org](mailto:rspearman@caunj.org) by the **13th** of every month to save a space!



Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council c/o Community Access Unlimited  
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: (908) 354-3040 x4324 • Email: [UCInterfaith@caunj.org](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.org)

[www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil)



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID**  
PERMIT 225  
Elizabeth, NJ

80 West Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629  
Fax: 908-354-2665 www.caunj.org

**Community Access Unlimited's Mission:** *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

## UCICC & STEERING COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

### UCICC Steering Committee

December 5, 2019 at 10am  
80 W. Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

→  
See Right side

### UCICC Steering Committee

January 2, 2020 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202

→  
See Right side

### UCICC Steering Committee

February 6, 2020 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202

→  
See Right side

### Homeless Person's Memorial Day Vigil

December 19, 2019 at 7pm  
Zion Lutheran Church  
215 Elm Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065

### Embodying MLK: A Community Organizing Event

Date and time will be announced shortly

### NJ Youth Orchestra Performance & Event

February 8, 2020 at 11 am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202



Rod Spearman  
Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council  
c/o Community Access Unlimited  
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
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