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E-Newsletter

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**Agency Spotlight: VEAP - Bloomington**

VEAP, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People, will be able to better serve their clients in 2006 with a new freezer and refrigerator provided through an Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless grant of \$6,280.

VEAP strives to provide financial, emotional, and physical support to low-income individuals and families living in the communities of Bloomington, Edina, Richfield, and a small portion of Minneapolis. VEAP's programs are designed to meet both the present and projected needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled citizens.



VEAP's Emergency Food Shelf provides a four-day supply of food, every thirty days, to residents experiencing a food shortage. The need for the VEAP Emergency Food Shelf continues to grow. In recent years, the number of clients served has increased by over 10%. Approximately 45% of the clients served are children.

[Click here to learn more about VEAP...](#)

**Agency Spotlight: People Incorporated - St. Paul**

With winter upon us, Open Your Heart is pleased to award a grant to People Incorporated for \$10,000. Survival gear, such as tents and sleeping bags, will be purchased with these funds for those living without shelter.

People Incorporated operates 36

**The Need is Now:  
Health Care for the  
Homeless**

People experiencing homelessness are three to four times more likely to die prematurely than their housed counterparts, according to a study released on December 21, 2005 by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council in observance of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

Entitled "Premature Mortality in Homeless Populations: A Review of the Literature," the study found that premature death is more highly associated with the presence of acute and chronic medical conditions than with mental illness, substance abuse, or hypothermia.

Jointly, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council sponsor the memorial day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to

programs in five counties of the Twin Cities metro area, including crisis management services, residential programs, drop-in resource centers, living skills support services, and case management services. Specialized programs also serve persons with mental illness who are also deaf/hard of hearing, developmentally disabled, or who live without shelter.

For chronically homeless individuals living on the street, the transition from the street to permanent housing is made in stages (as necessary) and People Incorporated staff work to create a service environment where individuals feel at ease, out of danger, with flexible program services to meet their needs.

Through outreach People Incorporated staff work to develop relationships with the clients, help them access mental and physical health care, explore their interest in getting housing, learn about their skills and work towards greater self-determination and independence.

[Click here to read more about People Incorporated...](#)

#### **Agency Spotlight: The Bridge - Minneapolis**

Open Your Heart is proud to help The Bridge in their work with homeless youth. The Bridge is using a \$10,000 Open Your Heart grant to make needed renovations - repair and paint walls, tile bathrooms and fix furniture. In addition, they will be purchasing a dishwasher, refrigerator and freezer with the funds.



Many families struggle when their children reach adolescence. Some reach a breaking point resulting in a young person being thrown out or running away. When that happens, both the young person and the family need somewhere to turn, right away.

The mission of The Bridge is to ensure a safe and enriching environment for youth in crisis by providing shelter, building life skills, and assisting families in conflict.

The Bridge's services are free and confidential, and available 24 hours a day. They provide immediate shelter and safety for youth in crisis, with caring and experienced counselors to help them find solutions to the difficulties they face. They work with both parents and youth, helping them resolve family conflicts and rediscover their common ground. The Bridge helps young people reconnect with family, school, and community, strengthening families and helping prevent youth homelessness.

[Click here to find out more about The Bridge...](#)

remember our homeless friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

[Click here to learn about the National Health Care for the Homeless Council...](#)

#### **Quick OYH Links...**

[Donate Now](#)

[Grants Awarded as of December 2005](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Application Guidelines](#)

[www.oyh.org](http://www.oyh.org)

#### **More Links of Interest...**



[Exhibit: Portraits of Home](#)



[Recommended Reading from Hunger Solutions](#)

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