

The Heart & Soul of Downtown Diversity...

...do we dare accept the challenge?



Why are you here – what
interests do you have?

Bread of Life Ministries

Who is this guy?

- Dean Lachance – Executive Director
- Brother in Law to Laurie Lachance – MDF...That's why I got this gig?!
- Bread of Life - Non- profit - 25+ years
- 25+ Years – 2 Fortune 500 companies....
Exec. In Tech. Corporation, Director at Unum, Exec. Dir. Of 4 non-profits (Retreat & Conf. Ctr, 2 Churches, and Bread of Life)
- Degree in Computer Sci, with Business Background – Masters in Theology

Hungry

Homeless

Hopeless

Helpless...



.... There is food, there is shelter, there is hope, there is help!

“Bread of Life Ministries feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, and provides services that help people change their lives and take personal responsibility. God calls us to minister to one another and assist those in need.”

Ending the Cycle of Poverty in Greater Augusta



*Cycle of
Poverty &
Homelessness*

1 - Survival: Emergency food & shelter

2 - Stabilize individual/family – emergency needs

- Food, Shelter, Health Care, Mental Health, School for kids

3 - Assess Situation

- Determine Reasons for Homelessness, Financial situation, Support system, etc.

4 - Create a Plan to Self Sufficiency & Hope:

- Case Management – toward permanent Housing

- Resource Center - toward Self Sufficiency

PERSON TO PERSON SUPPORT, CARE & SUCCESS!

The Core – Food & Shelter



Soup Kitchen

- Since 1984
- Now: 36,000+ meals/year
- Up to 200 meals/day
- Open to all, no questions

Homeless Shelter

- Since 1986
- Now: 20 beds + 10 overflow
- Usually full/over capacity
- 1 of 3 is a child
- > 60% families
- Ave. stay is 90+ days
- Questions asked!



Transitional Housing (Since 2002)



**Hospital St.
2 Bedrooms for family**



**Libbey Place – (3) 3
Bedrms for Families**

**The Core –
Food & Shelter**



Crosby St. - (4) 2 Bedrms for Families



Boothby St. – (9) 2 Bedrms

Short-term for Families

Human Support \longrightarrow Self Sufficiency

(Resource Center & Case Management: - Pulling it all together – Piloted 2005-2007)

Education - Skills - Jobs

Physical - Mental - Spiritual



Permanent Housing

Transitional Housing

**The Core –
Food & Shelter**



Family Services

Housing Services

WHY - Causes of Homelessness in Maine

- Extreme Poverty
 - > 1/2 report \$0 Income
 - Ave. Income per household: \$240/month
 - 10% TANF, 12% GA, 21% Food Stamps, 29% SSDI
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Lack of Employment
- Substance Abuse – 60%
- Mental Illness – 45%
- Violence in household – 90% Experienced Severe Trauma
 - Sexually abused as child: 52% Women, 35% Men
 - Sexually abused as adult: 64% Women, 26% Men
 - Attacked w/ weapon: 49% Men, 37% Women
 - Witness killing or serious injury: 43% men, 24% Women



Creating Self-Dignity & Self-Sufficiency

Some of our
Success Stories,
Meet your Neighbors...*

** Names & pictures changed for privacy*

Jeannette & Abby* – Single mom & baby 60 days in Shelter



- Left Dom. Violence Situation
- No room at Fam. Viol. Shelter
- Medical Assistance obtained for both mom and baby
- Connected to housing
- Connected to job
- Connected to child care
- Is doing much better

* *Names & pictures changed for privacy*

Sandra* & 4 children (ages 8-16) 90 days in shelter



- Fiancé died
- Friend could no longer house them
- Moved into BOLM Transitional Housing
- Obtained Govt. Agency job, & keeps getting better jobs
- Developed relational skills
- Received language classes
- Able to get 1 child left in group home to Maine
- In process of moving into her own home

** Names & pictures changed for privacy*

Challenges Bread of Life has experienced

- NIMBY
- NEVER a shelter!.... Body in river
- “Those people”
- Security
- Cooperation – Federal/State/City/Neighbors

Downtown Diversity

What are we talking about?

Is it a priority?

If it is a priority – what is the plan?

Do we agree as a community?

Houston Press - 2002

No, diversity isn't the name of a bar or restaurant or nightclub or coffeehouse or loft or even theater or sports stadium. But it applies to them all and more. And that's the ultimate attraction of a downtown that's alive. With the central city's growth (under those clouds of construction dust), no one or two clubs or eateries can lay claim as the ultimate magnet -- indeed, no one sector or group can do it, either. Our downtown is emblematic of a city that has really come together. Where else does an Astros fan belly up to a bar for a postgame beer and wind up befriending the martini couple closing out an evening after the opera? How about the businesswoman kicking back with the bohemian set? The homeless can even remind the high-rollers about the realities of the world -- something that doesn't happen in The Woodlands. There are plenty of good cafes and bars far away from Houston's heart -- but no outlying area can come close to the variety that underscores downtown's vitality. If the city has any sense, it will protect this diversity that makes a trip into town so delightful and dynamic.

What Ithaca NY has to say about Downtown Diversity....

(www.downtownithaca.com)

Priority Statement of Ithaca NY

“Downtown is the community’s center. It is the hub of our region’s commerce and the center for social interaction. It is everybody’s neighborhood, not the domain or jurisdiction of any single group of people. It is important, indeed imperative, that downtown retain this distinction. Diversity is an important, necessary downtown experience. We count everyone, business owners, employees, landlords, downtown residents, downtown patrons, to make diversity an organic part of our downtown.”

The Dimensions of Diversity?

Ithaca NY - (www.downtownithaca.com)

“A commitment to diversity means that ‘all’ people should feel welcome in downtown. What do we mean by ‘welcome...’?”

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Age
- Income
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability

The Dimensions of Diversity?

Ithaca NY - (www.downtownithaca.com)

“What do we mean by welcoming...?”

- By welcoming, we mean comfortable and at ease.
- Safe, secure, equally treated.
- Positive experience, not singled out because they are different
- All rules of business apply to all
- Good customer service that is welcoming... and beyond good customer service to overcome our biases in the workplace.
- Downtown is everyone's neighborhood!

What Bread of Life has done to integrate and be part of whole -

Each part has responsibility too!

- Every building we take over improves the facility and neighborhood to make it cleaner and safer
- PILOT – Payment in lieu of taxes
- Positive relations with partners – federal, state, city, police, parole officers, neighbors, businesses, University, schools, churches...
- Neighborhood watch program - goal
- Many Thank you's! & 25th anniversary
- Donation Center
- Work with press

A Recent Collaborative Effort: UMA & Bread of Life Ministries

3 Professors' Idea: combine 3 courses, Architecture, Art and Philosophy for 9 credits and collaborate with a local non-profit on a significant project to help the students with real life needs and assist a non-profit.

- Architecture – to redesign and maximize space
- Art – to offer color and art options
- Philosophy – to understand the philosophy of service and offer service time to non-profit

A Recent Collaborative Effort: UMA & Bread of Life Ministries

- Architecture – Redesigned and maximize space for new shelter, day shelter and Center for Life Skills (J.T.G. House)
- Art – New color for soup kitchen and art display and lighting for art gallery options
- Philosophy of service: provided painting for soup kitchen, soon to have new designs for JTG House complete, new outside garden, play and smoking areas at shelter

Downtown Diversity

If a community can agree on the meaning of
“downtown diversity” ...

If it is a priority and bought into by the community...

Then a plan can be created (with incentives?) to make a
diverse, safe, welcoming downtown that everyone wants
to be part of.

The alternative is trial and error, go it your own and build
bridges or barriers whenever you can.

OR

A defined community with limited diversity for a defined
population.

Downtown Diversity

Do you have a definition?

Is it a priority?

Is there a plan?

Is the community in agreement?