3-2-1989

Upcoming: UD Students Gain First-Hand Experience About Plight of Homeless

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The experience of spending a cold night in the open may do more than anything to emphasize the fact that homelessness is a growing problem in the United States.

This weekend, University of Dayton students will be experiencing 24 hours of homelessness, participating in a letter campaign to legislators, and donating their time and effort to a number of local agencies for the homeless. "Weekend in Solidarity with the Homeless" (W.I.S.H.), sponsored by UD's Campus Ministry, is an awareness program that will also provide hands-on help toward alleviating the problem.

For further information, contact Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C., at (513) 229-2576.

HOMELESS EXPERIENCE—Approximately 75 UD students have signed up to spend 24 hours without a home. Bedtime on Thursday, March 2 will find them in the Kennedy Union Plaza, where speakers and a prayer vigil will help occupy the hours until morning. Coffee and rolls will be served for them for breakfast on Friday, March 3, and a soup line will be set up at noon on the plaza for the homeless students.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING—A letter-writing campaign to legislators urging support for the affordable housing bill in Congress will be conducted throughout the W.I.S.H. program. A rally will be held on the lawn by Kennedy Union on Friday, March 3 at 3 p.m., led by Dean Lovelace, a director in the UD Strategies for Responsible Development-Neighborhood Development Office. Participants will then march to the Federal Building downtown where there will be a demonstration in support of affordable housing legislation.

WORK PROJECTS—UD students participating in the W.I.S.H. program will be donating hands-on help to agencies in the Dayton area on Saturday, March 4. Projects include:

1. Operation VIP: About 25 students will help insulate up to six homes by participating in DP&L's Operation VIP beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday. For addresses of the homes to be insulated, contact Connie Eldridge, DP&L coordinator for Operation VIP in the south Dayton area, at (513) 259-7569.

2. Habitat for Humanity: Ten students will help renovate a house by participating in the Habitat for Humanity project on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For location, call (513) 229-2576 during weekday business hours.

3. Booth House: About five students will help put the final touches on this new shelter for the homeless, located at 624 S. Main St. in Dayton. They will be at the shelter from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4. St. Vincent Hotel: Laundry will be the main project for several volunteers at St. Vincent Hotel, located at 212 W. Fifth St. They are expected to be working from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

5. House of Bread: A one-person cleaning project is on the schedule for the House of Bread, located at 547 Salem Ave. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.