



Sample Letter to the Editor

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One afternoon last winter when I was at the library I noticed a man who seemed to be using the library as a place to stay warm. He was napping in a quiet corner of the stacks and he seemed to have many of his worldly possessions with him. I had seen this same man at a very early Mass at St. Dominic's. I came to the conclusion that this man was homeless. And it shocked me to realize there are homeless people in Smallville.

I know every family has members who are troubled or in need of some kind of assistance. But somehow I thought that in Smallville, people "take care of their own." But this man is one who is falling through the cracks.

There are many reasons why people become homeless: lack of funds, poor health, problems with alcohol or mental health. But helping people who are homeless feels like a responsibility we have in our community.

There is a group which has been meeting every month at St. Dominic's to try to do something about homelessness. One solution we've talked about is Supportive Housing. These are regular apartments where each tenant also has access to assistance from a social services organization. The goal of all the services, like employment counseling, therapy, access to proper medication or other services is to help people stay in their housing. It has been proven that supportive housing works. I hope many members of the community will join me in trying to solve this problem which affects people in Smallville.

Joan Jones