INTRODUCTION

With the problem of homelessness being as widespread as it is, the responses to it have been varied as well. As a whole spectrum of service provision and programs has sprung up in a multitude of localities to address the crisis. All over the nation people are forming policy, developing programming, and engaging in research. For these reasons, assuming we can learn from the experiences of others, we bring to you the second installment of the "Homeless Consulting Network." This section is designed to establish processes through which program directors, policymakers, and concerned individuals across the country can dialogue and share their expertise. To this end:

- We ask our readers to inform us of any innovative or effective programs that they know of.
- We are interested in any findings that as yet unpublished research may have uncovered.
- We are interested in hearing from the homeless themselves. We ask our readers to send us any verbatim quotes that they may have.

We hope that sharing such information will make a small dent in homelessness-related social distress.

This section will contain information which may be useful to practitioners or other interested parties. Relevant information should be forwarded to Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless, c/o Jeffrey S. Grunberg, 6 East 43rd Street, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10017.

1Correspondence should be directed to: Jeffrey S. Grunberg, Grand Central Partnership, 6 East 43rd Street, Suite 2100, New York, New York 10017.
INNOVATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMMING

Multi-Service Center/On-Site Medical Services

The Center for the Homeless, Inc. in South Bend, Indiana, operates a residential community center for homeless people. Serving both its 135 overnight guests and the non-residential homeless people of the community, the Center offers an array of services from meals and showers, assistance with entitlements, job training, medical, dental, and mental health services, drug treatment and therapy, legal counseling, a variety of educational programs, and case management. The medical services, provided through their Madison Center located on-site to offer immediate accessibility, is one of ten such centers in the country. They include medical and mental health screenings, testing, group therapy, and referrals, as well as an intensive outpatient program that continues to work with ex- and non-residents. Consultations both by appointment and on a drop-in basis are available. For more information, contact Lou Nanni, Executive Director Center for the Homeless at (219) 282-8700.

The Network

The 34th Street Partnership, the managing corporation of a Business Improvement District located in the heart of New York City’s retail giants, has devised a way to capitalize on the sometimes dormant motivation of homeless “box” people as well as to encourage social service agencies to work together. The program, called The Network, brings together 5–15 agencies twice a month to participate in a social services fair to which 15–25 street homeless men and women are invited. With the promise of breakfast and $5, people sleeping in public spaces are invited as they wake up on the day of the actual event, to come to the fair and choose from among the agencies, one that best fulfills their needs and aspirations.

Once a homeless person chooses an agency at the fair, The Network pays the agency $15 for each day that the new client is served at the agency. When The Network client has secured either housing or employment, he or she is eligible for a crisis intervention loan payable to a third party (landlord, realtor, store) to help them with the high costs of transition and adjustment. This interest-free loan can be paid back either through weekly cash installments or community service hours. For more information, contact Jeffrey Grunberg, Vice President of the Grand Central & 34th Street Partnership at (212) 818-1777.