

A Statement from Faith Community Leaders in Thurston County

Every day, our human community is faced with challenges in building up and supporting the common good.

Famine, war, widespread disease, dispossessed peoples, the threat of tyrants and dictators all test the human spirit and remind us that we are stronger and better when we stand together. Currently we are reminded that one billion people worldwide live in poverty and violence. Nationally, sixteen million people live in a state of "severe poverty."

On the local level, we are reminded of this as the "Poor Peoples Union" and "Camp Quixote" (our newly formed Tent City) invites us to solidarity with those who have fallen upon hard times. It is not our duty to judge what led to the residents' circumstances but to care about those who are most at risk in our midst. We must look for a way to live together across the socio-political, religious and humanitarian dimensions of our common life.

We, leaders of faith communities in Thurston County, recall the teachings of our religious traditions that enjoin not only charity but also active engagement to better the lives of our sisters and brothers who have slipped in the realm of "the needy."

While we are aware that the activities of the Poor Peoples Union and Camp Quixote have become a lightning rod for disdain and controversy in our community, we also recognize that the poor have a religious and constitutional claim to dignity and well-being.

The poor will not go away, no matter how much some of us wish they would; our lives are affected by their poverty as if it were ours. If we are truly one nation under God, then their despair is ours and we must act. Our prayer is that the public, private, charitable and religious communities of Olympia extend understanding, hope and assistance to those women and men who share the fabric of our society.

Our willingness to reach out to those at the margins of society defines us as people of faith and morality. If we fail in this outreach, we fail our entire community.

As we have united together in the past to overcome incredible challenges and turn them into grace-filled opportunities, may history record that now is the time that Thurston County came together to lead the way into dignity, responsibility and hope for all.

The Rev. George Anne Boyle, Vicar, St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Doug Dornhecker, St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia
The Rev. F. Mark Dowdy, The United Churches of Olympia
Rabbi Seth Goldstein, Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Olympia
The Rev. Canon David C. James, Ph.D., St. John's Episcopal Church, Olympia
Kathy Mallalieu, Clerk, for Olympia Friends Meeting (Quakers)
The Rev. Mary C. Olney-Loyd, Minister, First Christian Church of Olympia,
(Disciples of Christ) .
Sister Maureen O'Larey, OSB, Prioress, St. Placid Priory, Lacey
Kathleen Peppard, Lay Leader, Community for Interfaith Celebration, Olympia
Howard Ullery, Pastor, Lacey Community Church
The Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Minister, The Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of
Olympia
The Rev. Dr. John R. Van Eenwyk, St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, Lacey
The Rev. Peter Van Zanten, Vicar, St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Olympia

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT TENT CITIES

And
CAMP QUIXOTE

Q. *What is a Tent City?*

A. A tent city is a residential site for homeless people who seek to provide security for themselves and their modest possessions, protection which is not available to them if forced to live on the street. A tent city, hosted by a faith community, can serve as a bridge between the necessity of living on the street or in the woods and the as yet unfilled promise (for many) of adequate and affordable housing.

Q. *Is the current tent city, known as Camp Quixote, unique to Olympia?*

A. No. Tent cities are found elsewhere in Washington, most notably in the Seattle and King County areas. Tent cities have also arisen in St. Petersburg, Florida, Toronto, and Paris.

Q. *What are the origins and history of Camp Quixote?*

A. Camp Quixote has been in existence since February, 2007. It began as an encampment in downtown Olympia and was evicted from a vacant lot, there being no provision in the Olympia zoning ordinance for such temporary sites. Camp Quixote and its approximately 30 residents were then welcomed by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Olympia's Westside. That congregation and the City of Olympia entered into a Compliance Agreement permitting the Camp to remain on the church's property for 90 days, subject to certain conditions relating to the public's health and safety.

With the expiration of the 90-day period in May 2007, the camp moved to The United Churches and was successively hosted by St. John's Episcopal Church, and First United Methodist Church of Olympia. On December 29, 2007, First Christian Church became the fifth Olympia church to step forward as a host of the camp.

Q. *Is a temporary homeless encampment now a permissible activity on church property under city ordinance?*

A. Yes. The Cities of Olympia and Tumwater have now taken the initiative in adopting emergency ordinances for temporary homeless encampments (to become final in January 2008) that have their sites on faith community property. The city of Lacey is similarly moving toward adoption of its own ordinances, which will authorize encampments in that jurisdiction, thus recognizing the need for such facilities as regional in nature.

Q. *Why are faith communities acting as hosts for Camp Quixote?*

A. Immediately after the formation of Camp Quixote, several Thurston County clergy joined in a statement expressing the prayer that religious communities extend “understanding, hope and assistance to those women and men who share the fabric of our society.” It was then time to “walk the talk.”

There is a practical justification for faith community involvement, as well. As confirmed by court cases around the country, local governments cannot simply use the absence of provisions in their zoning codes for homeless encampments in a way that will prohibit churches and other religious organizations from fulfilling their missions as expressed in Matthew 25:35 – “*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*”

Q. *What is the population of Camp Quixote?*

A. The city ordinances now in effect, or as proposed, limit the population of these encampments to a maximum of 40 residents. That number is subject to reduction, depending upon the size of the site provided by the church or other faith community. Historically, the population has not exceeded 30 persons. The present population at First Christian Church is about 21 residents.

Q. *Who are the residents of Camp Quixote?*

A. Single men and women of adult age. No children are allowed. The residents’ situations defy stereotyping. They include some persons who have lost employment, others who have day jobs at minimum wages and for whom outlays for rent at current market rates are simply unsustainable. Other residents, suffering from physical or mental illness, have no services available to them.

Q. *Who is qualified or unqualified for residency?*

A. All seeking admission to residency in Camp Quixote undergo a background check conducted by law enforcement agencies. Registered sex offenders or those with outstanding felony arrest warrants (determined nationwide) are disqualified for residency. Residents must agree to abide by the Camp's Code of Conduct, now incorporated in the Olympia ordinance, that prohibits alcohol and illegal substances in the camp, theft and violence, including sexual predatory conduct. The Camp's residents enforce the Code and evict offenders, with oversight from the host church. Applying these restrictions, Camp residents decide who will be admitted into the Camp when there are vacancies.

Q. *What does "hosting" involve for a church or other religious community?*

A. Subject to their available outdoor space, "Hosts" provide a residential tent area for up to 40 persons, and in addition space for food and security tents. Sanitary toilets, owned by the Camp, must be accommodated, unless the Host chooses to make its indoor facilities available. Hosts, with the participation of the Camp's residents, provide 24/7 security for the protection of the Camp and as insurance to the neighboring areas against unwarranted activities (e.g., loitering) by the Camp's residents.

Q. *What hosting costs might be involved and in what amounts?*

A. Host expenses have included servicing of the outdoor toilets, currently at the rate of \$235 per 28-day billing. Hosts have provided bus passes, either monthly passes (\$25 per person) or in such other amounts as the Host may decide. In this regard, the Camp's residents are taking on an increased responsibility for their personal transportation costs. The hosts have also provided cell phone service limited to the use of those staffing the host (security) table for emergency and other communication purposes.

In the past, hosts have also provided propane heating on the Camp's site during the cold months. Previous hosts have occasionally borne some capital costs, notably for fencing around the camp as required by ordinance. This material is the property of the camp, which has recently been incorporated as a non-profit corporation, and travels with the camp as it moves to additional locations.

Host churches have borne the costs of supplying water and limited electrical service to the camp.

Except for the occasional donation of meals or snacks by the hosts or other contributors, hosts have not provided food service. They may allow residents of the camp to cook on the premises, subject to the health and safety conditions of the ordinances, which prohibit “open fires” and require satisfactory disposal of “gray water” generated by cooking and cleaning.

The experience of past hosts suggests that the costs of hosting the camp for a 90-day period may be \$3,500 – \$ 5,000, the variation generally depending on what the host agency is willing to provide in the way of certain individual necessities (*e.g.*, tents, blankets, tarps) or amenities such as prepared meals, etc.

Previous hosts have found that voluntary contributions from their members (*e.g.*, responses to “special offerings”) and, on occasion, surprisingly generous donations from others in the Olympia community have defrayed a significant portion of these costs.

Camp residents are expected to bear at least a share of the costs for supplies and sundries (*e.g.*, paper plates, bowls, cups, plastic tableware, and coffee).

Q. *Is there a prospect for support from others for a host church?*

A. Yes. Experience has shown that members of other churches, notably from previous host churches and the larger Olympia community, have volunteered their time to take a three-hour shift at the host’s security table. In addition, efforts are well underway to provide additional assistance through a support organization which will enlist the participation of other faith communities, other community organizations, and individuals in sustaining a tent city for as long as such a resource is needed for some part of the homeless population.

This support organization, known as “Panza” (after Don Quixote’s follower) is likely to follow the model of a similar supporting resource at work in alliance with tent cities in the Seattle/King county area.

CAMP QUIXOTE “OPERATIONS AND SECURITY” PLAN (submitted to Olympia as required by ordinance)

Operations

- Camp Quixote and its residents will conduct the internal affairs of the community consistent with the provisions of the City of Olympia ordinance governing temporary homeless encampments, including conformity to the terms of the Code of Conduct and observance of the health and safety requirements, with particular reference to the sanitary conditions, as described in the ordinance.
- **Governance.** Camp Quixote has recently incorporated under Washington State law as a non-profit corporation and adheres to the provisions of that statute in regard to corporate directors, officers and members. An operational component of the community includes a unit of three “liaison” members of the community, selected on a rotating basis to oversee the day-to-day operations of the camp.

The camp’s members meet regularly (historically on a weekly basis) to discuss the operations of the camp, to resolve democratically any concerns, and to plan activities which will constructively further the interests of the camp and its residents as a community.

- **Coordination with the Host Agency.** Using its governance structure, the camp shares oversight of the camp's operations with the Host Agency consistent with the obligations imposed on the Host Agency by the encampment ordinance.

In this regard, a Host Agency Steering Committee works with the leadership and residents of Camp Quixote to provide services to the camp and to insure efficiency in its operation. The Steering Committee includes members of the Host Agency designated by its leadership, representatives of the camp's residents and persons from previous host agencies experienced in the operations of a homeless encampment.

- **Other Host Agency Activities.** The Host Agency provides hospitality to residents and information about community resources to residents, facilitating their access to such resources when feasible. Together with representatives of the camp, the Host Agency will provide information about the camp and its current operation to authorized visitors at the camp and to others who may inquire.

Security

- **24/7 Onsite Hosts.** Members of the Host Agency, volunteers from faith communities, others in the community, and camp residents staff a security table at the camp entrance on a 24/7 basis. Security hosts must be at least 18 years of age. Training will be provided to those who staff the host table.
- **Controlling Access to the Encampment.** Persons seeking access to the camp as visitors must first sign in at the host table and must have been authorized for entry by residents of the camp, those staffing the host table, or by the host agency. A list of individuals not allowed in the camp, including persons who have been expelled from the camp and are no longer eligible for reentry, is maintained at the host table.
- **Other Responsibilities.** Those staffing the host table will report unruly residents, including those whose activities constitute violations of the Code of Conduct, to the encampment leadership.

Activities that cause undue disruption in the camp community will be the subject of action by the camp leadership and the camp residents, with participation by the Host Agency and its representatives when deemed essential.

Host Table staff will be visible and available at all times to camp residents, neighbors and visitors. They will observe neighborhood activity for loitering, whether by camp residents or others, and when necessary will call law enforcement for assistance.

Together with representatives of the Host Agency and the camp leadership when necessary, Host Table staff will work with owners and occupants of neighboring properties to resolve concerns regarding the operations of the camp.

- **Consideration of Applications for Residency.** Persons who seek residency in the camp are required to submit their names in writing, together with date of birth and verifiable identification as prescribed in the city ordinance. Applicants who are registered sex offenders as provided by law or who are the subjects of outstanding warrants are ineligible for residency.

Camp Quixote Comfort and Safety Plan

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Olympia is hosting Camp Quixote, Olympia's tent city, from Saturday, December 29, 2007, through March 22, 2008. This is a response to a need for housing for the people who live in Camp Quixote. The Camp leadership screens for sex offenders, and has strict self-governance. In order to address community concerns for the safety of the surrounding property, and in order to buffer the residents of Camp Quixote from negative community responses, there will be a 24/7 troop of trained Comfort and Safety Hosts.

Each host will undergo training on what to do in various situations, and will be provided with a list of telephone numbers and community resources. Training is available for large or small groups or on an individual basis. (Call the church

office, 360-943-8025, for information or to scheduling training.) The hosts are the eyes and ears of the community, and maintain the connection between the Camp leadership and the community.

Please contact the Comfort and Safety Host Coordinator, Jerry Smith, at 360-xxx-xxxx? or by email x.....@....., if you have questions about the Comfort and Safety Plan or Hosts.

Camp Quixote Rules

ABSOLUTE RULES are necessary to keep the camp functioning and in compliance with church rules and government regulation. If these rules are broken the offender **MUST** be evicted for at least 30 days or permanently by the moderators or at a specially called meeting. Future admittance must follow admittance rules and policies. All charges must be brought by 3 citizens with substantial evidence.

1. Having alcohol or illegal drugs in camp at any time. No exceptions.
2. Violence of any kind, fights, serious threats, forced sex, sexual harassment, bullying, or extortion of any kind.
3. Theft of any kind.
4. If a citizen disturbs the camp for any reason they will be asked to leave until they regain control. This eviction will be for 24 hours and will not affect the violator's citizenship status. Continued disturbance will result in permanent eviction.

These rules must be enforced, no exceptions.

A citizen will forfeit their residence if they leave the camp, for more that (7) days, without

informing the camp that they will be gone longer. If a citizen forfeits their place in camp they will be required to go through the camp's regular admission policy. The camp will be the citizens' sole residence. ...

All citizens must participate in the life of the camp. Camp citizens will be required to spend at least 6 hours per week in service to the camp. In order for the camp to function each citizen must participate. If a citizen chooses not to participate the camp will discuss sanctions at the camp meeting. Continued non participation may result in a 24 hour or longer eviction. .

All areas of the camp must be kept clean at all times.

Only papered service dogs will be allowed to be residences of the camp. The dog owner is required to pick up after the dog and make sure the animal is under control at all times.

Camp safety is the responsibility of all camp citizens. Citizens will take their turn at the host table at the entrance of the camp. Citizens will behave in a safe manner at all times. Open flames are not allowed in personal dwelling, tents, huts, or other structure.

All visitors must sign in at the security table, indicating who they want to visit.

Only that cooking allowed by the host church and health officials will be allowed in the camp.

Camp citizens will treat all community people courteously.

The call for a special meeting must be made 24 hours in advance of the meeting by 3 citizens, a notice must be posted so all citizens can see it.

Admission to the camp, as a citizen, requires that a prospective new citizen be selected from the top of the waiting list. ***No one will be admitted who is not on the top of the waiting list.*** If the person at the top of the list cannot be found the next person on the list will be chosen. This method insures fairness and eliminates unfair admission.

The new citizen will be admitted on a probationary period of one week, final admission will be voted on at the next regular meeting after the probationary period.

When any person brings a friend into the camp, the friend will be governed by the camp population and admission requirements. There will be no instant admissions. All overnight guests must pass a background check.

All camp decisions will be made by a majority vote during a regular or properly called

meeting. All decisions of the camp will be made in an open meeting with a majority vote. Three citizens are required to call a special meeting.

The camp will elect three (3) moderators to liaison with the community and the camp. The moderators will be the spokespeople for the camp, and will be responsible for keeping order in the camp, and calling special meetings. The moderators have the emergency authority to evict citizens if a behavior threatens the camp. All three moderators must agree on the eviction.

The term of the moderator will be (3) three weeks. He or she will be succeeded by a newly elected moderator with a three week term.

Three moderators will be elected to start, one (1) for one week, one for (2) two weeks and the third for (3) three weeks. The one with one week will be replaced at the end of one week by an elected moderator with a three week term; the moderator with a two (2) week term will be replaced at the end of two weeks by an elected moderator to a three week term. Each week one moderator will be elected to a three week term.

These rules can be amended by a 2/3 vote of the citizens, with agreement of the host church, and informing the local government regulating the camp. Intention to amend the rules must be posted ten days prior to voting on the change, the vote will take place at the next regular meeting.

Camp Quixote VI Code of Conduct

As a community of love, we all understand the need for guidelines of protection and safety.

No alcohol use

No drug use

No violence

No forced sex

No stealing

No uninvited guests will be welcomed

RESIDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREEMENT

This statement is to be read, (or if reading is difficult, it will be read by an assigned camp leader) and signed as a written covenant of good faith and promise of adherence to the requirements of the City of Olympia ordinance for homeless encampments, between members of Camp Quixote and the First Christian Church of Olympia. As a community of love, we all understand the need for guidelines for protection and safety.

As a resident of Camp Quixote, now located on the property of First Christian Church, I have read and understand the two agreements which follow and which are necessary for our camp community.

1. Our code of conduct states that there will be no alcohol, drugs, violence, stealing, or forced sex in our camp community. In addition, we will follow this and the requirements of the Olympia ordinance, which additionally prohibit (i) weapons in the camp (including knives over 3.5 inches), (ii) no unapproved open flames, (iii) trespassing or loitering on private property in the surrounding neighborhood, or littering on such property or in the encampment.

As members of Camp Quixote, we will be reminded of these rules at our regular meetings and will enforce them. In addition, for the safety and well-being for us all, no uninvited guests will be welcome. We will uphold this commitment.

2. As a resident of Camp Quixote, I agree to hold First Christian Church harmless if something happens to me on its property where we have currently been granted sanctuary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

PANZA - What It Is, What It Does

PANZA is a Thurston County collaboration of faith communities, individuals and organizations that work with residents of South Sound tent cities to establish themselves as healthy communities while growing toward new and creative housing opportunities.

PANZA, partnership with tent city residents, supports South Sound tent cities in these ways:

I. Recruits host agencies, advising them on application process to city, organizing their public meeting, overseeing process for staffing host table and providing financial support. PANZA maintains the logistics manual of camp operation for use by volunteers and host agency steering committees, and training and mentoring for steering committees and/or volunteers.

II. Communication and Advocacy

Maintains a central repository of information, including camp histories, documentation of the processes and procedures needed for the smooth running of tent city communities, and history and current status of efforts to provide host agencies; supplies updated public relations materials; makes referrals when needed to social services providers; maintains a speakers bureau and other forms of community outreach; advocates for tent cities and low-income housing options with local and state government and other agencies and organizations committed to addressing issues of housing and poverty.

III. Organizational and Operational

Includes developing and implementing fiscal policy pertinent to the operation of tent cities; seeks a 501c3 organization to serve temporarily as fiscal sponsor until PANZA is ready to seek its own nonprofit tax status; recruits volunteers to organize fundraising events and/or engage in grant writing on behalf of tent cities.

IV. Development of Community Self-sufficiency

Includes providing workshops to help develop and stabilize communal life (e.g., anger management, running effective meetings, active listening, leadership development); meets regularly with camp leadership to maintain open communication; periodically reviews camp protocols to determine effectiveness and need of revision

Camp Quixote Comfort and Safety Host Job Description

when camp was hosted by First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 701 Franklin Street SE <http://www.firstchristianolympia.org/> ~ 360-943-8025 ~ email: ccfirst@qwest.net

Host Services

- Provide hospitality to residents
- Be aware of Camp Quixote rules, policies and procedures
- Control entry of non-residents
- Provide information about Camp Quixote and area resources to residents and visitors
- Report unruly residents to Camp leadership
- Stay visible and approachable to residents, neighbors and visitors by being in the Host tent
- Observe neighborhood activity
- Call law enforcement if appropriate

Minimum Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age or if younger, work with a adult volunteer
- Two people hosting per shift are preferred
- Need to be available for a three- hour shift
- Attend host orientation training, provided at First Christian Church 701 Franklin Street SE or serve with experienced host. If unavailable for this vital orientation we will gladly arrange for a one-on-one session.

To volunteer as a host:

Send an e-mail to tucocamp@gmail.com with the date and time you prefer to volunteer. You will receive a reply that you have been scheduled for a shift. A volunteer calendar, updated daily, can currently be viewed at The United Churches web site: www.theunitedchurches.org Click on the Camp Quixote link. Or copy and paste in the following:

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tucocamp%40gmail.com>

Volunteers are need for all shifts, including from midnight to 3 a.m. and from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., and on weekends.

The Camp is located in the First Christian Church covered parking area at 701 Franklin Street SE.

What to Know and What to Do as Hosts

(based on a document prepared by Lee Johnson for The United Churches of Olympia)

Introduction

This is a summary reminder of responsibilities and resources for hosts. This practical advice addresses the recurring situations in and around the camp and how to deal with some other matters which may arise less frequently, if at all.

In addition to this information, hosts should also review the materials presented at the orientation session and the **Host Table Manual** (three-ring binder) kept at the host table.

Purpose for Security “Hosting”

The compliance agreement between the church and the city which governs the temporary residence of the camp at the church requires that, “The camp will provide 7-day a week, 24-hour a day security.” The security is provided by volunteers from the host church and other churches, the community at large, and the camp residents themselves.

The security ensures that, in addition to protection of the residents’ tents and belongings during the time residents are away from the camp, the residents themselves will be free from intrusion by unauthorized persons coming into camp. **Authorized persons** are those whom camp residents have agreed to have visit the camp. Visiting hours, as established by the camp, are 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. No overnight stays are permitted for visitors.

The security also provides surveillance for the protection of the immediate neighborhood against unwarranted intrusion or interference by camp residents or those who might otherwise be drawn to the camp area by the presence of the camp. Experience to date indicates this has not been a problem.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR HOSTS

Becoming Acquainted and Working with the Camp Residents

It is rare during the three-hour daytime and evening shifts when one or more of the residents doesn’t pay a visit to the host table and occasionally offer to share the security responsibility with one of the volunteer hosts. These interchanges are a special opportunity for volunteers to get to know

the residents. Residents can and do provide helpful assistance when situations arise requiring knowledge of the camp residents, their tent locations and other matters involving the operation of the camp.

Non-resident volunteers should also come to know the names of the current camp residents and the location of their tents. Both are documented in the **Host Table Manual**.

On a rotating basis, the Quixote community elects three leaders (“mediators”). A list of those currently in leadership positions is posted near the host security table. **These persons should be informed and consulted** when questions about the camp’s policies might be involved or when issues arise which the host feels needs to be addressed immediately.

Information to Be Maintained During the Shift

- **The Camp Log.** In a spiral notebook, hosts are asked to “sign in” and record those matters arising during the shift which may be of continuing importance for the hosts to follow, for the camp residents themselves, or that may otherwise depict the three hours spent. As to the latter, literary license is accorded, particularly when things are quiet or inconsequential during the shift. **We do need to know** when the companies servicing the porta potties come, the recycler, and the garbage is collected. Hosts coming on to their shifts should review the “goings on” during the previous shifts by talking with the hosts just leaving, and by reading the camp log.
- **Visitor’s Sign-In Sheet.** Non-residents wanting to come into the camp should be asked to sign in by name and the person(s) to be visited. If the host is not certain about a person’s status as resident, the person should be asked directly about this. **Persons banned from camp.** The **Host Table Manual** contains a list of persons who the camp residents have banned from entering the camp. The hosts must challenge any such person attempting to enter, and should immediately seek out one or more of the camp leaders for assistance. If there is indication of violence, **call 911 immediately**.
- **Waiting List.** There will be persons seeking residence in the camp. Decisions are made by the camp’s residents when there are vacancies, and after a background check is performed on each applicant. Persons seeking residence must write their full name and date of birth on the waiting list (also at the table). They can check

back in person at a later time or call the camp phone number (349-6395) to learn the status of their request.

- **Host Sign-up List.** The large white board behind the host table contains a four week schedule of persons hosting for each shift. Volunteers are encouraged to use the online shift calendar and email sign-up process; however, those stopping by the host table to sign up may leave their names and preferred shift for referral to the Volunteer Coordinator, Maria Garner. Her contact information is included in the separate Contact Information document included with these materials. (Maria Garner, 360-888-4171. Her email address is tucocamp@gmail.com. To view the volunteer schedule on the Internet go to <http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tucocamp@gmail.com>
- **Use of the Camp Cell Phone (349-6395).** There is a camp cell phone at the host table. Phone usage is for the hosts' limited incoming and outgoing calls. Use of the phone by residents should be discouraged unless there is an appropriate reason, *e.g.*, communicating with an employer providing day work for the resident. Many residents have their own cell phones and sometimes share with each other. As a practical matter, hosts who have their own phones will probably bring them while on shift.
- **Contact Numbers and Related information.** A full list of contact numbers is included with this orientation packet. The hosting experience to date indicates that these contacts should cover the range of situations which hosts might encounter.

During January 2008, hosts and residents of Camp Quixote were invited to write their comments about hosting. The following statements are representative of the comments collected as of January 27, 2008.

HOST SURVEY RESPONSES

Representative Answers

Before my first shift as a host I wish I had known...

- the designated residents to call on if I was unsure of what to do.
- a surefire way to put residents' names and faces together.
- which tents belong to which residents.
- how cold it is sometimes.
- where to refer people who wandered in asking about shelters, housing, etc.
- how easy it is to be a host.
- how much I would enjoy hosting.
- how safe I would feel.

Since hosting at the camp I have learned...

- that the residents are much like the rest of us - kind to each other and gracious to the hosts. I have changed my perspective on homelessness.
- the residents are ready and willing to help.
- that 3 hours can go by quite quickly. People are people, no matter what.
- a better understanding of the residents' immediate needs - the same basic concerns as those of us in a "more normal" housed situation
- that this is a step in the transitional housing for homeless.
- how wonderful the camp residents are – and smart and funny!
- this is a great community of people. Just witnessing the care and love and work of the residents is a blessing.

- how bright, capable and creative the residents are, and how many townies come by to help.
- that this camp is essential for Olympia. It is a blessing to be able to do a small part to keep the camp going.
- the variety of people here and the tight community they have formed.
- that there is much to do besides hosting, such as referral to resources, employment, listening, etc.
- the people here are like all of us; various circumstances have put them here; we shouldn't judge.

My advice to new hosts is...

- to be a learner. Ask questions. Be alert to people who come in to the camp who are not welcome. Have visitors sign the guest book. Notify camp leaders if there is an issue.
- listen and learn. We have much to gain from new friends.
- get to know the residents and be a good listener. If a problem arises, notify a camp leader.
- dress warm!
- talk with the residents. They are great resources of life experiences.
- bring a movie or something to read.
- have an open mind to whatever you encounter.
- hear their stories.
- relax and enjoy!

I continue to serve as a host because...

- the residents have become my friends. I listen for ways I can help. I am impressed by their example of true community.
- I support the camp and the churches that stepped forward. My pastor encouraged me in a letter.
- I am doing tangible good here.
- of the great people, and to help them stay up and running.
- it grounds me. I get caught up in the "rat race" and coming here puts perspective on things. I always go/come away grateful and hopeful and recommitted to kindness.
- I believe it is a worthwhile thing to do. I want to help, even in small ways. I hope more attention can be paid to the bigger issue of homelessness and its many causes.

- it reminds me not to take for granted the basic shelter/warmth/electricity needs that we all have. It is important to give to others who have had misfortunes in life.

RESIDENT SURVEY REPSONSES

Representative Answers

Since hosting at the camp I have learned...

- everyone is scared of the homeless
- people in this world (in this town) do seem to care about me. I'm "Somebody", not a "Nobody."
- I have duties as a resident to participate as necessary to keep this going.

My advice to new hosts is...

- don't be afraid of us as homeless. We are all individually just as you are.
- enjoy yourself. Relax. Get to know people and the surroundings. Hear our stories and how we try to help ourselves.
- be here and you will feel good about yourself because you are being an understanding, caring, helpful, open-minded, most of all compassionate human being.
- get to know other hosts and the residents.

As a camp resident, I want hosts to...

- talk and get to know residents.
- give us some time. We can organize our life, but first we have to take care of our temporary home, Camp Quixote.
- remember when writing in the sign-up book (the log) that each host reads what you wrote. It can be very interesting to read what others had to say as they hosted. Make it more fun by making funny and positive comments, not negative.

- do not treat us like children but people who are caring and loving individuals who the government and state have forgotten about.

HOST CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CAMP QUIXOTE

Host Table Telephone (old, 0 minutes cell, for 911 only)

*Call for information and to determine the daily designated representative on duty
(as required by Olympia ordinance)*

Camp Quixote Volunteer Coordinator for The United Churches

Otavio Lima (if no internet access, call The United Churches' Office, 360-943-1210)

tucocamp@gmail.com

To view the volunteer schedule on the Internet go to

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tucocamp@gmail.com>

First Christian Church Steering Committee

Leah Wilson

Lwilson372@aol.com

360-491-8508 (Home)

360-556-4187 (Cell)

First Christian Church Pastor

Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd

marycolney@qwest.net

360-943-8025

First United Methodist Church Steering Committee

Mike & Kathy Leonard

kmleonard@comcast.net

360-352-2075

St. John's Episcopal Church Steering Committee

Paul Peck 360-480-5537
Mindy Chambers 360-352-2149 (Home)
mphome@orcalink.com 360-250-6671 (Cell)

Unitarian-Universalist Steering Committee
Bill Arnesmeyer (camp liaison) 360-534-0323
Arensy67@peoplepc.com

The United Churches of Olympia Steering Committee
Mark Dowdy 360-943-1210
markd@theunitedchurches.org

CITY OF OLYMPIA PERSONNEL

- Olympia Police Department (non-emergencies)
Lt. Jim Pryde 360-753-8255
Lt. Ray Holmes 360-753-8204
- Code Enforcement Officer (Georgia Sabol) 360-753-8393
- Encampment Permit Administrator
Jennifer Kenney 360-753-8014
- City dumpster and recycling service
Paul Peck is Camp contact. See, above

CAMP QUIXOTE OPERATIONS

Portable toilets pumping [Rob's Excavating] 360-426-6697
(Office)

Emergency (Brian). Call: 360-239-2298 (Cell)

OTHER COMMUNITY SHELTER RESOURCES

Faith Community "Overflow Shelter Network",
for women, married couples and families
with children 360-528-8999

[Note: *To determine shelter availability and,
directions, call between 7:00-9:00 p.m.]*

Emergency contact for other temporary shelters

- For emergency family shelter needs, call *after 9:00 p.m.* **360-259-2005**
- For overnight men's shelter
 - (1) Salvation Army (cold weather shelter)
5th & Plum, Olympia **360-352-8596**

(2) St. Michael's Shelter for Men. 1021
Boundary St. SE, Olympia. *Call Emergency*

Shelter Network between 7:00-9:00 p.m.

360-528-8999

[Note: (10) bed availability Mon.-Wed. nights,

also on Thurs., Sun. nights during

inclement weather.

(Nov.-March only)

(3) Sacred Heart Shelter for Men, Lacey. *Call
toll free between 5:15-6:30 to pre-register*

1-866-923-4355

[Note: (10) bed availability Thurs., Sat nights]

(Nov.-March only)

Camp Quixote Website

<http://campquixoteoly.googlepages.com>

The United Churches Website

<http://www.theunitedchurches.org/>

06/21/2008