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*Michelle Smith, Interim President*  
*Rev. Hardist E. Lane, Director*  
*John Barner Williams, Director's Consultant*

**H.E. Lane Center For Positive Change**  
Fresh Start-First Base Systems  
Location: Mount Carmel  
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Phone: (847) 864-6550 – Fax (847) 864-6730  
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<http://www.evhomeless.org/firstbasefreshstart>

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Dear friends and the faith based community,

Evanston is experiencing an increased rate in regards to ex-offenders and the homeless. The H.E. Lane Center is calling on the faith-based community to raise awareness and support.

**Focus:** The H.E. Lane Center will primarily concentrate its efforts on addressing the issues that negatively impact the lives of ex-offenders. Examples of specific interventions are: housing, employment, transportation, addiction evaluation, and counseling.

**Resources:** The City of Evanston is rich in a variety of human resources and, where appropriate, clients will be referred to specific community resources as opposed to attempting to provide all services through the limited resources of the H.E. Lane Center.

**Financial Assistance:** The H.E. Lane Center will provide financial assistance to clients when its resources permit and the service is not available from community resources.

The H.E. Lane Center is a non-profit organization and our goal is to help the ex-offenders and the homeless be re-established as a productive citizen in the Evanston community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Reverend Hardist E. Lane or John Barner Williams by calling 847-845-6550 or 847-845-4481. We hope to hear back at your earliest convenience. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

### **A General Overview of Our HE Lane Center Operations**

The HE Lane Center for Positive Change Fresh Start/First Base provides assistance to the chronic homeless, temporarily homeless, and to act as an advocate for offenders. This includes assistance with housing, employment, educational, and vocational referral. It provides assessment, counseling, and case management. We provide a place for the homeless of people in transition to have use of phone for calls and messages, receive their mail, send and receive faxes, make copies of documents, resumes, and letters etc. We provide a room for the homeless and offenders to gather for two hours a day. We provide a telephone line for messages to be left and received by this population of people we serve and an access to a fax and copy machine.

HE Lane Policy:

- Open from 2pm – 4pm, Monday – Friday
- Supervised by volunteer and staff
- Provide a permanent address
- Our main objective is for the population of the people we serve to be able to communicate
- Keep their checks and mail locked up safely
- Show ID for retrieval of items
- Limited amount of time for each person on phone
- From 9:30 am to 12pm we do follow up assessment, case management, counseling, court appearance, transport clients for housing, employment, and substance abuse treatment

- We have support for individuals and we also schedule support group meetings

## **Overview of the Homeless**

### **Question: Who are homeless people?**

**Answer:** Council to Homeless Persons Defines a homeless person as someone who “is without a conventional home and lacks the economic and social supports that a home normally affords. She/he is often cut off from the support of relatives and friends, she/he has few independent resources and often has no immediate means and, in some cases, little prospect of self-support.”

### **Question: How many homeless people are there?**

**Answer:** It is difficult to collect statistics on homeless peoples, as they do not all use specific homeless services. People may experience homelessness a number of times through their lifetime, which also makes measuring difficult. It is often a hidden contention where people stay with friends or live in squats because they have no permanent home.

### **Question: What causes homelessness?**

**Answer:** There is no simple answer to this question. A range of factors may contribute to homelessness, but the most common cause is when people lack sufficient income to meet their housing needs.

Housing related problems are not the only causes of homelessness. Other factors contributing to homelessness are:

- Violence (particularly domestic violence)
- Unemployment (particularly long-term)
- Shifts in the housing market (e.g. Melbourne’s current low vacancy rates in the private rental market)
- health problems (including mental illness)
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Disability
- Family breakdown loss of social support networks

## **Poverty and Homelessness**

It is estimated that 575,000 rental households live in housing related poverty and approximately 250,000 households are on public housing waiting lists. A sole-parent pensioner with one child was likely to pay 48% of income renting a two bedroom flat at the lower end of private rental market. An unemployed couple with two children was likely to pay up to 39% of their income renting a two bedroom flat. Those paying more than 30% of their income in housing costs are deemed to be in housing stress and are at greater risk of becoming homeless, particularly if they lose their jobs.

The majority of clients using homeless services are reliant on government benefits. Only 6% of all clients were employed (full time or part time) and 3% were employed on a casual basis. The majority of clients aged over 15 received government payments as their primary source of income, with 95% of those aged 65+ being reliant on government payments. However, 84% of clients under 15 and 25% of clients aged between 15 and 19, reported as having no income prior to using SAAP.

## **Youth Homeless**

### **Question: Who are homeless young people?**

**Answer:** It is a sad indictment on modern society that the number of young homeless people continues to rise. Young homeless people are often unsafe in the family home; in conflict with family members; at risk of abuse and assault on the streets and in state care; and unable to earn enough income to access a reasonable level of housing. These problems are often exacerbated due to young people's relatively low income earning capacity, their low level of power within society, unacceptably housing high rates of youth unemployment, and discrimination in accessing housing. The majority of homeless young people are only homeless for brief periods, while those that are chronically homeless (sometimes referred to as "street kids") is a small minority.

**Question: How many young homeless people are there?**

**Answer:** It is difficult to measure the number of young homeless people, but it is widely accepted that the number has increased significantly over the past ten years. One way of measuring homelessness is to count the number of people using homeless services. The largest State/Commonwealth Government Program that provides emergency accommodation to those in need is the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). The largest age group seeking help were aged 15-19 years (22%). The 20-24 age group made up to 16% of people seeking help, while 2% of people using homeless services were aged fewer than 15. This takes the estimated number of young people using homeless services up to 40,000 during this period. (NDCA, 1997:28)

What we have done to get these ideals off the ground is submitted to the City of Evanston, and other government agency proposals for funding, foundation, corporation, churches, and fund raisers to keep these most important programs going.

Funding Will be Used for cost per Client, Administrator Cost, Program Director, Staff Salary, Training, Supplies, Transportation, Telephone, Utilities, Fax & Copying, and Building Maintenance.

We will Sustain Our Idea by continuing to work with other churches, fund raises, corporation grants, other foundation grants, and government agencies.

In the summer of 2002, Rev Hardist E. Lane and John Barner Williams met to talk about combining two programs: the fresh start program for ex-offenders, which already existed at the fisher memorial AME Zion Church and the first base homeless program, which had been formed in 1991 at First United Methodist Church of Evanston where John Barner Williams started volunteering at that program in 1994. In 2002 First United decided they did not want to house the program any longer. This was the beginning for the HE Lane Center for Positive Change as we know it today.

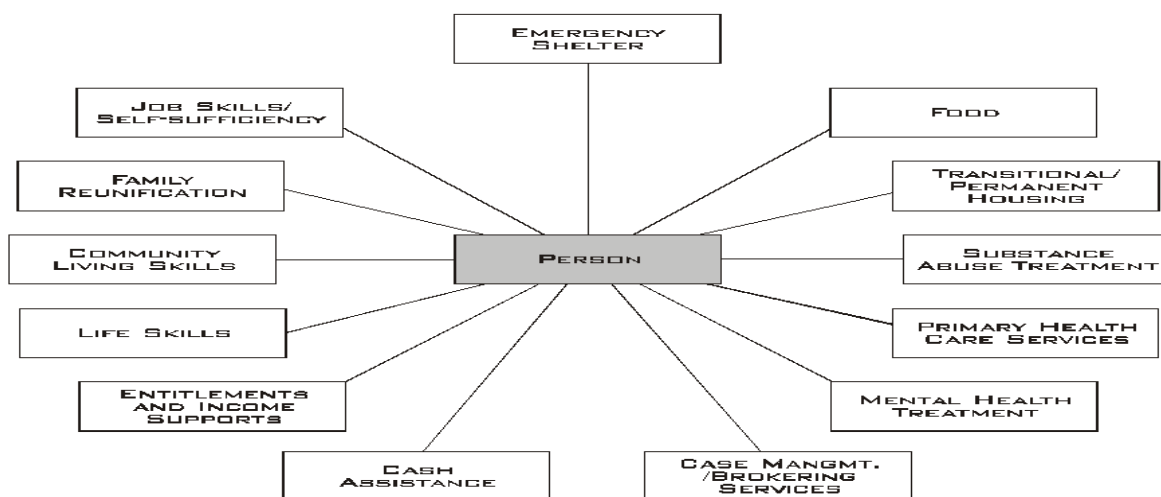
The objective of our organization is to help provide support and advocacy for the people whose lives have not had the security of a social safety-net to guide and encourage them to achieve and have somehow "slipped through the cracks." To do this we work to restore self-esteem through care and sharing experiences. WE believe that this will in turn decrease the number of arrests in Evanston while simultaneously increasing public safety by reducing crime. We will work together to help ex-offenders to become healthy, responsible, contributing members of the community. Needing direction or love, we are honored to help our clients with maintaining abstinence and recovery from their addiction.

Our organization will assist with transitional difficulties of starting over, cultivate values and establish dignity, make self-sufficiency counseling available, aid ex-offenders with reintegrating into the community, provide advocacy for jobs and housing, promote family restoration through reunification discussion groups, utilize motivational speakers and support group leaders, provide for: assessments/counseling/case management, render employment assistance and transportation, engage in referral service, outreach, evaluate, plan, and follow up on client progress, act as a liaison to the court and job placement centers,

investigate educational opportunities, training and career options, and conduct substance and abuse education and support groups.

We are presently serving about 164 active participants in our program. The ages of our clients are from 17 to 65. They are ex-offenders returning, the homeless, the disabled, and seniors. 90% of the clients have some connection to the Evanston Community.

We network and collaborate with the Evanston Community Development Association, Reba Place Development Corporation, For Affordable Housing, First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, Friends Meeting House, First United Methodist Church of Evanston, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Fresh Anointing Church, Mount Pisgah Pentecostal Church, CEDA Neighbors at Work, Connections for the Homeless, Evanston Alliance on Homelessness, Evanston Housing Coalition, Evanston’s Affordable Housing Future, Fair Housing Enforcement, Interfaith Action Council, Salvation Army, Lighthouse Land Trust, Habitat for Humanity – Northwestern, Housing Opportunity Development Corporation, and Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago North Suburban Office.



***In House and Referral Services Offered***

Assessment/ Supportive Groups/ Counseling	Food and Clothing
Information and Referral	Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Intensive Case Management	Court Probation /Parole Services
Job Readiness Training	Advocacy for Jobs and Housing
Family Reunification	Establishing Source of Income/Benefits
Mail Pick Up	Mental Health / Counseling Services
Use of the Phones/Computers	Income Management and Support
Transportation	Residential Treatment Services
Outreach, Engagement Monitoring	Money Management /Budgeting Services
Advanced Study and Training for trades and technology	Health Related/ Home Health, Including HIV/AIDS

**March - August 2008 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

<b>Total Number Assessments – 228</b>	Homeless 14% Ex offenders – 36.5%
<b>Total Number Clients – 78 (15 new)</b>	<b>Ex offenders – 21</b>
	<b>Disabled - 8</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>
Male - 67%	0% was age 18 – under
Female – 33%	100% was age 18 – over

After an Executive Board meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the decisions and approved are as follows:

**Executive Board of Directors**

- Robert Richardson, *Board Chairperson*
- David Denoon, *Vice President*
- Rosemary John Paul, *Secretary*
- Richard Harvey, *Treasurer*
- Jeannette Baker, *Assistant Secretary*
- Reverend Walter J Barnes
- Bishop William D.C. Williams
- Reverend Julius Belser
- Brian Williams
- Rita Askew
- Frank Kaminski
- Anthony Freeman

**Advisory Committee**

- Reverend Barbara Pescan
- Vellen Whitaker
- Attorney William Jackson
- Ms. Elissa Blumenfield
- Cherylette Hilton
- Reverend Hardist E. Lane, *Founder*
- John Barner Williams

Rev. H.E. Lane, *Interim Director*  
 John Barner Williams, *Director Consultant*

**Respectfully Submitted,  
 John Barner Williams  
 Executive Director  
 H.E. Lane Center**

*September 6, 2008*