

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **Daily Record**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

02/27/08 - Posted from the Daily Record newsroom

Morristown charities opening safe haven for area's homeless

Hospitality Link will open March 4, supported by local faith community

**BY MICHAEL DAIGLE
DAILY RECORD**

MORRISTOWN -- A new place where Morris County's homeless can get off the streets for a while was announced Tuesday by Rev. Elizabeth Hall, executive director of Homeless Solutions, Inc., Rev. Robert Shearer of St. Peter's and Rev. Cindy Alloway of The Presbyterian Church of Morristown.

The outreach center, called Hospitality Link, will open March 4 at St. Peter's, Shearer said. Visitors can use the Maple Street entrance to the church and will find two rooms where they can relax, get coffee, and talk with trained staffers about services such as case management, determining their eligibility for benefits, connections to mental health services, addiction services and referrals to emergency shelters.

The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Shearer said the center will also provide a mailing address, important for a homeless person seeking work, access to telephones, and some storage.

He said the center is being supported by Morristown's faith community and housed at St. Peter's in a continuation of community service that goes back decades. He said his congregation raised no objections to the plan.

Other congregations involved with the effort are: Church of the Redeemer, Morristown United Methodist Church, Assumption Roman Catholic Church and Temple B'Nai Or. The two staff members will be supplied by Homeless Solutions.

The center will be financially supported by the churches, donations, and foundation and government grants, when available.

Alloway said the center reflects the missions of all the churches, which include providing a way to promote a place for "living and healing for the homeless."

The center will provide a personal referral service for clients to direct them to services to help them get off the streets.

Hall said one goal of the center is to get people off the street and into the housing system that could mean a stay in a shelter or transitional housing, with the long-term goals of finding them a permanent home.

Last year in the one-day count of the county's homeless population, workers counted 410 homeless persons, including 95 children. This year during the count, Homeless Solutions had 40 men, 30 women and 37 children, and the rest of the agencies involved have yet to report their totals. In 2005, workers counted 1,300 homeless persons in Morris County. Studies have shown that veterans make up an increasing segment of the homeless population.

Pam Palumbo, Homeless Solutions development director, said that 50 percent of the residents at the agency's shelter are working.

Alloway said the soup kitchen at the Church of Redeemer is serving a steadily increasing number of daily meals, averaging 225 daily. She said there are an increasing number of Hispanics in the mix.

Michael Daigle can be reached at (973) 267-6947 or mdaigle@gannett.com.

[Buy this photo](#) 



KAREN FUCITO / DAILY RECORD

In attendance at the Homeless Solutions, Inc. press conference announcing the Hospitality Link opening were, left to right, Pam Palumbo, HSI Director of Development, Betsey Hall, executive director of HSI, the Rev. Robert Shearer of St. Peter's Church in Morristown, the Rev. Cindy Alloway of Morristown Presbyterian Church, Elaine Johnson, HIS Director of Programs and Services and Susan Robinson, Communications Manager at HSI.