

Brian Morris
PJ2
Documentary Project
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Name: Brian C. Morris

Organization: Suncoast Haven of Rest Rescue Mission

Mission Statement: The Suncoast Haven of Rest Rescue Mission is committed to ministering to the physical, nutritional, educational and spiritual needs of the poor, the underprivileged, the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the troubled and the spiritually lost.

Thesis Statement: All are welcome at the Suncoast Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, whether they are in need of help or wanting to help others; where the goals are to provide food, clothing, work and positive reinforcement, all with spiritual guidance and the word of Jesus Christ.

Captions:

1. Suncoast Haven of Rest Rescue Mission is fighting to stay in operation. Its location is not ideal considering many of the people that come here for help are battling alcoholism.
2. Reverend Lionel Cabral, executive director, exchanges a few words with staff before heading out to handle some business.
3. Two men, Phil (left), 51 and James, 54 (refused to give last names) of Pinellas Park, have a smoke outside while awaiting supper.
4. Susan George, 43, a volunteer of Pinellas Park, sorts through donated clothes so that they can be washed then organized in the community closet.
5. This is the community closet where anyone can find something clean to where if they are in need.
6. John Orfield (left), 51 of St. Petersburg, and Rick York, 48 of Nashville, are homeless staff members at the Mission. John engages in conversation with Rick as he checks his blood pressure on a machine that was donated. Doug Richmond, 40 of St. Petersburg, (another homeless staff member) washes dishes behind them.
7. Even bread gone bad finds a home with the Mission. Jeff Russell, 37 of Pinellas Park, is also a homeless staff member. He loads bags of old bread into the truck of a man called "Polish Pete", a local farmer that feeds the bread to his pigs and chickens.
8. Jeff (left), a man who calls himself "Joe" (center) and Doug finish unloading the bread truck of donations made from local grocery stores. Joe is homeless and sleeps where he can in the city. He isn't an official staff member because he tends to show up

intoxicated. No one is banned from the Mission, however. They are asked to leave and to come back when they are sober.

9. Tom Mitchell, 47 of Pinellas Park, is the assistant to Reverend Lionel. He is reviewing some files while his friend Thomas the cat takes a nap on his desk.

10. Kenny (wouldn't give last name), 37 of Pinellas Park, cleans up after a long day at the Mission. He and his wife, Karen a.k.a. "Momma" are homeless staff members at the Mission.

Notes: This presentation is presented in a linear fashion. Although the photos were taken at different times on different days, my objective is to recreate a day at the Mission. Everyday is different. There are always surprises; but this is a rough representation of what goes on during the day at the Mission. I chose to present the photos in black and white because I feel it emphasizes the hardship that the homeless face and the degrading condition of the Mission.

I did run into a few road blocks during this project. Many people (including some staff) did not want to give their last names out of embarrassment or because of trouble with the law. A couple staff members didn't want to be in any pictures, which prohibited some potentially good shots. A good majority of the homeless that came there also did not want their pictures taken because of run-ins with the law. Some people avoided me entirely because of the camera and I was told by staff that they did not want their picture taken. Although they are not supposed to live there, nine staff members find residence at the Mission due to the compassion of Reverend Lionel. They spend their entire day working for food and shelter at the Mission. They also find temporary work outside the Mission and are working to make it on their own again. Homeless people are given a bad rap a lot of the time; but the Suncoast Haven of Rest proves that some people who have made bad choices or had a serious falling out, are trying to make things right again.