

St. James Cathedral

Housing Advocacy Committee

The Catholic Church has a long history of solidarity with the poor. We believe in the inherent dignity of every human being. It is our duty to do all we can to protect the basic rights of all.

The faith community of St. James Cathedral is deeply concerned about the large number of people in our midst who have nowhere to call home. The rising cost of living makes housing an increasingly distant dream for many. Homelessness leads to lost education, productivity and quality of life. It is costly to society, causing increased spending on health care, public safety, and criminal justice systems.

In response to the growing crisis of homelessness, cathedral staff and parishioners took action in 2008 to form the Housing Advocacy Committee. Our mission is to encourage the development of affordable housing and to campaign for public policies that will end homelessness.

The Committee has been busy building an **Action Alert Network**, which now consists of nearly 300 people. Approximately once a month, Network members receive an Action Alert, asking them to take a specific action on a housing issue of immediate concern. Usually the requested action involves contacting local, state or federal officials to urge them to support a program, policy or piece of legislation that makes housing available for everyone.