



Sleep Out – Past and Present

Early Inspiration

In 1996, local shoe repairman Bob Fisher took on the personal mission of making an impact in his community. He came up with the idea of a winter sleep out to raise money to buy Thanksgiving dinners for 100 families needing help. Bob set a goal of raising \$7,000 and was committed to sleeping out in his tent until he met that goal. Two weeks later, Bob was back in his own bed, and the client families of Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners received wonderful dinners provided through the \$10,000 Bob had raised. In subsequent discussions between Bob and Interfaith Outreach, Bob became aware that the most pressing need facing our clients was housing. So he resolved to sleep out each year, dedicating the funds he raised to help meet the housing needs of families in our community.

Expanded Involvement

Over the following years, Bob gathered supporters and partners from every walk of life and helped to transition the Sleep Out from a one-man effort to a campaign embraced by the entire community. During the 22-year history of the Sleep Out, thousands of community members – including churches, businesses and civic groups – have raised more than \$27 million to provide help with the basics like housing, employment, child care, food and transportation. Hundreds have slept out to experience a night in the cold while asking family and friends to support the effort. Each year, Interfaith Outreach is amazed and heartened by the community's ongoing support and compassion for people facing housing crises. Bob Fisher now serves as a mentor and cheerleader for the campaign, while the entire community has assumed the leadership role for its success.

The Sleep Out 2018

Now in its 23rd year, the Sleep Out is our largest fundraising campaign. Our goal is to raise \$2,400,000 to address the needs of nearly 2,000 families in our west suburban local area. Funds raised from the campaign will be used to meet needs in the areas of family support, food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment, and transportation. With the generous and faithful support of this community, we can help prevent homelessness and meet life's other challenges as we work with struggling families on their path from survive to thrive.

For more information, visit iocp.org/sleepout or call Lani Willis at 763-489-7704