

January 2020 SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update
An Update on SCNY PJIC Office's Collaborative Efforts To End Homelessness



The Sisters of Charity of New York work to end homelessness in many ways. As a member of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing (IAHH), the Sisters of Charity of New York are grateful for their longtime collaboration with IAHH and its Executive Director, Marc Greenberg.

LEFSA (Life Experience Faith Sharing Associates) also works closely with IAHH as do several other organizations connected to the Sisters of Charity. The SCNY PJIC Office invites readers to visit <https://www.iahh.org/> to learn about and advocate for Campaigns we are involved in. **Join with us to End Homelessness!**

B ring It Home NY Campaign – The Interfaith Assembly, with other groups met with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins in December to call for more funding for the 40,000 mental health housing units across the State whose reimbursement rates have lagged far behind their operating costs.

H ouse Our Future NY Campaign – In what may be the most important advocacy campaign that the Interfaith Assembly is engaged in, a bill passed in the City Council in December calling for an additional 1,000 homes a year for homeless households for many years to come. Even with Intro #1211 signed into law, the work of the House Our Future NY Campaign would only be half way to the goal of seeing 30,000 homes for homeless households by 2026. The Interfaith Assembly and a delegation of over a dozen key faith leaders plan to meet with Mayor de Blasio to support him in his efforts to produce enough truly low-income housing to turn the tide on today's homeless crisis.

62,000 New Yorkers currently live in shelters; thousands more are on the streets. Many of these have been on the frontlines of the House Our Future NY Campaign. Let us join with them and bring hope and housing to those who have no place to call home!

Right to Counsel NYC Coalition in August 2017 won the right for tenants facing eviction in housing court to have an attorney. #RTCNYC is a tool to build tenant power, challenge landlord intimidation and harassment and to build the movement to fight gentrification and displacement. By 2022, the right will extend to all income eligible New Yorkers. Find out more at www.righttocounselnyc.org



The inspiring lives of 13 graduates are chronicled in "*Sacred Shelter – Thirteen Journeys of Homelessness and Healing*" created and edited by Fordham Professor Susan Greenfield.

Consider hosting a reading of *Sacred Shelter*! Invite one of the graduates to come and share his/her story. Two of our LEFSA friends, James Addison and Deborah Canty, share their life stories in *Sacred Shelter*. Mark Greenberg and George Horton share their reflections. Let friends and colleagues, hear firsthand from those who were homeless.

People need housing! Links below offer a glimpse of specific housing programs and resources connected to the Sisters of Charity of New York.

<https://sistersofcharityhousing.org/>

<https://www.stvincentswestchester.org/residential-services/permanent-housing>

<https://www.saintjosephs.org/services/geriatrics/senior-housing>

<https://mountsaintvincent.edu/support-the-mount/mott-street-scholarship-program/>

<https://www.nyfoundling.org/guest-blog-foundling-dorm-project-student-opens-up-about-college-foster-care-studying-abroad/>

The 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD58), taking place from February 10-19, 2020 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, has as its priority theme: ***Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness***. NGOs connected to the Vincentian Family, including the Sisters of Charity Federation NGO, were instrumental in starting the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness whose members advocated tirelessly with the UN Missions, Ambassadors and staff to raise up the critical issue of homelessness. Ms. Iris Bailey of LEFSA spoke at several UN events in 2019.

We are faced with a challenge – to advocate to change the system so housing is affordable, assessible and safe! Getting to know the stories of those who are homeless is a start! The Office of Campus Mission and Ministry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent offers a variety of service projects for students to get to know firsthand people who are homeless. Students have studied the problem of housing through the book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond. Reading the article at link below offers insight through stories: <https://newrepublic.com/article/154618/new-american-homeless-housing-insecurity-richest-cities>. Remember...our LEFSA friends and colleagues are willing to share their stories and what they are doing to end homelessness.

Carol De Angelo, SC, SCNY PJIC Office Director, January 2020