

Love Our Neighbors in Pittsburgh!



Shepherd's Heart Fellowship Profile 2023





Our Mission is:
"Sharing the heart of Jesus our Shepherd
on the streets of Pittsburgh
and to the ends of the earth."

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is . . .

A church in the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh within the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Shepherd's Heart Fellowship was founded in Pittsburgh in 1993 by the Rev. Michael and Tina Wurschmidt.

Our Parish



The Rev. Michael and Tina Wurschmidt

Our parish is a vital, urban congregation in the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh. We are located at 13 Pride Street very near the downtown area of Pittsburgh in the neighborhood of Uptown, one block from UPMC Mercy Hospital.

Our church has a Vestry (Board of Directors). Pre-pandemic, we had 140-160 attendees at Worship on Sunday evening at 5:15, which was followed by a meal for all who come. In Spring 2023, our weekly attendance is 40-70. The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt is the Rector. He is assisted by three volunteer Anglican priests: the Rev. James Chester, the Rev. Harold Hicks and the Rev. James Morehead. The music ministry is led by Tina Wurschmidt, supported by volunteer musicians, several of whom are graduates of Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home (SHVH). Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is an active member of the Pittsburgh Downtown Ministerium as well as the Allegheny County Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Homeless.

Located Near Downtown

Our church facility is a three-story building, which was built in 1876 as a Lutheran Church and was later converted into a medical office building for physicians who practiced at UPMC Mercy Hospital. The immediate neighborhood is anchored by UPMC Mercy Hospital and includes other churches, commercial and corporate buildings, restaurants and bars, women's shelters, homeless drop-in centers, food kitchens, and other social service agencies. Ours is a transient neighborhood, where many low-income individuals and families live and work. Three blocks away is the PPG Paints Arena, a leading venue for sports and entertainment in the Pittsburgh region. Duquesne University, a Roman Catholic institution in the Spiritan tradition, is two blocks away; its students from Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Veterans' Affairs and many other disciplines volunteer at Shepherd's Heart.

A Faith-Based Non-Profit that Serves the Poor and Vulnerable

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is unique as a church in that it is also a faith-based non-profit, authorized as a 501(c)(3) organization to bring **help, hope and the gospel** to "Pittsburgh and to the ends of the earth".

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship focuses on providing spiritual and material resources to the marginalized, vulnerable people of the Pittsburgh region. Shepherd's Heart Fellowship has special ministries for men and women who are homeless, particularly homeless Veterans.



The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt with The Rt. Rev. Alex Cameron, Bishop of the Pittsburgh Diocese, during his recent visit to Shepherd's Heart Fellowship.

History of Shepherd's Heart

The Rev. Mike Wurschmidt and his wife Tina founded Shepherd's Heart Fellowship in 1993. Mike is the former co-founder and national consultant of Project Home Again, a national program of World Vision, which helped homeless families with children to be adopted by local churches. Pastor Mike is an Air Force Veteran. He came to Pittsburgh from Colorado in 1993 to study at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA.

As a seminarian, he founded and became the Pastor/Director of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship. Today, he serves as Rector of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and as CEO of Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home.

Mike and Tina Wurschmidt were once homeless themselves after losing a business in Denver. Their local church supported them in loving ways. *"We could have been bitter,"* Tina says. *"We could have been angry. But we weren't. We trusted. We forgave. We moved on. Having gone through that experience, we knew that God wanted us to love the people in the street."*



In July of 1993, Shepherd's Heart first provided outreach to persons who were poor and homeless, providing food, blankets, clothing, counseling, information/referral and personal prayer to those on the streets of Pittsburgh. Eventually, Mike and others saw a need for a church and a center developed for the homeless population of Pittsburgh.

In March of 1995, Shepherd's Heart rented a storefront building in Oakland, reaching out to individuals and families who were vulnerable and homeless of Oakland, Downtown, Hill District and Uptown neighborhoods. Shepherd's Heart conducted street outreach throughout the week and began a Sunday evening worship service, providing homeless men and women with a safe place to express their faith and a free meal after the service.

From 1998 to 2005, worship followed by a meal was held at the former St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, owned by Carlow College, located in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of West Oakland on the edge of the Hill District.

In 2006, Shepherd's Heart Fellowship moved to its current home at 13 Pride Street in the Uptown neighborhood of Pittsburgh, one block from UPMC Mercy Hospital, very close to downtown Pittsburgh.



*Jesus said,
"I am the Good
Shepherd".*

John 10:11

Worshipping under a bridge near Schenley Park at a homeless camp in the fall of 1996

Programs of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship . . .

Throughout the pandemic of 2020-2023, Shepherd's Heart Fellowship has been open every day, providing a Safety Net for Neighbors who are poor and vulnerable. With a theme of *"Loving Our Neighbors"*, Shepherd's Heart Fellowship encompasses:

A Worship/Community Meeting Space

On Sundays at 5:15 pm, people come for worship and a meal, supported by volunteers from partner churches, universities and Veteran's groups. Before the pandemic, we served 140-160; in 2023, we serve 50-90 each Sunday. The church also holds several Bible studies for staff and Neighbors during the week.

Our Worship Center/Community Meeting Space is used by many members of our community. The Occupational Therapy students from Duquesne University often use the space when they teach computer skills and life skills to the formerly homeless Veteran residents from our Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home. On Sunday mornings, the space is home for a Narcotics Anonymous recovery meeting.

Pre-pandemic, 70-80 people from the community attended this recovery meeting; in 2023, we have 40-50 attendees. The space is also used by non-profits such as Life-Changing Service Dogs, who train and provide service dogs for Veterans, and Friends of DaNang, who help build schools and hospitals in DaNang in Viet Nam. Two churches also use our meeting space as needed.

Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home, "House of Hope," operates in collaboration with the Veteran's Administration's Pittsburgh Healthcare System. We provide up to 15 formerly homeless male Veterans with transitional housing, rehabilitation, counseling, casework and food. They live with us for approximately four to six months until they are stable and prepared for independent living. (Our formerly homeless Veteran graduates, since 2006, total 700+; we still serve many of them, who live independently in Allegheny County.)

Drop-In Center, "Shepherd's Place"

Five or six mornings each week, we serve homeless men and women, 30% of whom are Veterans. Pre-pandemic, we served 60-100 individuals daily; in 2023, we are serving 40-50 each day. We provide a Morning Prayer service, food, information and referral, networking, clothing, shoes/boots, other comprehensive services plus kindness and love.

Shuttle Bus

We provide transportation for homeless men and women, most of whom are Veterans, to the VA, medical appointments, government offices and other non-profit agencies. Annually, we provide transportation to approximately 400 riders. During the pandemic, our Shuttle Bus was busy as we picked up supplies, delivered food, helped Veteran participants move to independent housing, rescued Neighbors in difficult situations and prepared for emergencies.



Worship is held on Sundays at 5:15 pm, followed by a full meal which is prepared by volunteers.



Carl Jay, Program Director, Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home



. . . providing a Safety Net for Neighbors who are poor and vulnerable

Food Pantry “Feed My Sheep”

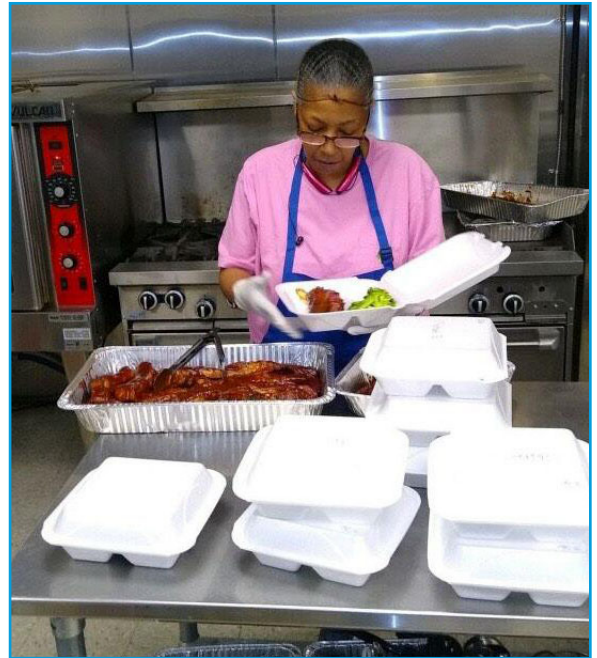
We provide donated and purchased non-perishable foods to more than 1,800 individuals and families annually. We partner with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and receive donated food items from many churches, Veteran’s groups and others. We also participate in 412 Food Rescue, a non-profit that coordinates donations of prepared foods from restaurants, banquet halls and caterers.

Resource Center

We provide 1,600 individuals and families annually with coats, shoes, boots, and other clothing-related needs. These are donated by individuals, our partners in churches, universities, Veteran’s groups, corporations, area businesses and service organizations such as Westinghouse SURE.

Emergency Fund

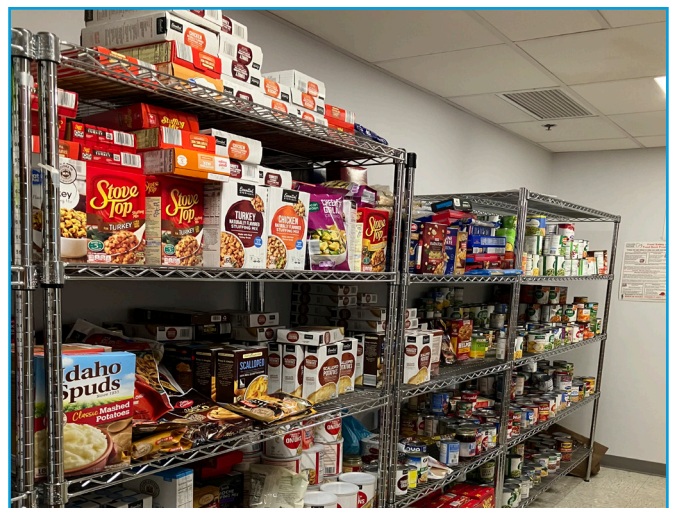
We provide an Emergency Fund to help vulnerable men and women. We provide them with gift cards, primarily for Giant Eagle, Target, Walmart and Famous Footwear; the gift cards cover food, cleaning supplies, bus fare and other critical needs. On behalf of neighbors in need, we provide checks to third parties including utility companies; owners of property for rent/mortgage; Greyhound and other vendors who provide emergency services. Annually, we serve approximately 400 vulnerable neighbors, staff and volunteers with emergency support.



Sharon Webb, our Kitchen Manager/Chef prepares three meals and snacks daily for our Veteran residents at Shepherd’s Heart Veteran’s Home.



The familiar red doors of Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship are a welcoming sign to our vulnerable Neighbors that we are their Safety Net. We did not close during the pandemic. We are open and ready to support, encourage and serve them!



Our Food Bank, “Feed My Sheep,” serves Neighbors who need additional food to maintain their health and well-being.

Loving our Neighbors During the Pandemic



The United States declared the Coronavirus pandemic in March 2020. At that time, many churches, social service agencies and governmental entities closed for long periods of time. Included on this list were almost all congregations connected with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship sought and received permission from our Bishop to remain open. **We did not close during the pandemic.** We were needed by our Neighbors to be a "refuge in the storm". Those who are homeless could not "shelter in place at home" as they were instructed to do by the government because their homes were uninhabitable places such as abandoned cars or buildings, homeless encampments or on the streets. Many of our beneficiaries suffer from one or more mental illnesses. They were frightened and often angry because of the many changes around them. They needed a safe place where they

would be welcomed, served and loved. For them, Shepherd's Heart was that place.

We provided all our services as we followed safe distancing practices. We implemented daily cleaning and sanitizing, supplemented by intense commercial cleaning as needed. We carefully followed all CDC and VA requirements for best practices to protect our clients, staff and volunteers.

We did not close during the pandemic. We were needed by our neighbors to be a "refuge in the storm".

The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt, as our principal spokesperson, had many opportunities on television, radio and print media to share our story and to witness to God's faithfulness in helping us to meet our challenges and opportunities.

Our donors responded in a loving manner to our urgent, changing needs during the pandemic. We have received strategic new emergency support from philanthropic foundations at every level. Our individual donors have shown increased compassion and generosity as they have responded to our requests for financial support. Thousands of donors and friends have prayed for Shepherd's Heart Fellowship and our beneficiaries. We are so encouraged and grateful with the increased outpouring of support!

Our service statistics were reduced by more than half for long periods of time through the pandemic. CARES Act funding on the national level provided Allegheny County with funds to house many of our "regular" attendees at area hotels. This helped to protect them but disconnected them from contact with Shepherd's Heart.

In 2023, CARES Act funding is still covering costs of hotels but we expect those funds to end soon, giving us more opportunities and challenges.

God has been faithful and our church has been strengthened as we work together for God's glory.

In 2023, we are seeing steady increases in the numbers of Neighbors participating in our services. We have held several funerals for Neighbors who did not survive Covid. This gave us opportunities to support their survivors. We have had several employees and beneficiaries who were ill with Covid. But through these experiences, God has been faithful and our church has been strengthened as we work together for God's glory.



Priests at Shepherd's Heart Fellowship include The Rev. Harold Hicks, The Rev. James Morehead, The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt, and the Rev. James Chester.



They needed a safe place where they would be welcomed, served and loved. For them, Shepherd's Heart was that place.

Called to be Urban Ambassadors of Jesus Christ, Demonstrating His Love

We believe that we are called individually and as a Church/ faith-based non-profit to be Evangelists and Ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

At Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, We Value:

- ♥ A Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ
- ♥ Prayer
- ♥ Sharing the Love of Jesus with others
- ♥ Community
- ♥ Compassion and Kindness
- ♥ Excellence
- ♥ Respect
- ♥ Teamwork
- ♥ Discipline
- ♥ Integrity

In faithfulness to our calling, Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is committed to loving our Neighbors, especially those who are marginalized, poor and powerless, to advocate for justice, to work for peace, and to provide critical services and care for those who are the most needy.

We give special attention to those who are sick because of mental illnesses; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Trauma and other traumas; the diseases of addictions, often caused by alcohol and other drugs.

Through our words and deeds, we are demonstrating God's love and are sharing the Gospel as the Good News of God's salvation given in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our Shepherd.

We love and care for our Neighbors as a witness that we are a community that lives from and for the Gospel.



*What does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8b



One of our faithful volunteers since she was ten is Dani Graves. Seen here while she was in college, Dani is now our Development Officer. She is pictured with Mona, one of our longtime loyal members.



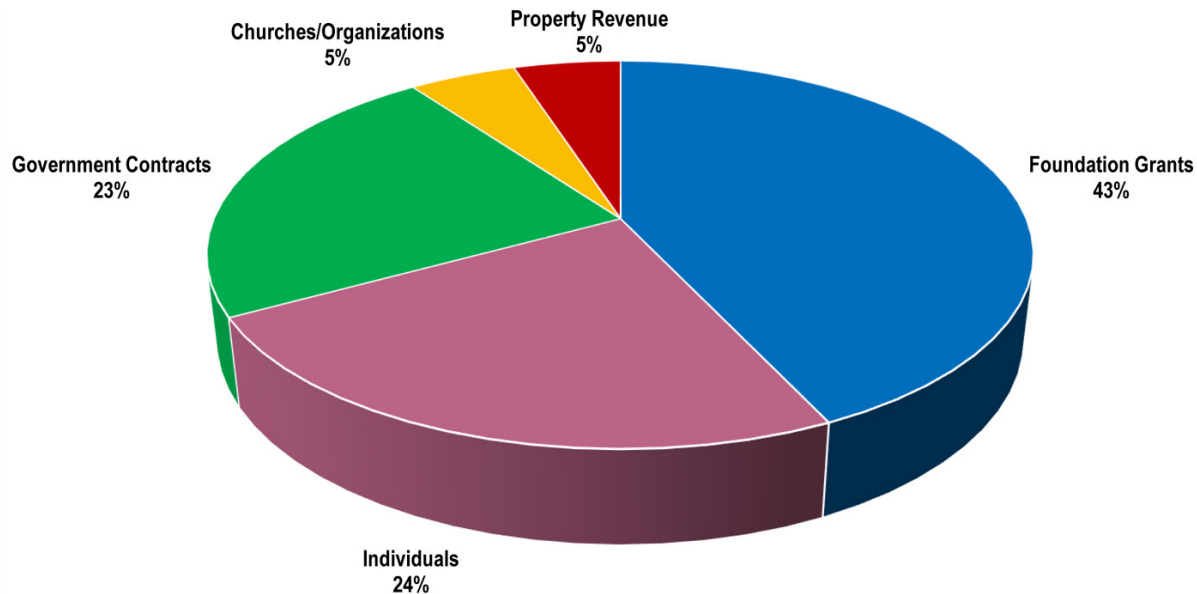
Dr. James Kneff, our Director of Counseling and Casework, meets with Emily Halicek, our Coordinator of Alumni, who has an MSW and meets regularly with formerly homeless Veterans who have graduated from Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home. We stay connected with them, helping to prevent further homelessness in their future.

Diversity, Experience and Commitment

- ♥ 68% of Shepherd's Heart beneficiaries are African-American.
- ♥ 74% (14 of 19) of our staff have "lived homelessness." Because of their life experiences, they are particularly sensitive and compassionate to others who are homeless and vulnerable.
- ♥ 58% (11 of 19) of our staff are Veterans and have faced the challenges that many of America's brave military men and women have faced when they return from active duty. Our Veterans bring to Shepherd's Heart their love for Jesus Christ, training, leadership, discipline, hard work, teamwork and a commitment to excellence.

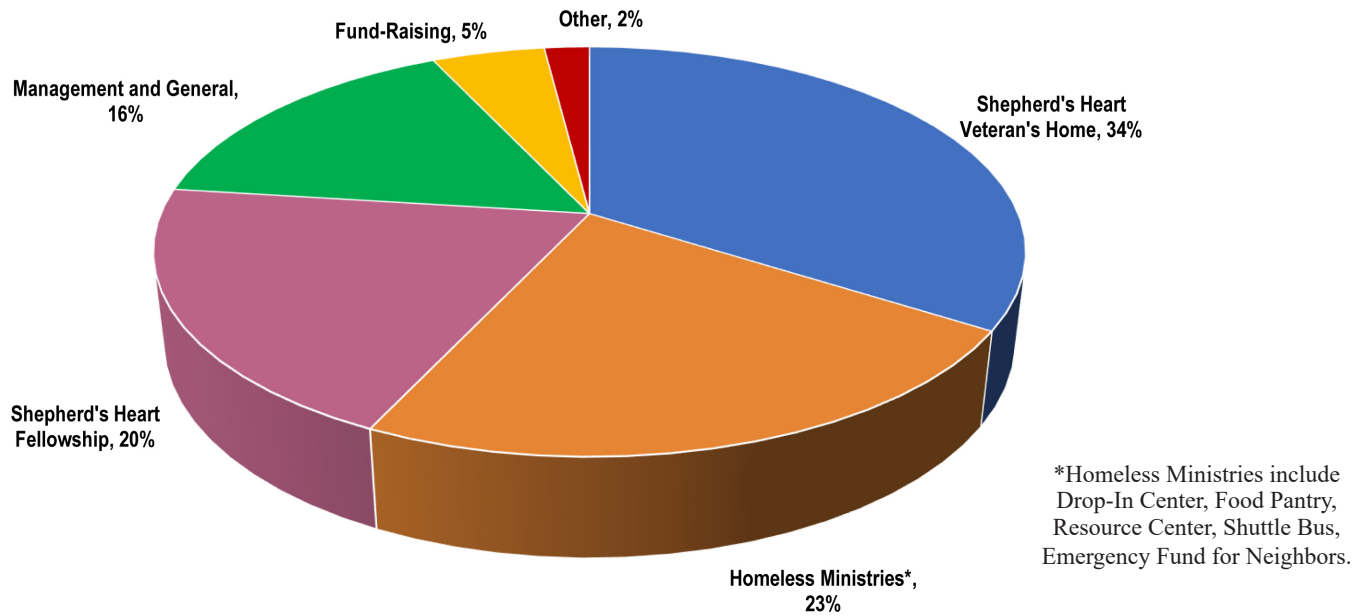
Trusting God for all Things . . . including Finances

We receive **financial support** from:



Shepherd's Heart Fellowship has an Annual Budget of \$1.2 million.

We **spend** our funds for:



Annually, we have an independent audit, conducted by Grossman Yanak and Ford, Certified Public Accountants.

To whom much is given, much will be required. Luke 12:48

Our Volunteers are Amazing!

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship uses 1,500 volunteers annually to help us carry out our mission!
Volunteers are of all ages. They are kind, compassionate, creative, dedicated, and wonderful!

Many help us with:

1. **Food preparation and service.** We serve 45,000 meals annually through our Worship/Community Center; Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home; daily visitors to our offices and much more.
2. **Office support.** Volunteers help with answering the phone, helping make entries into our database, support in receiving and documenting gifts-in-kind.
3. **Resource Center/Food Pantry.** Receiving, organizing and distributing clothing and other items in our Resource Center and Food in our Food Pantry.



Westinghouse SURE represents retirees of Westinghouse Corporation who provide direct volunteer services, financial support and advice/wisdom for non-profit agencies. Featured are Pastor Mike, Lu Facchini, Stu Simpson, and Carl Jay.

4. **Special Events** with Shepherd's Heart Fellowship as the beneficiary. Annually, these include Ride for Homeless Veterans; Spaghetti Dinner at Al's Cafe by ABATE; Gift cards from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry; and Gift Cards from Colaizzi's Hair Design Studios in the North Hills, plus many more.
5. **Working with Veteran participants.** Students from Duquesne University's Occupational Therapy program teach life skills.
6. **Program support.** Volunteers take Veteran participants to concerts, museums, picnics, sporting events and much more. Volunteers from U.S. Steel Corporation provide help with the facility and with Veteran support. Westinghouse SURE retirees give funds and collect clothing, coats and shoes for the Resource Center.

Raymond Webb is a Story of Success!



Raymond Webb

Ray Webb was an Army tank commander in Desert Storm. He met Pastor Mike Wurschmidt in 1999, a few years after Pastor Mike founded Shepherd's Heart Fellowship.

Wanting to help his fellow Veterans, Ray became the first Bus Driver for Shepherd's Heart. Later, he became Supervisor at the Veteran's Home, demonstrating discipline, compassion and teamwork as the church grew. In 2022, he became the Junior Warden of the Vestry.

He spends much time and caring in giving back to other Veterans what God has given to him. He follows up with alumni of the Veteran's Home, making sure they do not slip back into their isolation or homelessness. He also represents Shepherd's Heart in the community. His smile is contagious. His love for God results in Love in Action!



Leaders of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship attended in 2022 the Consecration of The Rev. Alex Cameron as the Anglican Bishop of Pittsburgh. Pictured are Scott Means, Director of the Drop-In Center; Ray Webb, Junior Warden; and Nancy Lee Cochran, Director of Development.

The Vestry of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship includes:

Ray Webb, *Junior Warden*
Elaine Morehead, *Secretary*
Riki Helton
Stacey Webb
Tina Wurschmidt

The Middle Name of our Church is "Heart"



We demonstrate the heart of Jesus. Love has always been associated with the heart. The love of God is often represented by a heart: the heart of His Son, Jesus. In Him and through Him, God the Father revealed His infinite love for us.

As we work, it is our desire to show our love for God and our Neighbors as we "give away" to them what God has given to us.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is in relationship and partnership with:

- ♥ 120+ churches,
- ♥ 8 educational institutions,
- ♥ 25 Veteran's groups,
- ♥ 12 governmental entities,
- ♥ 25 philanthropic foundations, and
- ♥ 31 non-profit agencies and judicatories.



Helen Copley, our Caseworker for Homeless Veteran participants, meets regularly with a Veteran to develop and implement together his Individual Plan.



Rob Pennix, Senior Supervisor of Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home (SHVH), enjoys playing pool at SHVH with a Veteran participant. Veterans live at SHVH for four to six months as they make changes to prepare for independent living.

For the Least of These . . .

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.”
Then the righteous will answer him,
“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,
Or thirsty and give you something to drink?
When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,
Or needing clothes and clothe you?
When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”
The King will reply, “Truly I tell you,
Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.”

Matthew 25: 35-40



Matthew 25 Initiative

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship is also a member of the Matthew 25 Initiative, a “community of Anglicans engaged in works of justice, mercy, and reconciliation who care about God's heart for the vulnerable, marginalized, and under-resourced in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.” The Rev. Mike Wurschmidt, our Rector and Founder, helped oversee the Matthew 25 Initiative for many years. He continues to work closely on a national level with leaders of ACNA, local churches and Pastors/Evangelists/Providers of services to the poor and vulnerable, helping to encourage, strengthen and grow their ministries.



*L*oving
Our Neighbors,

especially those who are vulnerable Veterans
or who are homeless, elderly and isolated.

Shepherd's
Heart
FELLOWSHIP

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind and
with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Mark 12: 30-31