

City of Cambridge

H. J. Lomen

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council Oct 18 1976

Motion to File By E. Lomen - Finner

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mrs. Ackermann	✓			
Mr. Clem	✓			
Mr. Clinton		✓		
Mr. Danehy		✓		
Mr. Duehay		✓		
Mrs. Graham		✓		
Mr. Russell			✓	
Mr. Sullivan			✓	
Mayor Vellucci		✓		

2 5 2

Mayor requested to set a date
for meeting for the
petitioners.

SHELTER, INC.

Shelter, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit group committed to providing food and temporary shelter to homeless men and women in the Cambridge and Somerville area. Shelter, Inc., is not a governmental agency, a rehabilitation group or a sectarian group. It is an organization dedicated to human and public service.

Shelter, Inc., is made up of people of diverse interests and skills who are committed to working collectively to provide the necessities of life and/or basic guidance for those who cannot afford them. Although we operate with a skeleton crew of paid volunteers, we are all committed to providing this service through a voluntary effort of people working together.

Shelter, Inc., has a vital interest in community service. We own a van which will be available for service when needed to supplement our efforts. We have a staff of capable, seasoned professionals not only to care for those who come for shelter, but to guide or refer others competently. We are genuinely aware of the need for our services, and we are likewise aware of the need for discretion and foresight in any of our operations.

Shelter, Inc., welcomes people who would like to help. You can join in this collective effort. For further information call:

776-5931

You are welcome to receive further information concerning our operation, further details substantiating the need for our existence, and a list of our staff and Advisory Board.

Shelter, Inc.'s success will depend primarily on the support of private individuals. Donations of money, beds, food, clothing are now needed and would be gratefully accepted, and are tax deductible.

SHELTER UP-DATE

22 Putnam Avenue, Cambridge

June, 1976

Need Waxes, Volunteer Ranks Wane

Shelter Inc., a non-profit volunteer organization which has for almost two years offered food and shelter to homeless men and women in Cambridge and Somerville, is in danger of becoming truly non-profit if more people do not volunteer. Though our Free Meals Program now feeds hot dinners to 60 people each week and the overnight facility feeds some 50 more, the number of active volunteers has actually decreased since this Fall, when Shelter served substantially fewer people.

The importance of volunteers in a volunteer organization such as Shelter cannot be overstressed. Volunteers are not only valuable, they are crucial, and without more volunteers to share the increased workload of a larger Shelter, the danger of dedicated volunteers burning out from over-work is serious.

Aside from direct-service volunteers at the overnight facility and Free Meals Program, we urge those whose talents lie in areas such as public relations, fund-raising, or administration to contact David Bond or Charles Bois (547-1885) and offer their time and talent to Shelter.

Food donations, particularly canned goods, are desperately needed by the bi-weekly Free Meals Program and the overnight Shelter. About 150 free meals are eaten at Shelter each week, and we need help supplying them.

If you can donate food or volunteer your time, please call Jeanne Parillo or Charles Bois (547-1885).

20 Miles for Hunger

The Sunday, May 2, sun saw six Shelter soles stamping out 20 miles in the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger, an annual Walk in which over 3,000 people participated this year. The walk took four volunteers and one beagle from Shelter through Boston, Newton, and Cambridge.

In 1975-76, the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger gave Shelter \$3,000. toward feeding the area's homeless.

Shelter Services Expand

There are many more homeless people in Cambridge and Somerville than a shelter of our present size can possibly service. Statistics from the Somerville Meal Program, Welfare Office, Cambridge City Hospital, local Police Departments, the Somerville Multi Service Center, Catholic Charities, and other local social service agencies strongly indicate an urgent need for more facilities for homeless people.

Shelter is the only organization which offers overnight shelter and food free of charge to this area's indigent population.

Presently relying on Cambridge City Hospital to medically screen, refer and reimburse us for most of our overnight guests, Shelter would like to expand beyond the hospital circuit and reach out to those homeless people who don't ordinarily find their way to the Emergency Ward. Jeanne Parillo and Kevin Boucher of Shelter are developing a Shelter screening program which would open our doors to significantly more of the area's homeless who for some reason shun the traditional channels of emergency care and need a small private place like Shelter for temporary relief from the life on the streets.

(Continued)

By screening guests and exploring new sources of funding and community support, Shelter hopes to expand to meet the needs of those homeless people who never knew an organization like Shelter existed.

Concomitant with an expanded screening program is a more complete referral service, offering those who need an alternative other than Shelter help finding a program, organization or individual who can help them. Offering temporary emergency shelter and recourse to other area alternatives to life on the streets, Shelter can more completely serve the homeless.

THANKS

Shelter is approaching two years of service to the Cambridge and Somerville communities. We were able to provide shelter for over 1,000 persons in 1975 and are already beyond that mark for the first half of 1976. The Free Meals Program is providing over 60 hot meals per week to many whose diets are seriously wanting. We don't always get the chance to adequately thank the hundreds of people who by giving of themselves have made so much difference in the health and welfare of the community's homeless. You are probably one of these generous people who have made it possible for Shelter to accomplish so much, and we thank you.

Crucial Annual Board Meeting

At the annual meeting on Saturday, June 5, Shelter's thirteen-member Board of Directors will consider prospective Board members from the community and will also elect four present Board members to Leadership Committee positions (a one-year commitment).

Now comprised of mostly volunteers at the overnight facility, the Board would like to use this annual meeting to explore possibilities of broadening its community base by offering Board membership to interested citizens of Cambridge and Somerville whose diverse professions and abilities would make a more heterogeneous and effective Board.

As the Board of Directors sets policy for the organization, new members from diverse sectors of the community would help integrate Shelter into the community. Such a full, twenty-one-member Board could effectively oversee a larger Shelter serving a greater portion of the area's homeless.

We encourage those interested in Shelter who would like to serve on the Board to call David Bond (547-1885) or attend the June 5 meeting (meetings are traditionally the first Saturday of the month) at 10:30 a.m. at 22 Putnam Avenue in Cambridge.

Shelter Update



March, 1976

Who Needs Us?

The indigent, the temporarily homeless, adults who for some reason need a bed for the night, find what they need at Shelter. Small and informal enough to offer each guest the privacy or companionship he or she needs at the time, Shelter has given food and shelter to over 1000 individuals in the past year. These people appreciate the little we are able to do for them and express their thanks in many ways -- from sweeping the floor to writing poetry. Many volunteer hours are those put in by guests who want to help Shelter along, showing that the Shelter operation is hardly a one-sided one. Overnight volunteers keep a nightly log and take personal interest in many of the guests, following-up on those familiar guests who have found their way to other local social service agencies. Shelter tries to refer to other agencies those who must be turned away due to lack of space -- now about 25 people a week. Once relocated in our larger facility, we hope to be able to offer more of the area's homeless (over 1500 adults) an alternative to the streets.

MEAL PROGRAM

EXPANDS!

Some 30 people each week eat their dinners at Shelter's Tuesday and Thursday night free Meal Program. Run by volunteers in donated space at the Somerville Multi-Service Center (1 Summer St. in Union Square) from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, the Meal Program serves a hot meal free to anyone who needs one. A grant from the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger along with more volunteers enabled Shelter to expand the free meals program to two nights a week in 1976. Almost 400 people have eaten at the Meal Program since we opened our doors a year ago.

Guests at the Meal Program are offered Food Stamp information and applications, a referral service to other local social service agencies, and the opportunity to eat and talk with friendly people.

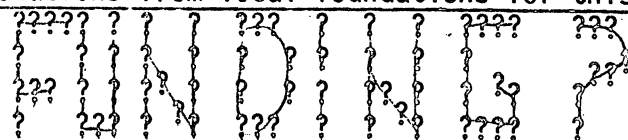
Though Shelter's overnight facility mainly serves homeless people, many Meal Program guests are local residents who cannot afford such hot meals themselves. The number of people in this situation is growing and Shelter would like to see the Meal Program expand still further to meet these needs.

/A New VISTA

ACTION-VISTA has agreed to match Shelter's funds to salary our Volunteer Coordinator, Jeanne Parillo. Her full-time position begins March 23 with the VISTA Training Program in North

Andover, Mass.. With Shelter for 18 months, Jeanne has given unsparingly of her time to the overnight facility, coordinating volunteers for the hot Meal Program, and serving on various Shelter committees. For the past two months she has been our full-time volunteer coordinator, working in the community to find support and volunteers for Shelter.

VISTA has also agreed to match funds for four more full-time staff positions. We are seeking donations from local foundations for this purpose



How does a non-profit volunteer operation like Shelter, which feeds dinner to some 60 people per week and offers beds to 35 more, stay financially solvent? Our continued success and survival depend largely on volunteers, donations, and grants -- about 80% of our operating needs are obtained from these sources.

Our steady income comes in the form of reimbursement for services from the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcohol Rehabilitation (CASPAR) and a grant from the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger. A counselor in the Emergency Ward of the Cambridge Hospital sees people from 5-12 pm each night and makes referrals to Shelter. CASPAR's reimbursement for each person referred is applied toward rent and other operating expenses. CETA supports one staff position.

We are presently exploring other possible funding sources, necessary if Shelter is to relocate to a larger facility. The grant proposal which we sent to seven foundations last week requested operational monies totalling \$12,000, which would match VISTA funds for salaried staff positions.

Once relocated in the projected 12-bed facility near Central Sq., we plan to keep volunteers as the lifeblood of Shelter. Volunteers interested in direct overnight service, referral work, the Meal Program, and community relations should contact Charlie Bois at 547-1885.

Who has keys to the filing cabinet?

Who runs Shelter? Shelter's Board of Directors establishes operational policies and our staff of volunteers runs the operation. Our Director (David Bond) and 3 assistants (Robert Woodworth, Jeanne Parillo and Charles Bois) work full-time to keep the overnight and hot Meal Program going on a volunteer basis. Jeannie has done a fantastic job of involving volunteer groups in providing meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bob is working diligently to obtain a bigger place for the overnight Shelter. We need and are looking for more volunteers now!!!

s h e l t e r , i n c.

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
Oct 6 10 36 AM '76
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

1 summer street somerville, massachusetts

October 4, 1976

Mr. Paul Healy, City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

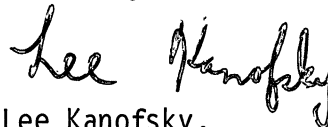
Dear Mr. Healy,

The board of Directors of Shelter, Inc. has voted to request that they be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the City Council.

The nature of our presentation is to identify ourselves clearly and explain what we hope to do in Cambridge.

I hope that I may hear from you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lee Kanofsky,
Chairman
Shelter, Inc.

Comm. from Shelter, Inc. requesting a hearing before the City Council in order that they may identify their operation.

10/15/76 Roll Call fails
on motion of E. Lim to
place on file 2-7-2

10/15/76

On motion of E.
Doehny referred to
a hearing to be set
By the Mayor

In City Council,

October 18, 1976