

A Letter From Dave Smith

Dave Smith is the director of the Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville, Texas. He wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, *The Huntsville Item*, about the services the Good Shepherd Mission gives to citizens who need help.

Here is part of his letter to the citizens of Huntsville,

I do hope you know there have been thousands of ordinary folks, some your very neighbors who have been by (The Good Shepherd Mission) to get some sort of help. Almost one out of every five families in Walker County receives some sort of service from this charity that you support. We may not stop poverty as we know it, but with your help, we have made thousands of lives better.

Included in this note is a list of services rendered on your behalf to those who we serve. Each number is a person, a family, a reason for us to keep going.

Summary of Services in 2002:

- 79,833 articles of clothing given to 3,000 different individuals, plus 802 coats
- 125 tons of groceries (402 local families per month, with 1,607 family members)
- 219 folks were helped with travel aid, mostly for medical reasons (transportation to a doctor's office), 26 with bus tickets
- 109 individuals helped with medical prescriptions
- Over 2,130 pieces of furniture given away
- Over 15,500 hot meals served
- Over 4,800 sheltered lodgings

Questions for Discussion:

1. What kind of services do people of a town need when they cannot provide for themselves?
2. What is one of the ways people of a town receive services?
3. How do the Good Shepherd Mission and other groups get most of their money and goods to help people in need?