

“FILL THE GAP”

A program of the Peace and Justice Network of Montgomery County

The Peace and Justice Network of Montgomery County (PJN), a 501(c)(3) organization was created in 2006 by the Reverend Don Gebert and several other local ministers to educate, advocate, and cultivate a culture of peace, equality, and compassion in our community, our county and our world. Specifically, PJN strives to:

- Promote awareness and help alleviate poverty in our community
- Help provide greater access to healthcare for all residents of Montgomery County
- Advocate for the homeless, or soon to be homeless, and assist those in need find permanent and safe shelter, a home or apartment.
- Work with other local agencies and organizations to increase awareness of the issues facing some of the most vulnerable of our community and to assist in alleviating those negative conditions.

Several years ago, one of our board members and past presidents attended a Montgomery County Homeless Coalition meeting and heard several complaints that rental and utility deposits were a barrier to assisting people who needed to move into a new residence. She brought that information back to the Board, and as PJN was searching for a project that would help diminish homelessness in our county, Fill the Gap was formed. We found our niche; something that this small group could do, and something that wasn't being done.

THE ONLY THING THAT *FILL THE GAP* DOES IS HELP PAY RENTAL AND UTILITY DEPOSITS

Fill the Gap works with Interfaith of the Woodlands to make certain that all monies earned and donations, go directly to the cause and to those persons who are in need and qualified. Interfaith screens applicants and distributes the deposit money according to their standards and our guidelines. All of the money taken in goes to Fill the Gap. Board members receive no compensation, and more often than not, any overhead or funding needed to prepare for a fundraiser or operations is donated by the Board members.

Each month, Fill The Gap receives a listing of who the monies went to, along with short “stories” of the person or family receiving the assistance; who they are, how they got where they were, and what sort of home they were able move to. To view many of those heart-warming stories follow the link:

http://www.peacejusticenetwork.org/?page_id=38

Funds are raised by several means. Board members “work the kitchen” at Millbend Coffee House several months per year, preparing cakes, cookies and sandwiches for sale, with any income going to the Fill the Gap fund. We have an annual Wine Tasting and Art sale, held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. We have sponsored 2 concerts at Trinity Episcopal. We have received generous donations from the Gebert Mission Fund and The woodlands Community Presbyterian Church, along with other private contributions.

In addition to Fill the Gap, PJN has sponsored the International Day of Peace Art Project for 5 years. The International Day of Peace falls on the 21st of September every year. Children from 9 churches and other community organizations are asked to prepare and donate a small piece art (“painting”) depicting their concept of “world peace” and these are placed by PJN board members in 17 locations around the area, including 3 libraries, 2 YMCA's, Interfaith of the Woodlands, a Hindu Temple, Oscar Johnson Community Center, Al-Ansaar Mosque, Conroe Chamber of Commerce, and other Christian churches in the area, including The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church. There is no funding associated with this project.

For questions or comments about our mission, call or text Paul R. Nelson at 713.540.1964, or email him at plnlsn2@gmail.com

Your support is greatly appreciated.