

STONE SOUP

*Mission's Mission for Reducing Homelessness and
Connecting the Disconnected*

Why Stone Soup?



□ Do you know the tale?

- Travelers come to town and ask for food, but are told there is not enough to share.
- They begin making “stone soup” from a pot of water & a stone.
- Each villager comes and drops a vegetable into the soup
- The villagers soon find they have enough ingredients to share.

Why Stone Soup?

- *Money is the worst reason for doing anything. The lack of it is the worst reason for doing nothing*
- We have resources, will and expertise
- We can make a difference today, and cannot afford to wait
- **We must change our view of the ingredients we have (Build a longer table not a taller fence)**
- We cannot rely solely on professional or one-size-fits-all resources

The Idea

- Like *Stone Soup*, we possess unrecognized resources
- 3 Phases
 - **Phase 1** – a) day long session to explore and consider “menu” of options with service providers, b) workshop with homeless persons, unengaged, disconnected and recently housed, c) public forum
 - **Phase 2** – develop concrete (timed and costed) implementation plan for chosen menu items
 - **Phase 3** – implement, review, report, revise
- Short, medium and long-term options

Philosophy for Working Together

- Respect and dignity
- Assume good will
- Accept responsibility, Move away from the blame game
- Respect the background and expertise of others
- Be solution-minded and realistic
- Listen first, Learn from others
- Data is needed, but cannot replace action or heart
- Empathy – Relate to people as people
- Trust and be trustworthy
- Us and them – There is no such thing
- **We all want a healthier more connected community**

We Heard It May Be Hard To Come To The Table Because ...

- We may be homeless, poor or disconnected, but we are members of this community
- It can be difficult to know what is out there and how to access it, fear of being turned away
- Compromised dignity and bureaucracy are very big barriers
- We need choices because we are not all the same
- It can be difficult to know who to trust. Many have been exploited by family, friends and professionals

We Also Heard ...

- We are not criminals
- We like to help our community, and that often occurs as us helping others who are in need
- We need a stable home as a foundation to making our lives and selves better
- We need more choice
- We do not want to be homeless or alone
- We do want you to welcome and include us

Quotes on Trying to Get Connected

On trying to understand the system:

“It is like people are speaking a different language.”

On getting sincere help from professionals:

“You are a number to them.”

On community:

“It takes a community to care for a community, this is my community, we can only solve problems together”

Stone Soup Dinners

- Creating space for all walks of community to come together, **contribute something for the pot, prepare together, eat together, dialogue together**
- Narrative approach to shift the public discourse
- Stories are shared, questions are asked
- Join Us! Stone Soup Dinners to be held monthly May – November 2016 in Mission with a different theme at each dinner.
- All you need is a vegetable! All ages welcome!

What can you contribute to the pot in your community?

- Stone Soup Facebook Page
- Stone Soup Dinners May – Nov 2016
- **Community doesn't build itself, if you want a better one you need to get engaged**
- **What can you contribute to the pot?**
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