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### Common Table

Patrick McLaughlin

*First United Methodist Church Manhattan KS*

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**First United Methodist Church  
Manhattan, KS**

**Pastor  
Patrick**



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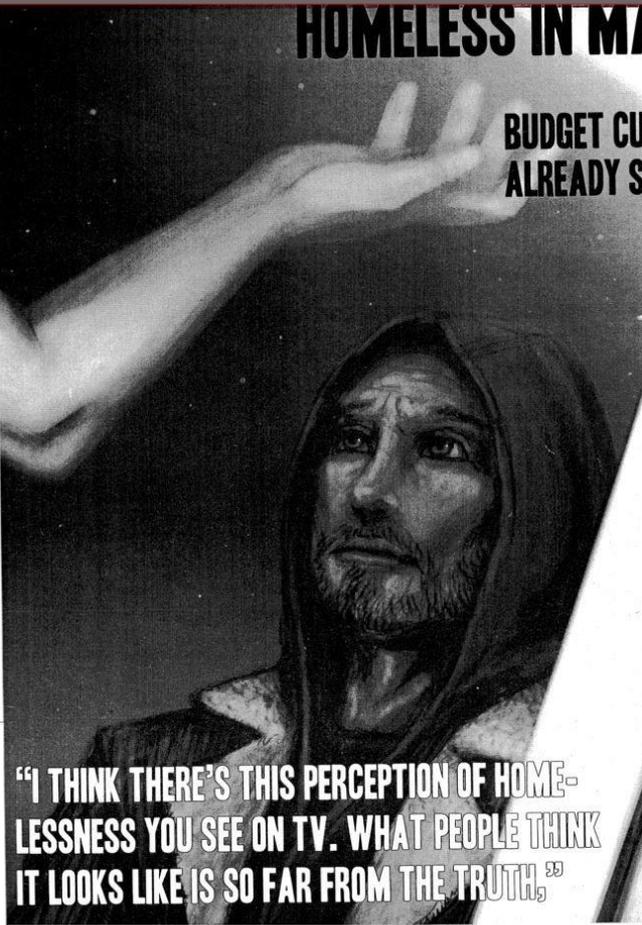
**Patrick Mclaughlin**

# HOMELESS IN MANHATTAN

PART 1 OF 4

## BUDGET CUTS MIGHT EFFECT ALREADY STRESSED SHELTER

**DARCIE W. WEST**



**"I THINK THERE'S THIS PERCEPTION OF HOMELESSNESS YOU SEE ON TV. WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE IS SO FAR FROM THE TRUTH."**

A few weeks ago, I was in Aggieville when a young man came up to me and asked if he could use my phone. I watched him for a few moments while he pulled out a piece of paper with names and numbers and proceeded to call a few people, looking for a place to stay. When he had finished (unsuccessfully), I asked him the dumbly obvious question if he was homeless. He said yes. I asked him if he knew where the shelter was, and he responded, "They're full. Every time I go there, they're full up."

This surprised me. I did not know much about Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Inc., but surely if they were full all the time, there would be more people on the streets. I rarely saw homeless people in Manhattan, and certainly not sleeping on the sidewalks like I have in other cities. On the other hand, this young man did not look like the stereotypical hobo one often thinks of. So, I took it upon myself to go to the shelter and talk to Executive Director Emily Wagner. I told her the story of my encounter and asked what I thought was a simple question: Just how bad is homelessness in Manhattan? This ended up being a long and complicated journey from the shelter to the City Commission to the city's Director of Finance, and I'm still not certain I have definitive answers.

### MANHATTAN EMERGENCY SHELTER, INC.

Homelessness in Manhattan is an invisible issue. Wagner agreed that one does not often see homeless people on the streets of Manhattan, which she hoped was a credit to the shelter doing its job, but often there is more to homelessness than meets the eye. Many people, she said, were unaware of how big the problem was precisely for the reason that it is not very visible.

"I think there's this perception of homelessness you see on TV. What people think it looks like is so far from the truth,"

# Growing Awareness

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Patrick Mclaughlin

# USD 383 tackles puzzle of caring for homeless students

Bryan Richardson  
brichardson@themercury.com

Stan Ward, USD 383 coordinator of federal/state funds and grants, leaned back in his chair when the subject of money for homeless students came up.

Ward and program coordinator Cheryl McCormick explained the dynamics of the program, which is designed to make sure homeless students are enrolled in school – and have access to things like school supplies,

health services, tutoring and transportation.

However, funding has become an issue.

The district received \$18,155 in grant funding this year. With money allocated from Title I funds that go to disadvantaged children, the total funding is around \$30,000.

“Those two funds together can’t even begin to scratch the surface of the needs of these kids,” Ward said.

Ward said funding hasn’t

matched the exponential growth of students identified as homeless.

The district identified approximately 25 homeless students in 2006, but that number jumped to 71 in 2007. Last year, the district had 239 homeless students, and the number is expected to exceed 250 this school year.

In the district, 72 percent of students defined as homeless are sharing housing with others, 20 percent are living in shelters and 8 percent fall into another cate-

gory.

The grant requires the school district to provide services, but Ward said the program’s funding at this point is probably maxed out.

Title I funding is now facing continuous cuts due to sequestration. The district is getting about \$1.03 million in Title I funds this year, a decrease of \$85,762 from 2010-11.

“Like with everything else, we have an unfunded mandate, and the limited money we do have

keeps being reduced,” Ward said.

“Welcome to education,” McCormick added.

The definition of homelessness was set by the federal government with the McKinney-Vento Act, which passed in 1987.

It is based on people living in an unsheltered situation, sharing housing with someone other than the student’s parent(s), living in a motel or hotel, shelter or

**SEE NO. 1, BACK PAGE**



NEW PARTNERS  
CHALLENGES FRAMED AS  
CHILDREN'S ISSUES

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We know you are all very interested in the numbers from the "Everybody Counts" event in Manhattan..

\*The HUD Approved definition of Homeless is a strict one and many of the individuals that were (doubled up and without a home) are not considered homeless.

So on a single January night in Manhattan

# of People

33 - Homeless @ Emergency Shelter

28 - Homeless in Transitional Housing

6 - Imminently Homeless (Staying with Friends and family but have to leave within a week)

3 - Homeless but in Hotel they did not pay for (Voucher/Donation)

3 - Homeless living in car or outside

7 - Fleeing Domestic Violence and in shelter

18 - Precariously Housed \*Friends or family but don't have to leave yet (doubled up)

250 - housed individuals came to receive specific needs (this includes kids)

Most frequently requested needs:

1. Food
2. Dental
3. Health Care

\*The request for food was a little bit surprising. Manhattan does have the Flint Hills Breadbasket and Harvesters has 3 mobile pantries in Riley County. Perhaps there could be better awareness of those available services going forward.

Harvesters reported during the Everybody Counts event:

155 Households received nearly a total of 8,000lbs of food.

(More data on this is coming next week)

Food



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# WESLEYAN QUADRILATERAL

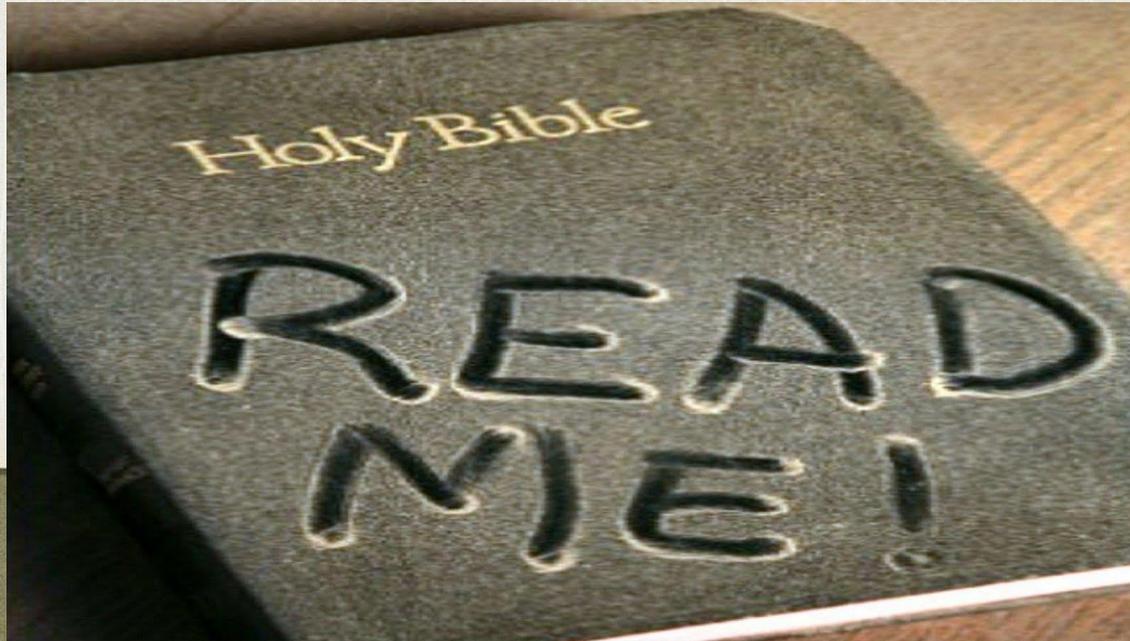
## Experience

- *Hunger is a real issue, often hidden away in church basements and out of the way food pantries.*
- *Statistics and Anecdotes from those who are hungry don't go very far in this community.*

EXPERIENCE

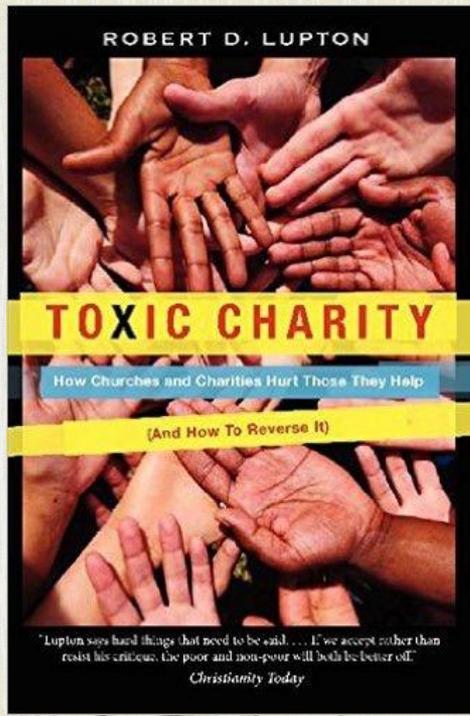
Tradition

# WESLEYAN QUADRILATERAL

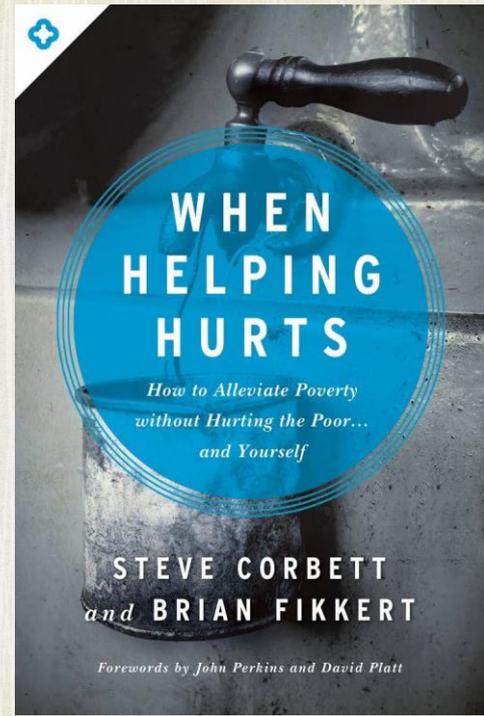


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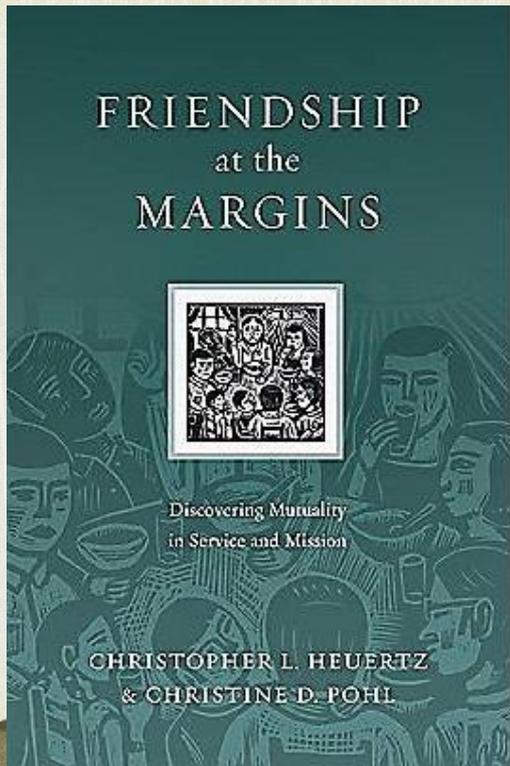
End of charitable giving and encourages bootstrap myth.



REASON: NEWISH GENRE

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## Incarnation

Working *with* people  
not simply *for* people.

Orphans, the elderly,  
and those who are ill  
have no bootstraps.

SCRIPTURE

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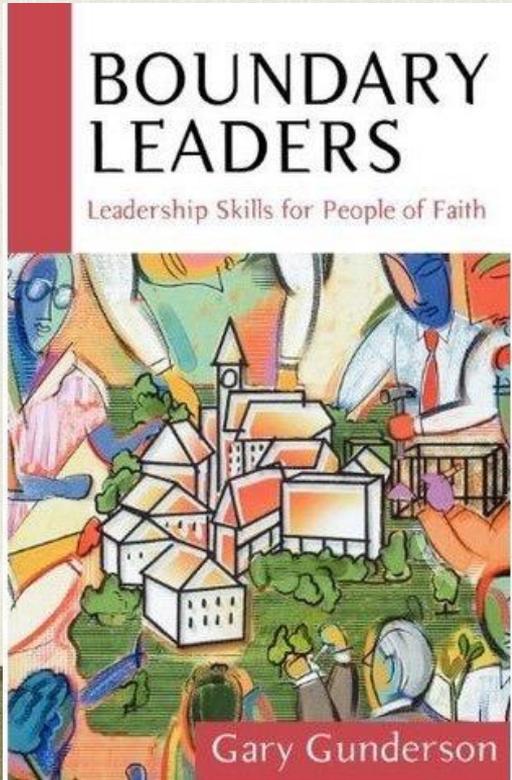


I've learned as much as  
I've taught working with  
those who need fish... and  
neither of us go hungry.

GIVE A PERSON  
TEACH A PERSON

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Leadership and progress in complex issues happens at intersections between unusual partners

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LEADING CAUSES OF  
**LIFE**

FIVE FUNDAMENTALS TO CHANGE THE WAY  
YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE

Gary Gunderson with Larry Pray

Scarcity- Leading causes of death will always find a new #1 way to avoid dying.

Abundance-Leading causes of life refocus our efforts on enhancing the way we live.

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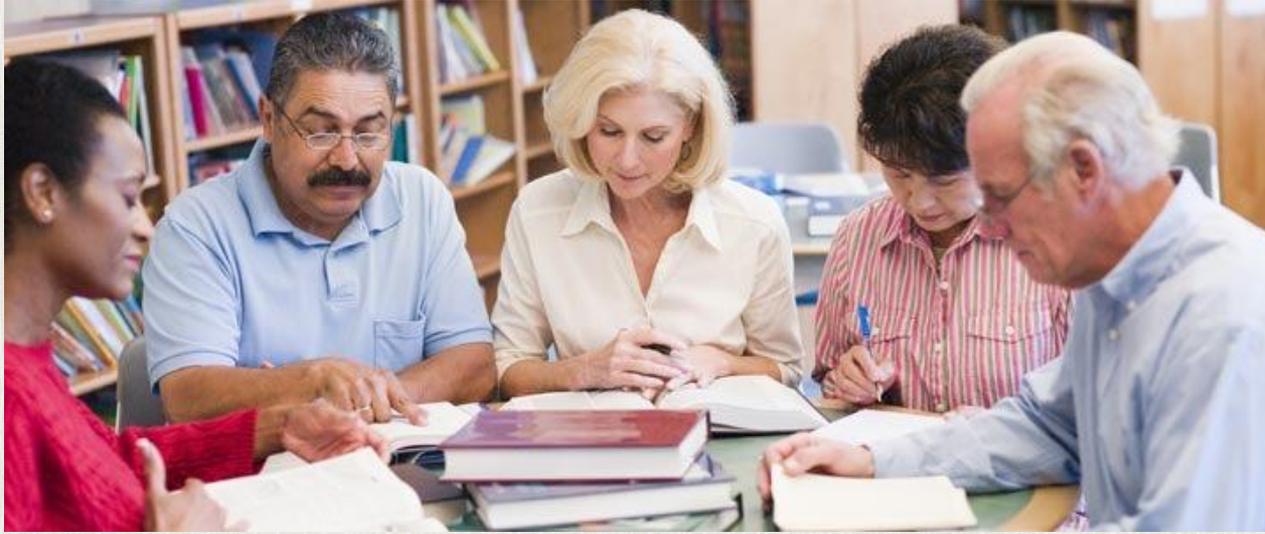
**Patrick Mclaughlin**



# TIRED OF FOOD DRIVES

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# TEACHING AND COUNSELING

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# RILEY LN GARDENS

Manhattan, KS

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# NETWORKED SILOS

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common table

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