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REPORT TO  
GOVERNOR RUDY PERPICH  
ON  
Recommendations To  
Eliminate Homelessness and Hunger  
In Minnesota



May 10, 1983

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Governor's Task Force  
On Emergency Food and Shelter

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# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

RUDY PERPICH  
GOVERNOR

May 10, 1983

Governor Rudy Perpich  
State Capitol  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Perpich,

On behalf of your Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter, I want to present our report and recommendations.

Your charge to us was to report the extent of homelessness and hunger in Minnesota and to make recommendations for action by state governments, the non-profit and the private sector.

The Task Force representing 70 people from government, labor, corporations, food shelves, food banks, commodities programs, CAPS, low income communities, shelters and soup kitchens across the state has worked hard to give you a comprehensive report and recommendations for what government, the non-profits and the private sector must do. Your staff has been given these recommendations.

Basically we have recommended:

1. that the safety net, be restored and that General Assistance be made available to employable people unable to find work.
2. that a meaningful jobs program be put into place.
3. that monies be made available to counties unable to meet the costs of providing emergency shelter.
4. that the federal commodities program be expanded to put up to seven million pounds of food on Minnesota food shelves.
5. that the Minnesota food industry and church communities continue to be tapped for contributions to fill the food shelves.

We have already begun to put some of those recommendations into action:

1. This month in cooperation with Information and Referral offices around the state and Northwestern Bell a toll-free Hotline will make emergency food and shelter accessible to everyone.
2. An emergency housing backup system is going into effect with free rooms provided by the Minnesota Hotel and Motel Associations.

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3. We are expanding our program to solicit donated food, processing and transportation from the Minnesota food industry.
4. And we are in discussions with the Minneosta Multi-Housing Association about providing no or low cost apartments to the low income and unemployed people.

The Task Force members worked long and hard to develop an effective and workable program.

Only government has the resources to really solve these problems.

Here are our recommendations for your action.

For the Task Force,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gina Paulucci".

Gina Paulucci  
Chairperson



St. Paul Area Chapter  
100 South Robert Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107  
(612) 291-6789

May 10, 1983

The Honorable Rudy Perpich  
Governor of Minnesota  
Room 123, Capitol Building  
St. Paul MN 55115

Dear Governor Perpich:

The Subcommittee on Emergency Shelter developed a systematic approach to identify the extent and nature of homelessness in the state. As a result of this, the committee developed recommendations to address the shelter needs of our homeless population.

The initial challenge, in view of the problem, was to develop recommendations that State government could use to help minimize the impact of the economic situation on the more vulnerable residents of our state. I believe the recommendations in the attached document, provide methods by which the safety-net can be restored.

Subcommittee members devoted numerous hours in seeking and developing viable options to reduce the impact of the economy on our indigent (i.e. homeless and hungry). The time they spent grew out of their deep commitment to the needs of these individuals and families. On behalf of the Subcommittee on Emergency Shelter, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the state and our fellow Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Sampson".

Patricia Sampson, Co-chairperson  
Subcommittee on Emergency Shelter

enclosure

PS/ba



— A Partner in United Way

## Directors Report

Martha Ballou

### Purpose of The Task Force

The Task Force was created as a direct result of Governor Rudy Perpich's concern about the possibility of people starving or freezing in the Winter of 1983. To prevent that from happening, the Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter was created and state agencies were directed to commit their resources to solving the problems.

The charge to the Task Force was to report on the extent of hunger and homelessness in the state, make recommendations for governmental action and mobilize the resources of the private and non-profit sectors to take immediate action.

January, 1983

In January, 1983, things were grim and getting worse:

1. About 1,000 people were homeless and about 750 were living in emergency shelters.
2. 535,398 people, nearly 1/8 of the state's population, had received cheese and dairy products at the federal surplus commodities distribution in October, 1982.
3. Food shelves and soup kitchens around the state reported steadily increasing numbers of people needing food.
4. 217,000 people were unemployed.

The large number of homeless people center in the Twin Cities and Duluth. While homelessness existed in other areas, we found that people were either doubling up or coming to the urban areas when there was no public room for them in their areas.

The first wave of the homeless were people who lost public benefits (General Assistance, Food Stamps, or who were de-institutionalized from state institutions) when eligibility standards were tightened. The second wave was the "new poor", people who formerly worked at low paying jobs, lost them and two weeks later, needed emergency help. A third group was the potentially homeless and hungry; people facing probably layoff and those coming close to exhausting their unemployment benefits.

Money for existing shelters was running out and there was no money to expand the number of beds available for emergencies. Shelters were a stop gap solution at best. Long term affordable housing is what was needed and it was not available.

The homeless exist because State government helped create them. The excessive tightening of General Assistance Eligibility standards and the closing of state institutions created a whole new class of homeless. People who were getting by or who were being taken care of, now wandered the streets. General Assistance needed to be made available to more people. Special housing was needed for the chronically chemically dependent.

We found that what people wanted and needed most was JOBS. Every available piece of data indicated that people saw having a job as the solution to their problems. What we found is that the deepening recession was creating a new class of low income people who had lost jobs and might never regain them. The major concern was how to avoid consolidating these people into the permanent underclass. We ran the risk of creating a new group of permanent poor. It was clear that an immediate jobs program must be instituted to put people back into the economy. People need jobs, not training.

There was already a well-organized, hard working, local church and volunteer network that was working on a daily basis to meet the need. But they could

not go on forever or go on unaided. They needed money to stay open and to continue to deliver services. They needed money to build more shelters and improve the food shelves. And finally, we had to answer the question of whether we wanted to perpetuate this back door General Assistance system or could we get at the root causes of the problems through job creation and expanded public assistance.

With the economy continuing to deteriorate we could only expect that the demand for food to increase dramatically. With no indications of real growth in the steel industry or in farming continued layoffs in service and small manufacturing industries, and an estimated 25,000 people about to lose their unemployment benefits by the end of February, we needed to plan for an expanding and deepening need for food. In other words, we needed to acknowledge that at this point a three-day emergency supply of emergency food was not adequate. We needed to be talking about how to provide supplemental food to those people (5 to 15 days per month supply) and perhaps talk about providing the basic diet for the entire month, every month for a good portion of them. It was also reasonable to expect that the number of people needing help might also be expanding so we had to talk not only about more meals, but more meals for more people-- doubling and perhaps tripling the amount of food available every month.

The churches, non-profit and private sector organizations that had carried the major responsibility for feeding and housing people in need were overworked and running out of funds. Shelters were operating near capacity, food shelves were seeing demand for food doubling and continuing to increase. Mass feeding sites were feeding ever increasing numbers of people. The volunteer energy that was used to fuel this system was being exhausted by lack of government support.

The message that came through loud and clear from the shelters, soup kitchens, food shelves, CAPs was state government must restore the safety net--it must guarantee that people will have income if they cannot find a job, regardless of their ability to work.

Immediate, direct relief to the shelters, soup kitchens and food shelves had to be appropriated to keep these facilities open and to send a signal of hope to the providers and people in need. Governor Perpich announced the release of \$1 million in state aid to agencies providing emergency food and shelter. It allowed existing shelters to remain open and new ones to begin. Food shelves were able to purchase food and soup kitchens could continue to operate.

The \$1 million bought enough time for the Task Force to take a longer view on what needed to be done and created enough time for long-term solutions to be put in place.

#### Work of the Task Force

The first week of the Task Force's work concentrated on talking and meeting first hand with people at food shelves and food banks in shelters and at mass feeding sites. Task Force members and staff slept in shelters, ate at mass feeding sites, went to the railroad bridges and tunnels where people have been sleeping.



The intent was to get the broadest possible first hand information on how extensive the problems were.

Public hearings were held on the Iron Range, St. Cloud, and Duluth to listen directly to the needs of the food shelves, shelters and commodities operations.

Everywhere, the message was the same--we cannot keep up with the demand. The state must act--to provide the safety net and to insure that dignified and adequate emergency services are in place.

At the Task Force's first meeting, preliminary plans for action were laid out:

1. Restoring the safety net.
2. Expanding the amount of food available at food shelves, through expanded donations, programs from individuals, the Minnesota food industries, and expanding the federal commodities distribution programs.
3. Maintaining the existing shelter beds as necessary but putting priority on securing dignified interim and affordable long-term housing.

Subcommittees began the work of defining the specifics of plans to feed and house people and on March 22 and 29, 1983, the Task Force received and accepted their reports. On April 8, those reports and their cost implications were delivered to the Governor's staff.

#### Public/Private Partnerships

Responding to the Governor's initiatives the private sector demonstrated commitment to working government to solve the problems and creativity in looking at new methods.

The food companies, particularly Pillsbury, General Mills, International Multifoods and Land O'Lakes had already played the leading roles in feeding the hungry.

Using their lead as a model, the Task Force asked other producers and processors to join in. The Minnesota Wheat Growers, Multifoods and Bemis Corporation together put 100,000 pounds of flour in Minnesota food shelves. Cargill executives began to examine what their company could contribute, Geno's donates \$100,000 worth of food to the food shelves.

General Mills is considering donating a loaned executive to work with the Task Force and the food banks to approach the rest of the Minnesota food industry.

Northwestern Bell provided the finding and equipment for a state-wide toll-free Hotline for Emergency Food and Shelter run by Youth Emergency Services (Y.E.S.) in Minneapolis in cooperation with local Information and Referral

offices around the state. People will be able to find food and shelter on a 24-hour basis, 7 days per week.

With the emergency shelters running at capacity, the Minnesota Hotel and Resort Association and the Minnesota Motel Association together provided 360 free rooms around the state if the emergency shelters run over.

Finally, because one of the Task Force's goals was to stabilize the number of people who were homeless, the Task Force and the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association began work on a program that would make vacant apartments available at cost or at market-rate sweat equity to the unemployed.

### Future Outlook

In May of 1983, things are getting worse, not better. A recent study of usage of shelters, soup kitchens, food shelves and commodities programs show marked increases. All shelters are running at capacity. Food shelf users are doubling. Commodities programs cannot meet the needs of the 750,000 people needing food assistance.

The Task Force feels that the people now using the emergency system will be the last to feel the effects of the recovery. Its recommendations are based on the belief that at least 12 months worth of emergency help is going to be needed.

We have completed the first phase. We know what the problems are and what we must do to solve them.

Now it is time for action.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Top Priority

1. Restore the safety net--reinstate General Assistance benefits for employable people who cannot find work.
2. Implement a meaningful job program.

### Emergency Food

1. Expand the current Federal Surplus Commodities Distribution Program to distribute up to 7 million pounds of food per month including, but not restricted to, dairy products. One program should be a short-term program extending from July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 and should be a complement, not a substitute, for General Assistance and other food and nutrition programs. The Department of Economic Security should continue to house the Commodity Distribution Program; cost \$2.9 million.
2. Implement a state-wide donated food program in the Fall of 1983, concentrating on the contribution of food to churches for use by emergency food shelves.
3. Tap the Minnesota agricultural business and growers to contribute funds and products to the donated food system.
4. Encourage self-reliance food program including community gardens, farmer's markets, home canning, etc.
5. Ask the U.S. Secretary to Agriculture to concentrate on the procurement of commodities in a distributable form rather than the storage of products in forms not conducive to distribution to users.
6. Ask the Minnesota Congressional delegation to work to restore and strengthen federal food and nutrition programs.

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Shelter

Emergency Shelter

1. Make funds available through the Department of Economic Security to the counties with the largest number of homeless, demonstrating a need for supplemental resources. These funds are to be used between July 1, 1983 through June, 1984 to provide shelter for the homeless. It is recommended that the program be evaluated in January, 1984 to determine if it should be eliminated, modified, or continued.  
Program Cost:
2. In view of the fact that sufficient low cost housing is not available, it is recommended: 1) the Department of Public Welfare eliminate its requirement that General Assistance recipients forfeit part of their grants, if they share housings, and 2) local and/or regional housing agencies, i.e. HUD, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, etc., be called upon to utilize from their housing inventory, scattered units to provide shelter for the homeless, with supportive coordinated assistance from non-profit social service organizations. This recommendation may be implemented in conjunction with the preceeding one.
3. The Subcommittee concluded that many different kinds of people with varying needs use shelters. One group that possesses special problems for the existing shelters are those individuals who experience mental health crises in that setting. Their behavior is often not appropriate and is disruptive. It is, therefore, recommended that in counties where this is a problem and insufficient emergency shelter resources exist to meet the special needs of this clientele, that funds be allocated for the purpose of providing this service. These funds are to be used between July 1, 1983 and June, 1984 to determine if it should be eliminated, modified, or continued.  
Program Cost:
4. It is recommended that there be no discrimination against our single homeless population.
5. Encourage shelters to remain open year round, only until General Assistance can assume its responsibility to provide for the care of the homeless.
6. Initiate a statewide hotline network that will easily connect people with local food and shelter resources. Existing resources should be used. However, private sector funding should be secured to address these needs in areas where an adequate information and referral network does not exist.

7. Launch a "tenant retrieval" project with the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association to retain current residential tenants who have lost employment, unemployment benefits, or public assistance. In addition, seek Minnesota Multi-Housing Association's assistance in making vacant units available, at cost, to people who are without benefits.
8. Use the hotels and motels only as an emergency back-up network for a twelve-month period, beginning May, 1983.
9. Seek the cooperation of mortgage holders to allow individuals/families to remain in their own homes for minimum payments or freeze mortgage foreclosures.

## APPENDIX



### TASK FORCE CHRONOLOGY

January 3, 1983	Governor Perpich calls meeting of State government department heads enlisting their cooperation in state-wide efforts for the homeless and hungry.
January 3, 1983	Meetings with shelters, soup kitchens, food shelf, and food bank provides CAP agencies, foundations, public officials, department heads, church representatives, and nonprofit agencies of the extent of the problem.
January 11, 1983	First hotline meeting held.
January 12, 1983	Initial report to Governor Perpich.
January 19, 1983	Governor Perpich releases \$1 million to help shelters and food bank open.
February 10, 1983	Public Hearing - Hibbing, Minnesota One Hundred food shelf volunteers say they cannot meet the demand for food.
February 20, 1983	Task Force helps launch Elbow Lake Food Drive for the Iron Range.
February 22, 1983	Full Task Torce meeting cancelled. Initial plans for action developed. Subcommittees on food or shelter formed.
February 23, 1983	Public Hearing - St. Cloud, Minnesota Demand for food is growing.
March 1, 1983	Food and shelter subcommittees begin work on recommendations for aciton.
March 5, 1983	Minnesota wheatgrowers donate 100,000 pounds of flour to Minnesota food shelves at Duluth rally for the unemployed.
March 8, 1983	Public Hearing - Duluth, Minnesota
March 8, 10, 15, 24, 1983	Food and shelter subcommittees continue work on the recommendations.
March 22, 1983	Task Force meets and finalizes recommendations on food. Leaderships meets with Mike O'Donnell of the Governor's Office to outline food proposals.
March 28, 1983	Initial discussions on distribution of Federal emergency jobs names.

March 29, 1983	Task Force meets and confirms shelter recommendations.
April 8, 1983	Task Force recommendations and their costs delivered to Governor's staff.
May 10, 1983	Governor meets with the Task Force to respond to the recommendations.
May 15, 1983	Hotline opens. Free hotel/motel rooms made available.
June ,1983	Harvest for the Hungry begins. Apartments opened for unemployed.

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS GINA PAULUCCI. I AM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER. I AM HERE THIS MORNING TO REPORT OUR FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER IN MINNESOTA.

GOVERNOR, SINCE YOUR INAUGURATION LAST WEEK, OUR TASK FORCE, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND TASK FORCE STAFF HAVE LAUNCHED A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET THE FASTEST AND MOST THOROUGH PICTURE OF HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS IN MINNESOTA. WE HAVE MET WITH SCORES OF PEOPLE REPRESENTING 35 ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE. WE HAVE TALKED WITH PEOPLE FROM DROP-IN CENTERS, CHURCHES, SHELTERS, THE RED CROSS, ON-SITE FEEDING PROGRAMS, COUNTY HOSPITALS, FOOD SHELVES, STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS AND FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE HEADS. OUR AIM WAS TO REACH THE BROADEST RANGE OF PEOPLE DEALING ON A DAILY BASIS WITH THESE PROBLEMS. WE WANTED TO HEAR FROM THEM WHAT IS HAPPENING AND TOGETHER MAKE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT THE STATE CAN DO. WE ARE HERE THIS MORNING TO REPORT OUR FINDINGS AND OUTLINE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION. HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE FOUND:

1. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS CENTER WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE TWIN CITIES AND DULUTH.
2. BEST AVAILABLE SOURCES INDICATE THAT ON A SHORT TERM NON-EMERGENCY BASIS THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH BEDS TO MEET THE NEEDS.
3. IF AN EMERGENCY HITS WE WILL NEED MORE BEDS AND AN EMERGENCY BACK-UP SYSTEM.
4. WE KNOW THAT EMERGENCIES ARE COMING: THIS MONTH WE CAN EXPECT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR STORM AND SERIOUS BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES. IN EARLY FEBRUARY WE EXPECT THAT HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WILL HAVE EXHAUSTED

THEIR GENERAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS AND HAVE NOWHERE TO GO. WITH THE ECONOMY CONTINUING TO WORSEN WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER LAYOFFS - PARTICULARLY OF LOW INCOME SERVICE WORKERS. ANY UTILITY SHUT-OFFS WILL SEND PEOPLE OUT INTO THE COLD.

5. MONEY FOR EXISTING SHELTERS IS RUNNING OUT AND THERE IS NO MONEY TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCIES.
6. SHELTERS ARE A STOP GAP SOLUTION AT BEST. LONG TERM, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS WHAT'S NEEDED AND IT IS NOT AVAILABLE.
7. THE HOMELESS EXIST BECAUSE WE HAVE HELPED CREATE THEM. THE EXCESSIVE TIGHTENING OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND THE CLOSING OF STATE INSTITUTIONS HAVE CREATED A WHOLE NEW CLASS OF HOMELESS. PEOPLE WHO WERE GETTING BY OR WHO WERE BEING TAKEN CARE OF, NOW WANDER THE STREETS.
8. SPECIAL HOUSING IS NEEDED RIGHT NOW FOR THE CHRONICALLY CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT. WE FOUND THAT THE FIRST WAVE OF THE HOMELESS WERE PEOPLE WHO LOST PUBLIC BENEFITS (GENERAL ASSISTANCE, FOOD STAMPS, OR WHO WERE DE-INSTITUTIONALIZED) WHEN ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS WERE TIGHTENED. THE SECOND WAVE ARE THE "NEW POOR" - PEOPLE WHO FORMERLY WORKED AT LOW PAYING JOBS, LOST THEM AND TWO WEEKS LATER NEEDED EMERGENCY HELP. WE FOUND THAT WHAT PEOPLE WANT AND NEED MOST OF ALL IS JOBS.

I WANT TO REPORT THAT THERE IS ALREADY A WELL ORGANIZED, HARD WORKING LOCAL, CHURCH AND VOLUNTEER NETWORK THAT IS WORKING ON A DAILY BASIS TO MEET THE NEED. BUT THEY CANNOT GO ON FOREVER OR GO ON UNAIDED. WHAT WE HEAR CONSTANTLY FROM THEM IS THAT THEY NEED MONEY TO HANDLE EMERGENCIES. THEY NEED LEGISLATION TO MAKE GENERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO MORE PEOPLE. THEY NEED HELP FROM THE LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE WARD

STATUS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL.

FINALLY, THE MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR -- PLEASE "RESTORE THE SAFETY NET". THEY ASK ASSURANCE THAT NO ONE WILL GO WITHOUT HOUSING OR FOOD AND THAT YOU WILL HELP MOBILIZE THE RESOURCES OF THE STATE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. HERE IS WHAT WE HEAR PEOPLE ASKING STATE GOVERNMENT TO DO:

- \*ESTABLISH STATE OR LOCAL HOTLINES - GET PEOPLE WHO NEED FOOD OR HOUSING MATCHED UP WITH RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY.
- \*INSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE BACKUP SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING - PUT THE ARMORIES ON STANDBY ALERT, READY TO OPEN WITHIN 24 HOURS OF AN EMERGENCY AND CALL ON CHURCHES, AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO FREE-UP EMERGENCY SPACE.
- \*PROVIDE EMERGENCY STATE MONEY TO LOCAL COUNTIES AND KEEP EXISTING SHELTERS OPEN AND EXPAND FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. ASK PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MATCH THOSE FUNDS.
- \*DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM: EXPAND THE ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR GA, PROVIDE BOARDER CARE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE LONG TERM HOUSING AFFORDABLE.
- \*USE THE SERVICES OF THE STATE TO HELP COORDINATE PUBLIC/PRIVATE FUND RAISING EFFORTS AND BRING IN RESOURCES FROM ACROSS THE STATE TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.
- \*ASK THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA TO JOIN IN THESE EFFORTS BY SUPPORTING THEIR LOCAL FOOD SHELVES, DONATING CLOTHING OR CONTRIBUTION MONEY THROUGH THEIR CHURCHES OR COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY.

THE TASK FORCE'S IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS HAVING AN EMERGENCY BACK-UP SHELTER SYSTEM IN PLACE AND WORKING. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, THE EMERGENCY IS NOT OVER! WE EXPECT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER WILL CONTINUE -- OUR JOB IS TO HELP, NOT JUST IN EMERGENCIES, BUT FOR THE LONG RUN.



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

RUDY PERPICH  
GOVERNOR

For immediate release  
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1983

Contact: Gerry Nelson  
296-0047

ST. PAUL -- Gov. Rudy Perpich announced today that \$1 million will be made available immediately to pay for emergency food and shelter programs this winter.

Perpich said he has asked the Department of Economic Security to transfer \$1 million in federal discretionary funds to the emergency program. The money will be distributed to Community Action Agencies throughout the state, and also to private, religious and non-profit organizations which are providing food and shelter programs for the needy.

"Our intention is to get the funds out to those organizations that are already doing a good job and who need help to maintain their programs," Perpich said.

The Department of Economic Security currently has about \$4 million more than anticipated for its fuel assistance program. The transfer will come from those funds. The department is developing a more comprehensive program for the remaining funds. It could include weatherization and other efforts, which would provide jobs as well as aid to needy people.

The governor was alerted to the availability of the funds by Chairman James Rice of the House Appropriations Committee and by Commissioner Barbara Beerhalter of the Department of Economic Security.

(more)

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RUDY PERPICH  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ST. PAUL 55155

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Exact details of how the money will be apportioned will be announced in a few days. The likely method will be through contracts with the Community Action agencies, and other agencies.

The Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter also will play a major role in determining how the money will be used. The task force, headed by Gina Paulucci, was established by the governor soon after he took office. Its job has been to assess the needs of the homeless and hungry in Minnesota, and to coordinate partnership efforts by the public and private sector to meet those needs.

The governor pledged in his State of the State address that emergency food and shelter programs would be a top priority.

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Contact: Gina Paulucci 296-0464

Martha Ballou, staff of task force, 296-0451

## Suplus Commodities Population Data

According to the 1980 census data, as provided by the fuel assistance program, of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, there are 427,000 Minnesota households whose annual income is at, or below, 60% of the state's median income.

This is the income figure used by the fuel assistance program to determine eligibility for this program. The same guidelines (60% of the state's median income) are used for the surplus commodities program. Therefore, there are potentially 427,000 Minnesota households eligible for surplus commodities. This number is equivalent to 1.1 million individuals. 1.1 million people is approximately 25% of the state of Minnesota's total population. Or, one out of every four Minnesotans is technically eligible for the surplus commodity programs.

A. In October, 1982, the 34 local distributor agencies, like the 27 Community Action agencies, distributed 2.5 million pounds of food to 200,000 low income Minnesota households.

B. The local distributing agencies, in a telephone survey conducted last fall, after the October, 1982 distribution, estimated that an additional 35,000 to 40,000 low income households needed food but would not be served because the available supply of surplus commodities was exhausted.

Adding A and B together equals C total.

- A. 200,000
- B. 40,000
- C. 240,000 households

240,000 low income Minnesotans households is the closest, actual base number of the needy households that we have available. Building in a fudge factor of 35,000 to 40,000 additional households would bring the total estimated number of households for another surplus commodity distribution program in Minnesota to 275,000 to 280,000 households.

Thus we have:	A. actually served	200,000
	B. actual estimated unmet need	40,000
	C. estimated additional need	<u>40,000</u>
	D. total households	280,000

280,000 households is the same as approximately 722,000 individuals.

Note: The state demographer's office estimates that approximately 2.58 people live in each Minnesota household.

If 5,000,000 pounds of food is available for each month of the proposed 12 month emergency food distribution program then a total of 60,000,000 pounds is needed.

If each eligible household receives 18 pounds of surplus commodities, as was done in the October, 1982 distribution, then the total estimated need for food per month would be; 280,000 households x 18 pounds or 5,040,000 pounds.





# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RUDY PERPICH  
GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

February 16, 1983

TO: The Honorable Rudy Perpich  
Governor of the State of Minnesota

FROM: Gina Paulucci, Chair  
Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter

RE: Initial Report on Homelessness and Hunger in Minnesota

## INTRODUCTION

Since your inauguration, the Task Force Chair, the Assistant Commissioner of Public Safety and Task Force staff have launched a major effort to get the fastest and most thorough picture of hunger and homelessness in Minnesota. We have slept in shelters, visited tunnels and bridges where people sleep, gone to the drop-in centers, food shelves and shelters. We have met with scores of people representing nearly 50 organizations across the state. We have talked with people from drop-in centers, churches, shelters, the Red Cross, on-site feeding programs, city and county officials, foundation and corporate heads and the homeless and hungry themselves. Our aim was to reach the broadest range of people dealing on a daily basis with these problems. We wanted to hear from them about what is happening and together make some recommendations for what the state can do. This report outlines our initial findings and recommendations for action. Here is what we have found:

## HOMELESS

### Current Situation

The major problems with homeless people center in the Twin Cities and Duluth. While homelessness does exist in other areas we found that people are either doubling up or coming to the urban areas when there is no public room for them in their areas.

The first wave of the homeless were people who lost public benefits (General Assistance, Food Stamps, or who were de-institutionalized from state institutions) when eligibility standards were tightened. The second wave are the "new poor", people who formerly worked at low paying jobs, lost them and two weeks later needed emergency help. A third group are those who are potentially homeless and hungry; people facing probably layoff and those coming close to exhausting their unemployment benefits.

Best available sources indicate that on a short term non-emergency basis that there are enough beds in the urban areas to meet current needs. When an emergency hits we will need more beds and emergency housing backup system. We know that emergencies are coming; winter storms will be with us for the next few months and we can expect serious below freezing temperatures. From mid-February to early March we expect that 1500 to 3000 people will have exhausted their 1983 General Assistance benefits and will have nowhere to go. With the economy continuing to worsen we can expect further lay-offs particularly of low income service workers. All utility shutoffs are sending people out into the cold.

Money for existing shelters is running out and there is no money to expand the number of beds available for emergencies. Shelters are a stop gap solution at best. Long term affordable housing is what is needed and it is not available.

The homeless exist because we have helped create them. The excessive tightening of General Assistance Eligibility standards and the closing of state institutions have created a whole new class of homeless. People who were getting by or who were being taken care of, now wander the streets. They need legislation to make General Assistance available to more people. They need help from the legislature to extend the ward status for the mentally ill. Special housing is needed right now for the chronically chemically dependent.

We found that what people want and need most is JOBS. Every available piece of data indicates that people see having a job as the solution to their problems. What we are finding is that the deepening recession is creating a new class of low income people who have lost jobs and may never regain them. The major concern here is how to avoid consolidating these people into the permanent underclass. We run the risk of creating a new group of permanent poor. It is clear that an immediate jobs program must be instituted to put people back into the economy. People need jobs, not training.

We want to report that there is already a well organized, hard working local, church and volunteer network that is working on a daily basis to meet the need. But they cannot go on forever or go on unaided. They need money to stay open and to continue to deliver services. They need money to build more shelters and improve the food shelves. And finally, we have to answer the question of whether we want to perpetuate this back door General Assistance system or can we get at the root causes of the problems through job creation and expanded public assistance.

#### Solutions to the Problem.

The message from people came through loud and clear -- "RESTORE THE SAFETY NET." They asked assurance that no one will go without housing or food and that you will help mobilize the resources of the state to make it happen. Specifically, they asked the state to:

1. Make it easy for people to get food or housing and let people know how they can help. Establish state or local hotlines. Give people central places where they can donate money, food and clothing.
2. Institute an immediate backup system for emergency housing - free up money to help churches open up shelters, ask private industry to do its share, put the armories on standby alert to be available if necessary.

3. Deal with the root causes of the problem - liberalize the eligibility standards for General Assistance, make long term housing affordable, provide broader care for the mentally ill.
4. Use the auspices of the state to help coordinate public and private fund raising efforts. Help mobilize the resources in the state to solve the problems.

Action that we have taken:

We have already responded to the shelters' most pressing problems by releasing the \$1 million in emergency funds to keep them open. Additionally, those funds will allow counties to open new shelters to meet expanding need.

We have received an enthusiastic response from the hotel industry and they will provide 300 free rooms across the state to be used as a backup system if the shelters cannot handle the demand. Meals will be provided at some hotels and local telephone service will be available to all.

Northwestern Bell has made a commitment of its resources to provide and advertise hotlines. We expect to have an "800" number ready shortly and NWB will advertise it through radio and television ads, stickers, posters, and bill stuffers.

The job that is left to do:

When the Task Force convenes its major tasks will be:

1. Decide what action needs to be taken to keep shelters open, whether to expand and how to improve them.
2. Offer options for dealing with the special housing problems of the chronically chemically dependent and mentally ill.
3. Develop options for interim and long term affordable housing.

Our intention is to involve the private sector in an ongoing way to provide long term solutions. We have been promised research assistance from the Metropolitan Council and plan to use their expertise and the expertise of various citizen groups to think out solutions to the long term problems. We are particularly looking at giving specific meaning to public/private partnerships, we want to move industry from temporary voluntary charity to cutting costs or better still, making money by doing good. We want industry to share responsibility with the government and the non-profit sector in dealing with social problems.

HUNGER

No one knows the exact extent of hunger in Minnesota. All anyone can determine is that in the past year the problem has doubled and is on the way to tripling.

It is estimated that over 500,000 people, nearly one-eighth of the state's population, are in need of some type of supplement to their diet.

- \* In October 1982, 535,398 persons were served by the distribution of Federal commodities of cheese, butter, and dried milk.

- \* Applications for fuel assistance (which is one indication of financial need that may indicate a need for assistance in other basic areas) from November 1982 to mid-January 1983 totaled 71,576 serving 195,402 households.
- \* 198,000 people were unemployed as of December 1982.
- \* 87,000 unemployed people are not receiving any unemployment benefits.
- \* Over 25,000 people will exhaust their unemployment benefits by mid March.
- \* If the Reagan Administration is successful in its attempts to further reduce the number of people receiving food stamps and school lunches, it is estimated that tens of thousands of people will need some kind of assistance in getting enough food to maintain a nutritionally balanced diet.
- \* (All figures are from the Department of Economic Security)

According to the report from the Spring Hill Conference on Emergency Food in November 1982, "requests for emergency food have more than doubled in the last 18 months. Food shelves and on-site feeding programs serving those persons without any means of procuring food are unable to meet the current need."

Geographically, the urban areas of the state experience the largest demand for emergency food, although there are rural areas, particularly the Iron Range, that are also seeing a significant increase in demand. One reason the extent of hunger in other rural areas simply is not known is that in some areas food shelves simply have not been created and there has been little local stimulus that would flush out the demand for supplemental food. A second factor is that since food shelves often are a local, indigenous effort to respond to crisis, existing networks communications are sometimes not sufficiently developed for other areas and food shelves to be aware of them. Our best guess is that in rural areas the need is there and outside congregate dining programs for the elderly and school lunch programs for children and food stamps, hunger is a real problem.

The true extent of hunger is not known. The greatest piece of evidence of growing need is that as soon as a food shelf is opened there is an immediate and constant demand for its services. It is a commonly held opinion that people's lack of knowledge of where to get food and restrictions on how often people can get food keeps the true size of the problem hidden.

#### Major Resources to Solve the Problem:

Churches and local food companies have led a strong local response to the problems of hunger. Food shelves have existed for a long time in the Twin Cities and other urban areas and their numbers have increased to meet the expanding need. Food for those shelves comes primarily from local churches and is sometimes matched by donations from food producing companies. Often food shelves will be the creation of a given church and that church's members will assume primary responsibility for filling the needs. By and large, the food shelves have been independent, indigenous efforts to respond to the need. They are true grassroots creations.

In the urban areas and the Range the network that ties them together is emerging and growing stronger. It is not complete, but is moving rapidly to include all the food shelves that want to be part of the network. Its primary aims have been to coordinate buying and distribution of food and to adopt uniform standards for eligibility and disbursement of food. It is less clear how well food shelves are coordinated outside these areas.

Minnesota has a wealth of food resources and is fully capable of meeting the food needs of its citizens. The major problems are financial, political, and logistical.

Minnesota's food companies have led the way in offering their products, money and organizational expertise to deal with this emergency. In addition, farmers, transporters, processors, and producers have responded when asked and when able.

Because the emergency system built to deal with this problem is relatively new, a complete inventory of Minnesota resources available to help has not been compiled, and we have only begun to use the potential available.

At the Spring Hill Conference, a major resolution was to form a Blue Ribbon Committee including representatives from all the state resources - growers, processors, producers, transporters, food shelves, churches, food banks, foundations, corporate, and government interests that would set priorities for action to deliver food and coordinate the work to get the job done. The Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter is in a good position to meet that need and has begun the work of building that group that will take appropriate action.

There is a tremendous amount of public and private good will out there that is waiting to be galvanized into action. We need to give citizens of the state avenues for action that they can take to participate in feeding the hungry. Metro Food Share initiated by the Metropolitan Council of Churches and the Pillsbury Corporation is a model of private and non-profit cooperation that can be replicated across the state to better coordinate local giving and increase the inventory available to feed the hungry.

### Future Outlook

With the economy continuing to deteriorate we can only expect that the demand for food will increase dramatically. With no indications of real growth in the steel industry or in farming continued layoffs in service and small manufacturing industries, an estimated 25,000 people about to lose their unemployment benefits by the end of February, we need to plan for an expanding and deepening need for food. In other words, we need to acknowledge that at this point a three-day emergency supply of emergency food is not adequate. We know right now that we need to be talking about how to provide supplemental food to those people (5 to 15 days per month supply) and soon we may be talking about providing the basic diet for the entire month, every month for a good portion of them. We also have to think that it is reasonable to expect that the number of people needing help will also be expanding so we are talking not only about more meals, we are talking about more meals for more people. We are talking about initially doubling and perhaps tripling the amount of food that we move every month.

## SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS

There are four major ways to get food to people:

### Increase the amount of money and food that is available from the Federal Government.

1. Federal food programs (food stamps, women, infant and child food programs, school breakfast and lunch programs, summer food programs, child care food programs) are facing immediate cut backs in funding. Administrative regulations are changing who is eligible.

State government and the Minnesota Congressional Delegation should be immediately activated to use whatever means necessary to oppose those cuts.

2. Commodities. The Federal Government is sitting on so many pounds of commodities, that according to the USDA it costs the Feds \$750,000 every day or \$31,000 every hour to store it. At present only enough money is available for disbursement programs every 6 months. The Department of Economic Security is currently working with the Community Action Programs to increase the distribution of dairy commodities to a monthly basis. The key to this is getting the United States Department of Agriculture to release the other commodities (canned meat, fruit, vegetables) and to raise enough money to transport and deliver the food to the states as quickly as possible. With commodities we could solve the state hunger problem from one source.

### Increase the amount of food and money that is donated from individuals at a local level.

Food drives on the Iron Range, in Duluth and Metro Food Share are excellent examples of what well coordinated local drives produce. As a state coordinating body is built, regular, ongoing food drives can continue to generate a large amount of local food and money and continue to meet the emergency needs.

### Increase the amount of food, product, services and money that are donated by Minnesota companies, growers, processors, transporters.

While many Minnesota corporations have been extremely generous in their leadership and help in these areas, they represent only a fraction of the corporations that are out there that could help. With complete statewide coordination, all growers, processors, transporters, producers could be tapped for help in donating food and transportation, warehouse space, money and equipment.

### Encourage local self-sufficiency.

People can grow their own produce and Minnesota has a wealth of seed, fertilizer and agricultural implement manufacturers and dealers who should be tapped.

### What We Need to Know

The first thing we have to do is to agree that our initial goal is to move from supplying emergency food to supplying supplemental food and to say that within the foreseeable short run we may be talking about providing basic diets for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

Secondly, the working mechanism, a statewide "Blue Ribbon Committee," needs to be formed and activated.

Thirdly, all avenues of action need to be advanced and action needs to be taken to increase food donations from the Federal government, individual donations and private sector donations and to encourage local self-sufficiency.

Finally, during the Spring Hill Conference much discussion was paid to the necessity for better communication among all segments of the population dealing with the problems. We believe those problems will sort themselves out in the process of doing the work of bringing in more food and distributing it.

Our first agenda item is to increase the food supply and to build the network to store and distribute it.

## Suplus Commodities Population Data

According to the 1980 census data, as provided by the fuel assistance program, of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, there are 427,000 Minnesota households whose annual income is at, or below, 60% of the state's median income.

This is the income figure used by the fuel assistance program to determine eligibility for this program. The same guidelines (60% of the state's median income) are used for the surplus commodities program. Therefore, there are potentially 427,000 Minnesota households eligible for surplus commodities. This number is equivalent to 1.1 million individuals. 1.1 million people is approximately 25% of the state of Minnesota's total population. Or, one out of every four Minnesotans is technically eligible for the surplus commodity programs.

A. In October, 1982, the 34 local distributor agencies, like the 27 Community Action agencies, distributed 2.5 million pounds of food to 200,000 low income Minnesota households.

B. The local distributing agencies, in a telephone survey conducted last fall, after the October, 1982 distribution, estimated that an additional 35,000 to 40,000 low income households needed food but would not be served because the available supply of surplus commodities was exhausted.

Adding A and B together equals C total.

A.	200,000
B.	40,000
C.	<u>240,000</u> households

240,000 low income Minnesotans households is the closest, actual base number of the needy households that we have available. Building in a fudge factor of 35,000 to 40,000 additional households would bring the total estimated number of households for another surplus commodity distribution program in Minnesota to 275,000 to 280,000 households.

Thus we have:	A. actually served	200,000
	B. actual estimated unmet need	40,000
	C. estimated additional need	<u>40,000</u>
	D. total households	280,000

280,000 households is the same as approximately 722,000 individuals.

Note: The state demographer's office estimates that approximately 2.58 people live in each Minnesota household.

If 5,000,000 pounds of food is available for each month of the proposed 12 month emergency food distribution program then a total of 60,000,000 pounds is needed.

If each eligible household receives 18 pounds of surplus commodities, as was done in the October, 1982 distribution, then the total estimated need for food per month would be; 280,000 households x 18 pounds or 5,040,000 pounds.



## HOMELESS PERSONS' PROFILE

In October, 1982, Catholic Charities and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs conducted a survey of Drop-In Center users to discover who they were and what the conditions of their lives were and what they needed.

The following is a brief synopsis of that data:

If there is a "typical" Drop-In Center, the person would be a single 27-year old white man living with at least two others in an apartment. While he had not been at that residence for more than two months, he considered Minneapolis his home and had been residing here in the city for at least two years. Before that he had lived elsewhere in the state.

This individual did not say how much rent he paid, nor did he indicate that he was receiving any assistance from welfare or other social insurance programs. His cash income the month before the survey had been less than \$100 and this had come primarily from day labor.

The week before he filled out the questionnaire he indicated that his hours of employment had been "zero". His most recent steady employment had been in an unskilled service job lasting three months but he had lost that within the last year. During this same period he had spent time in a hospital.

Briefly, Drop-In Center users are:

- Overwhelmingly male
- Predominantly white, with a large proportion of Indians
- Age - 47% are less than 35, have high school diplomas or additional education
- Single, widowed or divorced
- Live with others
- Come from Minnesota
- Have impermanent residence and have moved frequently in the past 18 months
- 60% have housing
- 23% live on the street or in shelters
- 27% have no address
- Half have used an average of two institutions during the last year (hospitals, detox, treatment, prison crisis center)
- Find work through day labor, or other service workers
- They have irregular work histories and have a hard time finding work
- Want to work and see the solution to their problems as workers, lower food and housing costs.

# Minneapolis Star and Tribune

Tuesday  
April 26/1983

1B.

## Food shelf executives say needs increasing

By Kate Parry  
Staff Writer

Warmer weather may have reduced the need for emergency shelter, but the demand for emergency food is continuing to rise, officials of area food shelves said Monday.

However, food contributions on which the food shelves depend began dropping as the mercury started to rise, officials said.

The demand for food from the shelves in the seven-county metro area increased from 7,735 households during February to 9,821 households in March, said Cyndie Tidwell, coordinator for Metro Foodshare. That organization runs 65 food shelves; at least a dozen more are run by other groups, she said.

Officials disagreed on whether money collected during a winter food-

shelf campaign will be enough to carry them through to the holiday season starting around Thanksgiving, when contributions traditionally rise. The increasing demand for food has made projections difficult, they said.

Judging by food contributions and increased demand this month, "my food shelf would not be open" if it weren't for cash donations received during February, said Clarissa Walker, board president of Emergency Food Shelves in Hennepin County, Inc., and assistant director of Sabathani Food Shelf.

Also yesterday, Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., visited Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis to ask support for a Senate resolution he has sponsored aimed at halting further cuts in federal food programs, such as the school lunch program, food stamps and congregate dining.

*Office Memorandum*STANDARD FORM NO. 64  
5010-108-01DEPARTMENT Public SafetyTO : Mike O'Donnell,  
Barbara Beerhalter

DATE: 4-28-83

FROM : Martha Ballou

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Update on numbers of people using Emergency Shelters, Soup Kitchens,  
Food Shelves and Commodities Program.

Don't let the warm weather fool you. Things are getting worse, not better.

Very briefly, usage of soup kitchens, food shelves and commodities programs have been and continue to be rising steadily. Emergency shelters in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth are operating at capacity. There is no expected let up in sight.

I am sending this memo to underscore the continuing and growing seriousness of this situation and to urge full and unqualified support for restoring the safety net, funding an expanded commodities program and getting money to counties that are housing the indigent.

The attached data only covers the major urban areas and the Range. There are food shelves and shelters in other areas that are in operation but not surveyed. This report covers the areas with the big numbers.

cc: Gina Paulucci  
Bob Bonine  
Pat Sampson  
Steve Watson

## STATUS OF EMERGENCY SHELTERS

### Hennepin County

Hennepin County has capacity for 282 people. They are running at capacity with no expected reduction in sight. They are running above budget on their funds for summer shelter and may run as much as \$ ~~70,000~~ short. Additional shelter space is available at People Serving People (Francis Drake Hotel), but the dollars to meet the expected need are not there.

### Ramsey County

Ramsey County has space available for 390 people. They are also operating at capacity. Currently, Hamline House has 90 emergency residents, and its operational status is questionable. If Hamline House closes, or if there is a modest increase in the homeless population, this system will need help.

### Duluth

Duluth shelter population has remained fairly stable largely due to the emergency shelter's staff work on certifying residents as unemployed and, therefore, eligible for general assistance.

### Iron Range

AEOA staff report seeing people sleeping in tunnels and squatting in abandoned buildings for the first time in the last three weeks.

1982-1983

Date	Metro Area	Duluth	Iron Range			
1982						
January	1,845					
February	5,150					
March	8,744	1,371( $\frac{1}{2}$ mos.)				
April	10,419	2,741				
May	9,015	2,663				
June	11,115	2,987				
July	12,340	2,879				
August	13,048	3,287				
September	12,334	3,094				
October	10,479	3,295				
November	10,381	2,787				
December	10,845	3,337				
Total for 1982	115,715	28,441				
Average per month for 1982	9,643	2,844				
1983						
				Congregate Dining	Home Delivered Meals	Infant Preschool
January	12,559	3,627		16,660	3,453	383
February	13,799	3,428		16,238	3,243	350
March	19,396	4,135		18,935	5,484	295
April		4,289				
Total for 1983	45,754	15,479		36,833	12,180	1,028
Average per month for 1983	15,251	3,870				
Program Total 1982-1983	161,469	43,920				

- Loaves and Fishes - Metropolitan area; Soup Kitchens - Duluth; AEOA - Iron Range

Number of Minnesota Households and Individuals  
Served by Federal Commodities Distribution\*

Month	# of Households Served	# of People Served
April, 1982	119,936	323,827
Oct., 1982	197,498	533,244
Dec., 1982	21,384	57,736 (Iron Range-- St. Louis, Cook, Lake Counties--ex- cluding Duluth.)
Jan.-Feb., 1983	118,386	319,642
March, 1983	178,868	482,943
April, 1983	187,591	506,495
May, 1983 (prospected)**	213,866	577,438
June, 1983 (prospected)**	216,434	584,371

\*Source--Commodities Distribution Program--Department of Economic Security.

\*\*Projected figures are based on current orders from distributing agencies, based on number of people eligible in their service area, past usage, and best estimate of future demand.

Because of cutbacks from USDA, the Department of Economic Security will cut distribution of commodities to food shelter and nutrition sites (congregate dining, soup kitchens, emergency food shelves) for May and probably June. The Department of Economic Security will distribute through 26 CAPS and 12 human service agencies.

Numbers of Households Receiving Food from Food Shelves in the  
Seven County Metro Area \*

Date	Anoka	Dakota	Scott/Carver	Washington	Ramsey	Hennepin	Duluth	Iron Range
1979 Total					(3,039)	16 shelves (19,038)		Most Iron Range Food Shelves were not operating in 1982.  Hibbing served 141 households in August, 1982 and 430 households in March, 1983, Virginia served 25 households in April, 1982 and 492 households in March, 1983.
1980 Total					(3,438)	(22,147)		
1980 Monthly Total								
1981 Total					(3,686)	(27,902)		
1981 Monthly Total								
1982 Total	2,602	1,000	420	300	14,507	56,237	3,785	
1982 Monthly Total <i>Aug</i>	217	83	35	25	1,209		315	
1983								
January	288	161	63	70	1,300	6,064	629	883
February	200	226	88	75	1,415	5,844	673	1,216
March	253	211	107	100	1,611	7,442	943	1,933
April								2,000 (projected)

\*Source: Metro Food Share  
This data base reflects only those food shelves that could be reached. This is a slight undercounting of actual households served.

DEPARTMENT Public Safety

# Office Memorandum

TO : Mike O'Donnell

DATE: 5-2-83

FROM : Martha Ballou

PHONE: 296-0451

SUBJECT: Update on Task Force Projects.

In ~~terms~~ of public/private partnerships launched by the Task Force, we are in good shape.

We continue to get unqualified cooperation from the private sector and are in the process of initiating 4 new programs that will begin to deal with some of the problems of homelessness and hunger.

Here is a brief update:

## Hotline Project

On May 15th, we will launch a toll-free hotline in 4 "test areas" of the state (Mankato, Southwestern Minnesota, Northwestern Minnesota and St. Louis County). It will be the definitive source on where to go for emergency food and shelter and will direct people to local shelters, free hotel and motel rooms, food shelves, commodities distribution, food stamps, WIC, school lunch programs, mass feeding programs, congregate dining and home delivered meals.

Northwestern Bell has committed \$10,000 in funds and equipment to the project which will keep it going for 3 months. They have made the commitment to further funding of the needy counties. We expect to run between 6 and 12 months.

Youth Emergency Services (Y.E.S.) which operates a 24 hotline in Minneapolis has contracted to run the hotline project. The number will be 1-800-262-HELP. (We considered 1-800-262-RUDY but thought better of it).

Northwestern Bell is designing a media program of radio and T.V. Public Service Announcements, press conferences around the state, posters, fliers, news releases among other things. We will be in the recording studio early in the week of May 2nd and will be ready to go on the air May 15th.

Following the 2nd week test period, the program will go statewide on June 1st.



### Free Hotel and Motel Rooms

Early in January when we first began the Task Force and the shelter were stretched to the limit and were on the verge of closing, we asked the Hotel and Motel Trade Associations to donate free rooms to homeless people if the shelters ran over capacity.

They came through like champs. We now have 46 hotels and 40 motels offering 360 rooms to the poor if all other housing possibilities are exhausted. By May 15th, we hope to have one free facility in every county and these are good places (see the attached list of hotels). Maybe we should do some product testing on this one and send the Governor's staff on a free night to Madden's or L'Hotel Sofitel).

This service will be available through the hotline and area Information and Referral Office beginning May 15th.

### Harvest For The Hungry

We've only begun to scratch the surface of asking the Minnesota food industry to donate food, storage, processing and transportation to help feed people.

But we expect to launch major efforts to turn that around. Right now, we are hot on the trail of a Loaned Executive who will work for the Task Force and the Lake County and Ramsey County Food Bands to solicit food and service contributions. We are looking for a go-getter, sales person who will travel the state, meet with the producers and their trade associations and work those accounts.

The target is 1 million pounds per month of donated food, with a fall deadline for giving. We are particularly interested in getting meat since there is very little meat on the food shelves and none in the commodities program.

Already General Mills has expressed real interest in providing a \$150,000 executive, a promotional campaign and expenses.

I'd like to know from you what other companies you think we ought to approach and how you've done it in the past.

### Apartments For The Homeless

One of the Task Force's goals was to stabilize the number of homeless - to keep people living in their own homes.

The Minnesota Multi-Housing Association (the landlords lobby) staff and directors have expressed great interest and real cooperation in setting up a program that would:

1. Keep people who are tenants of Minnesota Multi-Housing members who have lost their jobs in their units by allowing them to negotiate reduced rent.

2. Make existing vacant apartments available at cost (damage deposit, utilities, clean up fee) or for free if people will work at market wage to do clean up, gardening or repair.

Barb Beerhalter has been very cooperative in looking at whether DES should do the screening and referral through the unemployment offices. Metro area foundations have also agreed to be helpful.

This should be on board by mid-June.

So-so far, so good.

We will be very visible again in about 3 weeks. The Governor should get good coverage on this.

Onward and upward.

cc: Paul Tschida  
Frank Dougherty  
Gina Paulucci  
Bob Bonine  
Pat Sampson  
Steve Watson

# YES

## YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICE, INC.

608 20th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454  
612-339-0895 TTY

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### Report on the HELP Hotline

The Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter identified the need for a telephone hotline as a part of the effort to facilitate access to and availability of food and shelter resources. The need for the service seems most acute: 1) in outstate areas where relatively few community services are available, and 2) as a need among the "new poor"--people who have not experienced extended unemployment or are situationally without resources having depleted all personal assets.

The 24-hour Emergency Food and Shelter Hotline is a cooperative effort among existing information and referral providers around the state, Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, and the Governor's Task Force.

The service is projected to begin mid- to late-May. The local I & R number will be publicized wherever one exists with a state-wide WATS number as a back-up in these areas. The WATS will be publicized in outstate areas which have no 24-hour I & R service.

Task Force staff and volunteers have compiled a resource catalog of all food and shelter services in the state to be used primarily by the state-wide I & R providers.

The local I & R participants include:

First Call For Help:	Minneapolis and West suburbs
St. Paul I & R:	St. Paul and East suburbs
Mankato Eclipse:	Blue Earth County
Itasca Nightingale:	Itasca County
La Crosse I & R:	Winona, Filmore, Houston
Freeborn County I & R:	Freeborn
State-wide:	Youth Emergency Service, Inc.

The Hotline will not only provide information to callers about local food and shelter services (based on County of residence), but will provide much needed documentation of numbers of people requesting help in accessing services and will identify gaps in the types of services available in each county.

Mary Weeks  
Executive Director

Telephone Crisis Counseling Service	24 hours/day	612-339-7033 TTY
Nighttime Emergency Outreach Network (NEON)	8 pm - 8 am	612-339-0895 TTY
Minnesota Family Planning Hotline	24 hours/day	800-752-4281 TTY

## MINNESOTA EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

### PREMISE

According to the 1980 Census, 427,541 Minnesota households have an income that falls below the State's median income of \$10,673. Conservatively, this number of households represents 1,158,600 persons. Based upon prior usage patterns for food assistance programs, we estimate that approximately 60% of this potentially eligible population would use an expanded emergency food distribution system. Because there are other types of food assistance available to some of these households (Food Stamps, senior meals programs, school lunch), we also estimate that there is a ten-day gap each month between the food available through household income and food assistance programs and monthly food needs.

### BACKGROUND

Federal surplus commodities represent the primary avenue for expanding the amount of food available to feed 700,000 people on a monthly basis. Aside from the cheese and butter currently available, USDA will likely release a broader range of products within the next two to three months. Legislation recently introduced in Congress will, if successful, release all products determined to be in surplus. This legislation will also provide some funds to states to offset the cost of distributing these surplus commodities.

Local appeals such as Metro Foodshare, the Duluth food drive and special projects in the Iron Range area are demonstrating the depth of community commitment to feeding hungry people. These efforts will intensify and expand statewide over the next several months.

Minnesota food and agriculture industries are willing to assist in providing goods and services to address the problem of hunger in the State.

### OPTIMUM GOAL

Provide the equivalent of a ten-day food supply to 60% of the eligible population who are in need of, and seek, food assistance.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the amount of federal surplus commodities and donated foods distributed each month from 2.9 million pounds to 24.2 million pounds.
2. Establish a minimum of four and a maximum of eight regional emergency food distribution depots to provide statewide service coverage.
3. Strengthen and expand the current surplus commodity and food shelf networks in order to distribute the increased amount of food procured.

## STRATEGY

Beyond the Twin Cities Metropolitan area there are virtually no warehousing and distribution facilities for the surplus and donated food programs. In order to accommodate a 21.3 million pound per month increase in food to distribute demands a regional approach to solving storage and distribution problems. Currently, plans are underway in three areas of the State to establish regional food banks. Since the function of a food bank and an emergency food distribution depot are parallel, it is logical to support this food bank expansion effort to include the short-term emergency food distribution depot concept. As a separate function of the food bank operation, the emergency food distribution depots can operate for the necessary time and at a fluctuating volume to address the current crisis.

Because of their involvement in the USDA Surplus Commodities Distribution Program, Community Action Agencies, local food shelves, and other private nonprofit community based human service organizations have a proven track record with the distribution of donated foods. Within the concept of the emergency food distribution program, these agencies will continue to act as local distributing agencies for the expanded program.

Essentially, this proposal expands and enhances the existing network for providing food to persons in need. Building upon the foundation of the USDA Surplus Commodity Distribution network and the community food bank/food shelf system will reduce the total cost of feeding hungry people and will allow the system to become operative in a short period of time.

## SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

1. Short term -- 12 month maximum operational life.
2. Enhancement of community ownership and commitment by placing program control at the regional and local levels.
3. System is flexible to meet changing demands for food assistance.
4. System will create a minimum of 75 to 100 new jobs.
5. System will provide an infusion of cash into the trucking industry.

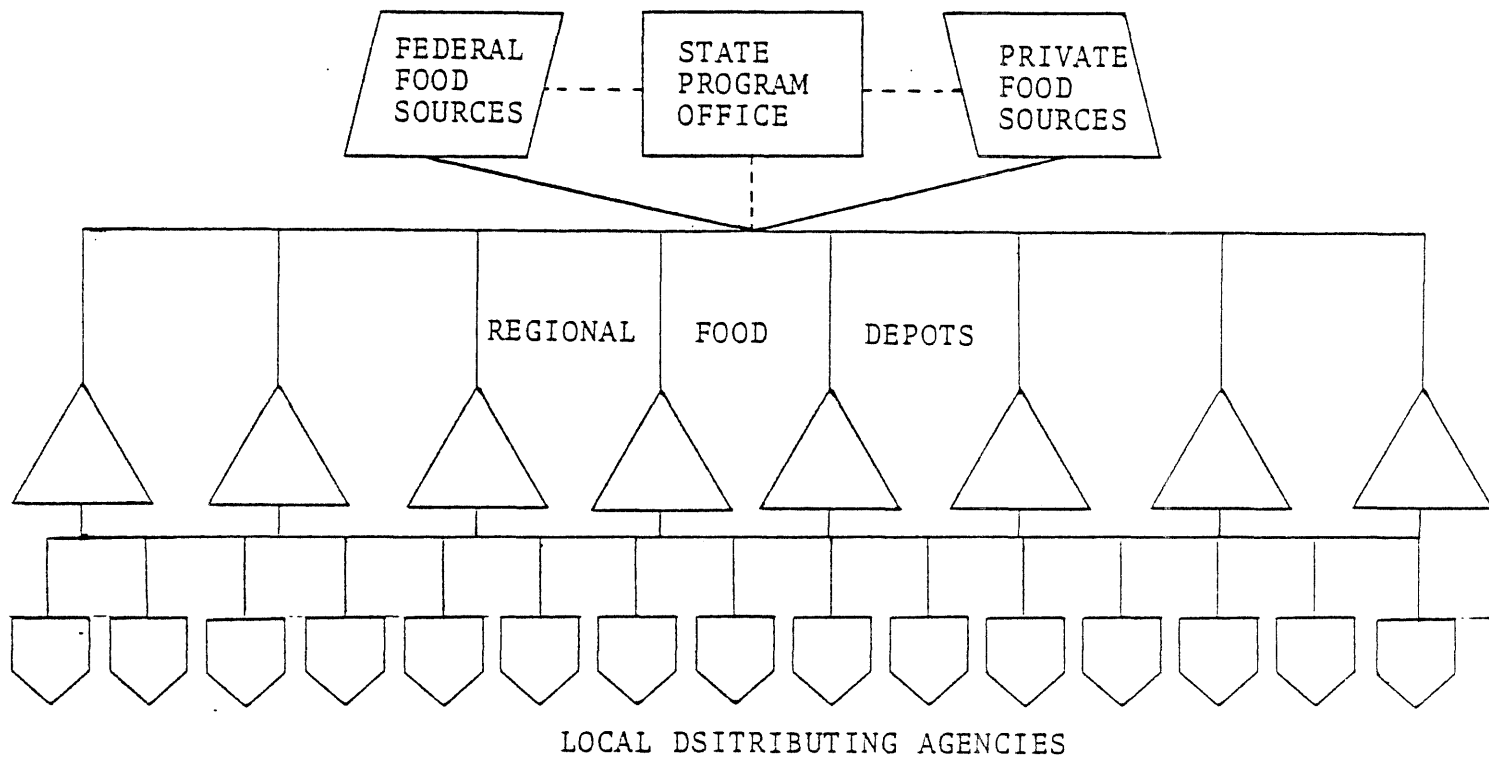
There are 427,541 households representing 1,158,636 persons who are potentially eligible for supplemental food assistance.

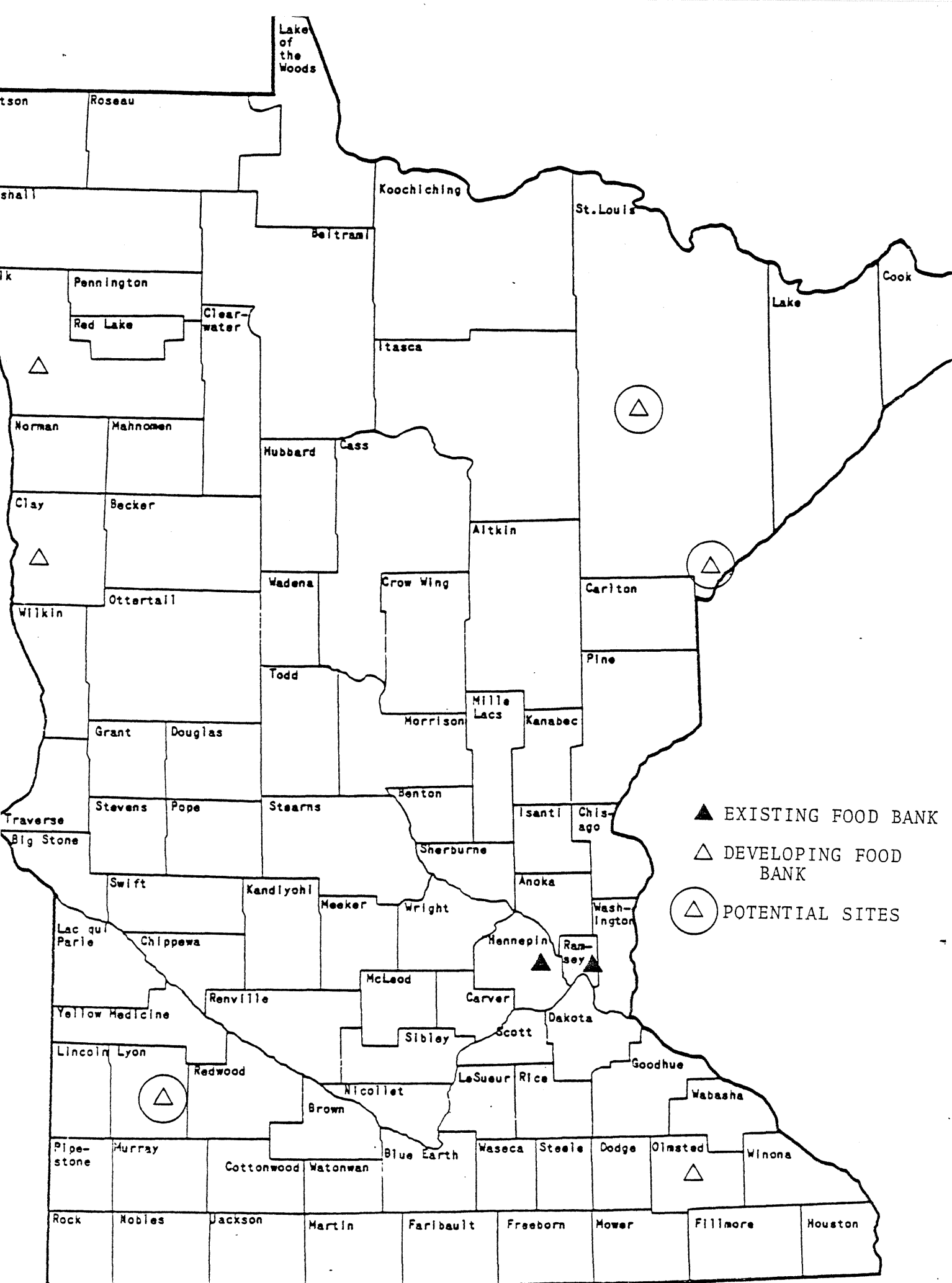
% Eligible Served	Pounds Per Month for A 5-Day Supply	Pounds Per Month for A 10-Day Supply	Pounds Per Year	
			5 Day	10 Day
100	20.25 million	40.50 million	243 mil.	486 mil.
75	15.2 million	30.4 million	182 mil.	364 mil.
60	12.1 million	24.2 million	145 mil.	290 mil.
50	10.1 million	20.2 million	121 mil.	242 mil.

#### PRODUCT SOURCES

Federal Commodities	
USDA Surplus	18 million pounds/month
Department of Defense	1 million pounds/month
Local Giving	3 million pounds/month
Food and Agriculture Industry	5 million pounds/month

## ORGANIZATION







# CENSUS (1980) - NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW 60% MEDIAN INCOME

AGENCY NAME COUNTY NAME	#CENS HILDS	#60PC HEINC			
ANOKA CO CAP...	60716	8740	MORRISON CO SS	9505	4261
ARROWHEAD CAP...	52083	15340	NORTHWEST CAP	5813	2442
COOK	1583	585	KITTISON	2485	1008
LAKE	4578	1012	LAKE-WOODS	1389	631
ST. LOUIS	45922	13743	E. MARSHALL	1939	804
BENTON CO SS...	8275	2750	OLMSTEAD CO SS	32663	7614
BI-COUNTY CAP	17467	8052	OTTERTAIL CO SS	18549	7959
BEUTRAHI	10023	4395	OTTER-WADE CAP	4823	2325
CASS	7444	3657	PRAIRIE-V CAP	22026	9235
BLUE EARTH HS	18011	5864	BIG STONE	2873	1242
CLAY-WILKIN CAP	19108	6038	CHIPPENAW	5583	2224
CLAY	16199	5035	LAC QUI PA	3885	1623
WILKIN	2909	1003	SWIFT	4694	2112
CLEARWATER SS	2980	1563	YELLOW MED	4991	2035
CROW WING SSC	15171	6377	RAMSEY ACTION	170505	45150
DAKOTA CO EA	64027	10470	REINWOOD CO WD	6842	9181
DOUGLAS CO CAP	9991	4128	REGION VI-E CAP	30425	10261
DULUTH CAP	35560	12810	KANDIYOH	12871	4464
GOOD RI WAB CAC	34649	10891	MCLEOD	10376	3052
GOODHUE	13628	4205	HEEKER	7178	2745
RICE	14276	4325	RENVILLE CO FA	7313	2584
WABASHA	6745	2362	ROSEAU SS	4331	1729
HUBBARD CO SS	5027	2326	SCOTT-CARVER CA	25512	5135
INTER-COUNT CAP	12688	4894	CARVER	12011	2646
PENNINGTON	5437	1945	SCOTT	13501	2489
EAST POLK	5433	2097	SENCAC CAP	63383	21654
RED LAKE	1818	852	DODGE	4995	1465
KOOCH-ITAS CAP	21081	7298	FILLMORE	7828	3210
ITASCA	14950	5155	FREEDORN	13224	4278
KOOCHICHIN	6131	2143	HOUSTON	6761	2161
LAKES & PINES C	48497	17645	HOWER	14969	5098
AITKIN	5007	2496	WINONA	15606	5442
CARLTON	10108	3311	SOUTHWEST CAP	20060	7761
CHISAGO	8347	2357	MURRAY	4036	1592
ISANTI	7503	2129	NOBLES	7812	2814
KANABEC	4250	1697	PIPESTONE	4357	1948
HILLE LACS	6431	2627	ROCK	3855	1407
PINE	6851	3028	STEARNS CO SS	32113	10275
MAHDE CAP	11894	5095	STEELE CO SS	10600	3064
BECKER	10112	4179	TODD CO SS	8514	4094
MAHONEN	1782	916	TRI-COUNTY CAP	8971	2104
MINNEAPOLIS CAP	142673	60936	TRI-VALLEY CAP	12676	5092
MINN VALLEY CAP	59745	19810	NORMAN	3431	1453
BROWN	9988	3339	WEST POLK	6721	2592
FARIBAULT	7378	2613	W. MARSHALL	2524	1047
LE SUEUR	8033	2610	WASHINGTON CO H	35008	5344
MARTIN	9321	3092	WEST CENT CAP	12814	5635
NICOLLET	8580	2499	GRANT	2654	1174
SIBLEY	5340	1933	POPE	4241	1933
WASECA	6469	2031	STEVENS	3881	1654
WATOWAN	4636	1694	TRAVERSE	2038	874
			WEST HENNEPIN H	222863	30603
			WESTERN CAP	22071	8542
			COTTONWOOD	5476	2048
			JACKSON	4988	1886
			LINCOLN	2928	1498
			LYON	8679	3110
			WRIGHT CO HS	18513	4671
			TOTALS	1445536	427541

60% MEDIAN INCOME = \$10673

## Minutes for Emergency Food Distribution Task Force Meeting

March 8, 1983

The meeting opened by addressing the basic questions:

"What happens if we don't distribute these commodities?"

"What will happen as a result of our doing it?"

Are we doing the people we are trying to serve a disservice by giving the legislature a false impression that peoples needs are being taken care of? It was felt that there was no choice; the emergency commodities are simply a result of the cutbacks and that we must build up the General Assistance again and use the donated commodities. However, we should also preface our Task Force recommendations with a strong comment that a continuation of this plan beyond a 12 month period would be unhealthy for the State of Minnesota; an adequate General Assistance program must be in effect again.

Steve Watson reported that the Full House on Thursday, March 3, passed a \$4.9 billion Emergency Jobs Bill. Of that, \$75 million was appropriated to the C.C.C. for purposes of purchasing and processing additional perishable food products. The House Bill recommends that distribution be done by local organizations. The Senate on Monday, March 7, passed a \$3.9 billion version of the same bill providing \$100 million for purchasing and processing perishable food products. The Senate Bill recommends that the money would go directly to the Governors and target the C.A.P. agencies for distribution. Also in the Senate version of the bill \$50 million was appropriated to FEMA (Federal Emergency Agency). It was estimated that Minnesota's share would probably be about 1% of that or \$500,000.

If we look at the amount of commodities being collected statistically it looks like a substantial amount; if you look at it otherwise, i.e. households to be served, it may not be enough. There are roughly 280,000 households in the state that need to be served. We would need approximately 13 million pounds of food a month to provide the 5 to 10 day supply of food to the households in need. The existing food bank system cannot handle 10 million pounds a month; it possibly could handle half that amount. It was suggested that we opt for an incremental framework that would allow the delivery system to expand on a step by step basis to 5-7 million pounds per month based on need and ability to process food. (It's essential to plan ahead since budgets are done every two year.) They are currently delivering 2 million pounds of commodities a month to the food shelves. If we could work with the supermarket warehouses, however, we could handle much larger quantities of food.

Joel Hailand representing the Minnesota Food Retailers Association reported that we have one of the largest food wholesale warehouses in the world here in the Twin Cities and if the government is willing to pay for space he felt they would be willing to store donated commodities. He stated it would be necessary to "sub-contract" with each warehouse on a "purchase of service" basis much as the government contracts with hospitals for medicare. Some of the largest warehouses in our area are:

1. Super Value (includes Cub)
2. Country Club
3. Gateway
4. Hancock Nelson
5. Red Owl

They could also possibly rent space in the "corner" of the retail stores. Mr. Hailand pointed out that 65.6% of an owners operating cost goes to labor but he felt there would be some retailers who would cooperate based on the premise that "as long as you increase your traffic flow in a store you're going to increase your sales." Country Club is a family owned business and therefore could make decisions more quickly than most stores, also they are metro-wide.

It was pointed out that the "Minnesota Emergency Food Distribution Program" budget request does provide for:

1. transportation
2. warehouses (storage)
3. retail outlets (distribution)

It was suggested that we start by trying to get transportation donated and then develop a better second track for storage, also it will be necessary to put together an additional distribution approach (our existing food shelves and storage cannot handle any more than they have now - however the need is still greater.)

Plan A of the Food Distribution Program is good but could use some incremental building in it.

The Department of Agriculture has put together the Minnesota Buyers Guide which includes products from fish and margarine to honey. A letter will be sent from the Governor to the food producers alerting them of the need and inviting them to a major meeting with the Governor. He will request food for the Food Banks or food shelves or money for expenses. A tight deadline for the collection of food would be impossible due to the various seasons and practices of the small growers and small businesses. To give all of these small growers and donors proper recognition through the media it would be best to incorporate their efforts with a huge "Minnesota Food Share Month" ideally in the fall. It could be organized targeting different segments of our population:

"Minnesota Food Share Month"

1. Church efforts
2. Producers
3. Processors
4. Transportation
5. Wholesale/retailers

Report on Shelter Subcommittee Meeting  
March 1, 1983

The initial meeting of the subcommittee focused on the numbers and the need for interim housing and longer affordable housing and what options existed to meet those needs.

Consensus of the groups was that we must get the shelters out of the interim and long-term housing role and back into supplying three day emergency beds. The question then becomes, where will interim and longer term housing come from?

There was solid agreement that the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency could play a major role in solving the problem if it had a mandate from either the Governor's Office or the Legislature to do so. Already MHFA owns property that is vacant and the group proposed that it MHFA be empowered to lease at a low cost single family, and multiple family units to social service or nonprofit agencies that would operate them to serve those in need - large families, the chemically dependent, mentally ill and retarded and the unemployed.

The intention was to bring MHFA into providing emergency housing for a short period of time only (12 to 36 months) with the control of the property reverting back to the MHFA once the emergency and the projects were concluded.

The consensus was that the Task Force work with the MHFA staff to outline the list of policy changes that could be made internally within MHFA to expedite enlarging their agency mission to deal with emergency housing and to work with MHFA staff in drawing up any enabling legislation and appropriation that would be needed to manage either property or programs.

Presently MHFA can provide operational funds but not supportive services. In order to make this kind of program happen, MHFA would have to have policy changes and program money available to run both the program and make funds available to vendors to provide supportive social services or social service agencies would have to find matching funds from other sources.

Specific recommendations were made:

1. Transfer funds currently available through the MHFA Rehab Loans and Grants program to run this kind of program.
2. Expand the scope of the agency. Include single people in the definition of those who can be served by MHFA projects. Make grant money available for existing structures with programmatic intent, guarantee rent payments through the Department of Public Welfare. Make rehab money available to structures that currently have low income residents. Make rehab money available to help structures for low income meet basic codes. Increase the handicap housing allocation from 5% to 10% and include in that definition the chemically dependent, mentally ill and mentally retarded who are capable of independent living. Allow the MHFA to acquire and accept property to lease to vendors who will run program for these populations.
3. Determine what additional appropriations the MHFA will need in order to begin and operate these kinds of programs.

The subcommittee also made several suggestions about how to increase the amount of property currently made available to the agency, including doubling the tax credit given to those who donate property. The second major area where change could be made was in federally funded private public housing and in empty housing currently owned by banks, savings and loan and insurance companies or corporation. HUD is issuing new directives to make public housing and other federally funded property available on an emergency basis. Put riders on the legislation to freeze foreclosures on mortgages and investigate the possibility of the state helping to finance interest payments.

Assignments for the following meeting on March 7 were to:

1. Quantify the number and location of people needing emergency shelter, special needs housing (chemically dependent, mentally ill and mentally retarded) interim housing (5 to 90 days and,
2. Quantify the number of people who are in danger of losing their current housing (either rental or owned) who need to be kept in their own homes.
3. Draw up a list of policy changes needed in the MHFA to allow it to lease properties to social service for emergency housing basis.
4. Get a dollar amount needed to for the MHFA to run and fund that kind of program.
5. List legislative recommendations regarding options for keeping people in their own home including home mortgage foreclosure freezes.
6. List changes that need to be made in HUD policies so that federal properties can be used to solve these problems.
7. Outline what support is needed from the Minnesota Congressional delegation.
8. List changes needed in the Public Housing Authority regulations to enable them to play a role in dealing with the problem.

Shelter Subcommittee  
March 7, 1983

The initial question that had to be answered was, "If significant numbers of shelters are closing on April 15, can local governments and agencies handle the numbers that will need shelter and does the state need to look at taking action to help or prod them to do it?"

Hennepin County representatives agreed that with the opening of new shelters and the Drake Hotel they can ~~not~~ handle the additional numbers. Their problem is that people who are chemically dependent, mentally ill and retarded need special housing, and it is not available.

Ramsey County essentially agreed and included families with children as among those with critical needs for housing.

Both counties agreed that about 1000 shelter beds are needed to serve the emergency housing needs in both counties. Currently Minneapolis has 300 beds and will have 275 beds on April 15. Ramsey county has 403 beds and will possibly have 243 beds on April 15. (It should be noted that 50 of the remaining units are at the detox center.) At this point we have no reading on Duluth.

A meeting to breakdown the components of the shelter population was set for the following Thursday, the intent being to match needs with specific programatic alternatives.

The next question was, "How do we meet the needs for interim and longer term affordable housing? What do we do to keep people who are losing their unemployment benefits or their public assistance in their own homes?"

The Minnesota Multi-Housing Association agreed to work with the Task Force on a two-part program that would:

1. Enlist landlords to actively seek out their tenants who are running out of income and work with them on flexible payment of rent.
2. Free-up existing vacant units and make them available to families and individuals on a temporary or long-term basis for the cost of utilities, clean up and security deposit only. Funds for these rents might be made available through existing local emergency fund drives or county governments. *local units 2/3*

Pam George of the Multi-Housing Association has agreed to help draft a proposal to the same.

The intent of the program is to keep people in their own homes and to make existing vacant units available at a low cost to people needing longer term housing.

The problems with winter shutoffs surfaced again, with significant concern over the numbers of people who will effectively be forced out of their housing if their utilities are shutoff. We need to meet with the utilities and see what can be worked out. A proposal on shutoff bans is being sent to the Governor's Office and to the Department of Public Service.

Staff from the MHFA indicated that the agency needed enabling legislation if it were to become active in providing emergency housing. Within the agency there is between \$1 and \$10 million in rollover funds that could be transferred from other programs to support emergency housing programs.

These rollover funds are not always used. A safe bet is that there is between \$3 and \$4 million in rollover funds. It would take six months time to get programs moving. We are looking at the fall as the earliest possible starting date.

Shelter Sub Committee Meeting  
March 13, 1983

**DRAFT ONLY**  
**NOT OFFICIAL**

The shelter sub committee came up with the following recommendation to the Task Force and to the Governor on how to deal with the problems of homelessness.

1. Restore the safety net. The Task Force wants the Governor's Office to be clear that the General Assistance or the Governor's job plan must provide for the basic needs of the indigent and that the shelters and emergency food programs can only supplement and not replace the bottom line needed. If the Governor's Office is satisfied that its current appropriation is sufficient, then fine. The concern is that with the growing numbers of unemployed will qualify for the Governor's jobs program and leave the traditional General Assistance recipients without any financial recourse. Their recommendation is to reconcile the amount of money need for the traditional GA population with the numbers of unemployed needing benefits to give an accurate picture of the size of the appropriation needed for the Governor's job program.

2. Provide twelve month flat grants to the urban counties to design local options to deal with the homeless. These options could range from contacting with some shelter, buying hotel rooms, doing protected payee programs or supporting MM tenants of the MN Multi Housing Association program. This would be transitional money to help them ease out of the shelter business and move people back into the economy.

3. Through legislation provide a uniform commitment procedure to allow vulnerable mentally ill, retarded and chemically dependent to be placed more easily in community based half way housing.



4. Alter the DPW requirement that counties cut public assistance grants if individuals or families double up and share housing.
5. Get the MN Housing Finance Agency to lease sleeping room facilities in the urban areas.
6. Agree with the hotels that they will act as an emergency back-up system during this twelve month interim period.
7. Initiate the hotline system so that people will know where they can get help with food and shelter.
8. Launch a "tenant retrieval" project with the MN Multi Housing Association to retain current tenants who have lost unemployment or public assistance in their current residences. Secondly with MMHA make available the vacant units to people who are without benefits for the cost of utilities, security deposit and cleanup fee.
9. Step up DPW licensing of Board and Care facilities.
- 10 Encourage shelter to remain open.

## Shelter Sub-Committee

March 10, 1983

People Attending:	Janice Rettman	Dulcie Hagedorn
	Pat Sampson	Nan Satterlee
	Jeri Boisvert	Sue Perkins
	Heather Kittelsan	Bette Undis
	Maratha Ballou	

The purpose of the meeting was to breakdown the components of the current shelter population and to recommend specific methods of providing appropriate long term housing for them. Here are the results:

Recidivist, Chemically Dependent: Ramsey County - 150 people in need of housing  
Hennepin County - 100 people in need of housing

There is a 3-6 month waiting list for halfway houses. These people make up 30% of the street people and are not necessarily looking for permanent housing. These people need General Assistance reinstated for them on a full time basis. They need \$25 per week sleeping room in hotels made available through the local housing and redevelopment authorities or the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. These need to be very modest dwellings and code violations ought to be excused.

Mentally Ill Street Person: Ramsey County - 140 people  
Hennepin County - 100 people

The Commitment Law and the Vulnerable Adult Act need to work together to allow easier commitment of these mentally ill people who need to be kept on their medication and need some sort of supervision. We need more board and care and lodging rooms.

Indigent Street People: Ramsey County - 50 to 75 people  
Hennepin County - 45 people

These people simply need General Assistance reinstated so they can live in hotels. Again cheap hotels have to be made available.

New Poor: Ramsey County - 500 people each month are facing eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs.

Hennepin County - 500 people each month are facing eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs.

These people need the kind of program that the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association is looking at putting together. They also need help with freezes on foreclosures and protection from utility shutoffs.

Criminal and Miscellaneous Street People: Ramsey County - 60 people  
Hennepin County - 60 people

These people are actually part of the indigent and Chemically dependent street population.

Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter  
Subcommittee Recommendations  
March 22, 1983

The charge of the Task Force has been to estimate the dimensions of hunger and homelessness in Minnesota and recommend action that state government, non-profit and private sectors can take and mobilize the resources available within the state to meet the needs.

Our estimates of need for food and shelter exceeded our greatest fears. While precision in forecasting is impossible our best estimation is that there are about 1000 homeless people and 750,000 people needing food assistance in the state.

The primary recommendation of the Subcommittee is that the safety net be restored and that a meaningful jobs program be put in place. The primary cause of homelessness has been the tightening of General Assistance eligibility standards. People who meet the means test and who are able to work but cannot find work must be made eligible for General Assistance as a last resort. A public and private sector jobs program must be put in place.

Food: There are about 750,000 Minnesotans who are in need of some kind of food assistance. To meet that need between 10 million and 24 million pounds of food are needed each month. The current food shelf system delivers about 2 million pounds of food each month. The food subcommittee makes the following recommendations to meet that need.

- \* That the state find a "Minnesota Emergency Food Distribution Program" to accept and distribute between 5 and 7 million pounds of Federal surplus commodities each month for a 12 month period beginning in July, 1983. The Emergency Food Distribution Program would allow the state Department of Economic Security to create a series of regional Emergency Food Depots in 4 to 8 regions of the state. Their purpose would be to receive 5 to 7 million pounds of surplus commodities and distribute them to local food shelves. Program cost - \$2,934,200 for 12 months.

- \* That the Minnesota food industry increase its monetary and product contributions to the food shelves. The Minnesota Wheat Growers have led the way in encouraging other commodity producers to contribute. The Wheat Growers and Task Force representatives will speak before the Minnesota Agricultural Growth Council to launch a program of expanded producer and processor giving.

- \* Minnesota Food Share. That a statewide food drive modeled after Metro Food Share be launched in the fall. Other options include towns adopting needy areas and conducting local food drives.

Shelter: About 1000 people are homeless in Minnesota but that figure is only the tip of the iceberg. With the long term shutdowns of the taconite construction and manufacturing industries unaccounted thousands are under irresistible pressure to pay up on their mortgages and rents or get out. Of the 1000 homeless, a great majority are people who are homeless because of the tightening of General Assistance eligibility standards to limit grants to employable people or people who were deinstitutionalized from state mental institutions and are unable to cope unaided.

The shelter subcommittee makes the following recommendations to deal with these problems.

- \* Restore the safety net. Reinstate General Assistance for anyone meeting the means test who cannot find a job. Initiate a meaningful jobs program to mainstream all employable people into the economy.
- \* Provide 12 month flat grants to urban counties (Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis) with large numbers of homeless people, to design local programs to deal with the homeless. These grants should require counties to provide rooms to the recidivist chemically dependent, mentally ill, mentally retarded and General Assistance recipient. Local options could include contracting for continued shelter space, hotel rooms, protected payee programs or supporting tenants of the Minnesota Multi Housing Association program. The intent of the program is to provide transitional money to counties to ease them out of the shelter business and move people back into the economy.  
Program cost - \$600,000.
- \* Through legislation provide a uniform commitment procedure to allow vulnerable mentally ill, retarded and chemically dependent people to be placed more easily in community based halfway, board and care and board and lodging homes.
- \* Since low cost housing is not available, alter the DPW requirement.  
re: shared housing and allow General Assistance recipient to share lodging without cutbacks in their grants.  
Program cost - \$2,230,000
- \* Step up DPW licensing of board and care, and board and lodging facilities and make those spaces available to the homeless that need them.  
Program cost - \$250,000.
- \* Call upon the appropriate local or regional housing agencies to lease sleeping room facilities in urban areas.
- \* Encourage shelters to remain open.
- \* Initiate a hotline system to easily connect people with food and shelter.
- \* Agree with hotels that they will act as an emergency back-up system during this 12 month interim period.
- \* Launch a "tenant retrieval" project with the Minnesota Multi Housing Association to retain current residence tenants who have lost their jobs or unemployment benefits or public assistance. Secondly, with MMHA, make vacant units available at cost to people who are without benefits.
- \* Seek cooperation of mortgage holders to allow people to stay in their own homes for minimum payments or freeze mortgage foreclosures.

MARCH 25, 1983

Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Shelter to the Total Task Force

OVERVIEW

The following recommendations are an attempt to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the homeless in Minnesota. The Subcommittee strongly recommends that one of the methods that can help minimize the impact of the current economic situation on the homeless is to restore the safety net and insure that an expanded General Assistance program is available for individuals who cannot find employment.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that funds be made available to the counties with the largest number of homeless, demonstrating a need for supplemental resources. These funds are to be used between July 1, 1983 through June, 1984, to provide shelter for the homeless. It is recommended that the program be evaluated in January, 1984, to determine if it should be eliminated, modified or continued\*.
- The Subcommittee concluded that many different kinds of people with varying needs use shelters. One group that possesses special problems for the existing shelters are those individuals who experience mental health crises in that setting. Their behavior is often not appropriate and is disruptive. It is therefore recommended, that in counties where this is a problem and insufficient emergency shelter resources exist to meet the special needs of this clientele, that funds be allocated for the purpose of providing this service. These funds are to be used between July 1, 1983 and June, 1984. The program should be evaluated in January, 1984 to determine if it should be eliminated, modified or continued\*.
- In view of the fact that sufficient low-cost housing is not available, it is recommended: 1) the Department of Public Welfare alter its requirement that General Assistance recipients forfeit part of their grants, if they share housings, and 2) local and/or regional housing agencies, i.e. HUD, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, etc., be called upon to utilize from their housing inventory, scattered units to provide shelter for the homeless, with supportive and coordinated assistance from non-profit social service organizations.
- Encourage existing shelters to remain open.
- Initiate a statewide hotline network that will easily connect people with local food and shelter resources.
- Launch a "tenant retrieval" project with the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, to retain current residential tenants who have lost employment, unemployment benefits or public assistance. In addition, seek MMHA's assistance in making vacant units available, at cost, to people who are without benefits.
- \* If the total task force adopts these recommendations, the subcommittee on shelter will pursue with the individual counties involved, data that can be used to develop program costs.

- Use the hotels and motels as an emergency back-up network for a 12-month period, beginning May, 1983.

PREVENTATIVE SUGGESTION FOR CONSIDERATION

Seek the cooperation of mortgage holders to allow individuals/families to remain in their own homes for minimum payments or freeze mortgage foreclosures.

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2. State Departments:
  - a. Economic Security
  - b. Welfare
  - c. Minnesota Housing
  - d. Finance
  - e. Agriculture
  - f. Minnesota National Guard
  - g. State Planning
  - h. Metro Council
  - i. Governor's Office of Volunteers
  - j. Area Agencies on Aging
  - k. Minnesota Senate
  - l. Minnesota House of Representatives
3. County Governments:
  - a. Ramsey
  - b. Hennepin
  - c. St. Louis
4. City Governments:
  - a. Saint Paul
  - b. Minneapolis
  - c. Duluth
5. Non-profit Organizations:
  - a. Ramsey County Food Bank
  - b. Lake Country Food Bank
  - c. Hennepin County Food Shelves
  - d. Domino Center Soup Kitchen
  - e. Dorothy Day Center
  - f. First Call For Help
  - g. Saint Paul Information and Referral
  - h. Emergency Social Services
  - i. Y.E.S.
  - j. Saint Paul Housing Information Office
  - k. St. Louis County Information and Referral
  - l. Rochester-Olmstead Information and Referral
  - m. Eclipse
  - n. Freeborn County Information and Referral
  - o. Nightengale
  - p. LaCrosse Information and Referral
  - q. WIC programs
  - r. Dakota County Helpline
  - s. Urban Coalition

5. Non-profit Organizations cont.:

- t. American Red Cross
- u. Saint Paul Ramsey Crisis Center
- v. Ramsey County Detox Center
- w. Union Gospel Mission
- x. Sabathani Community Center
- y. Indian Affairs Intertribal Board
- z. Channel One
- aa. NAHRO
- ab. Division of Indian Work
- ac. Salvation Army

6. Foundations:

- a. Blandin Foundation
- b. Minneapolis Foundation
- c. McKnight Foundation
- d. Saint Paul Foundation
- e. Emergency Care Fund
- f. Wilder Foundations

7. Associations:

- a. Minnesota Motor Transport Association
- b. Minnesota Hotel and Resort Association
- c. Minnesota Motel Association
- d. Minnesota Wheat Growers
- e. Minnesota Multi-Housing Association
- f. Minnesota Agrigrowth Council
- g. Minnesota Farmers Union
- h. Minnesota AFL-CIO
- i. Minnesota CAP Directors Association
- j. Minnesota Medical Association
- k. Teamsters Joint Council 32 - DRIVE
- l. Minnesota Food Retailers
- m. Minnesota County Welfare Directors Association

8. Corporations:

- a. Pillsbury Company
- b. General Mills
- c. Northwestern Bell
- d. International Multifoods
- e. Bemis Corporation
- f. Land O'Lakes
- g. Murphy Trucking

9. Community Action Programs

- a. AEOA
- b. Western Community Action
- c. Duluth CAP
- d. Tri CAP
- e. Kooch-Itasca Action Council

10. Religious Organizations:

- a. Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
- b. St. Stephens Church
- c. St. Lukes Church
- d. St. Francis Cabrini Church
- e. New Bethel Church
- f. El Bethel Church
- g. Jewish Community Relations Council-Antidefamation League
- h. Central Hillside United Ministries
- i. Catholic Charities

*St. Paul Pioneer Press Jan 1983*

## Armory considered as emergency shelter

By Bill Salisbury  
Staff Writer

Gov. Rudy Perpich today may propose housing street people in the St. Paul Capitol Hill Armory, 600 Cedar St.

Perpich has been considering the idea of using the armory for emergency shelter and may include it in his State of the State address to the Legislature today, aide Chris Freeman said Tuesday. But Perpich had not made a final decision as he and his aides were drafting the speech late Tuesday.

Whether the armory is needed is open to question.

A St. Paul housing official said the city could meet the needs of the homeless if it had enough money to staff and maintain existing emergency shelters.

But a St. Paul hospital official said "there aren't enough places" to house all the needy, and welfare rules force many shelters to send the homeless back on the streets after three nights.

"In St. Paul, we think we have adequate (emergency housing) facilities if we had the money to keep them going," said Janice Rettman, director of the mayor's housing information office.

Rettman said charities and local government agencies estimate they need \$30,000 to operate existing shelters through this winter, "and we could use \$100,000 to meet both the short-term and long-term needs of the street people."

Rettman praised Perpich's in-

See Armory, Page 2C

## Armory: Use for homeless considered

Continued from Page 1C

tent, saying, "It's wonderful to see so many people wanting a piece of the action."

Kathleen O'Leary, St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center crisis program supervisor, said many street people still can't find shelter.

"We're seeing a lot of people under stress with no job, no income and no place to stay," O'Leary said. They are sleeping in vacant buildings, under bridges, in apartment building laundries and "other places that are marginally legal," she said.

Many street people who come to the hospital for frostbite stay at emergency shelters for three nights and then are evicted, she said. The government set a three-day limit on funding emergency shelters, "but people can't change their life situations in three days."

# Task force offers plans for homeless

By Bill Salisbury  
Staff Writer

An estimated 1,000 Minnesotans are homeless, and a variety of remedies — ranging from restoration of welfare benefits for the able-bodied unemployed to a moratorium on home mortgage foreclosures — is needed to provide shelter, the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter recommended Wednesday.

While the poor who sleep under bridges or in tunnels and abandoned buildings have gotten the most attention, there are probably fewer than 50 of them in the state, said Martha Ballou, task force director. Most of the homeless, perhaps 600 to 700 persons, stay in emergency shelters, while another 300 to 400 rely on friends and acquaintances for housing.

About 30 percent of the homeless are chemically dependent and another 30 percent are mentally ill, Ballou said. The vast majority of the homeless are in the Twin Cities and Duluth.

The key to providing shelter for most of the homeless is to "restore the safety net" by making General Assistance welfare benefits available to the jobless, the task force said. The Legislature cut back General Assistance eligibility for the able-bodied in a 1981 budget-cutting move.

"A lot of people are out there (homeless) because the state made it happen by cutting back on GA just when the economy was turning sour," Ballou said.

The panel has not yet put a price tag on the cost of restoring the welfare safety net, but the Welfare Department has estimated the two-year cost at \$42.7 million for General Assistance direct grants to the needy and another \$37.1 million for medical assistance.

The task force plans to submit formal recommendations to Gov. Rudy Perpich next week.

In addition to restoring General Assistance grants, special welfare appropriations are needed to house

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## *Key to shelter is 'welfare benefits for the jobless.'*

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the mentally ill and retarded, chemically dependent and others with special needs, the panel said.

In its most radical recommendation, the task force called for a state-imposed freeze on mortgage foreclosures, unless lending institutions allow individuals and families to stay in their homes for minimum payments.

Most church-operated emergency shelters will close from April 15 until October, but the panel said these shelters should be encouraged to remain open to meet a continuing need.

It said hotels and motels should be used as an "emergency back-up network" to provide shelter for the next year. Ballou said hotel and motel operators have volunteered the use of 600 rooms in emergencies.

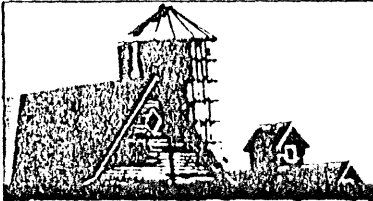
Government should work with landlords to enable tenants who have lost their jobs, unemployment benefits or welfare grants to stay in their apartments and to make vacant apartments available to the homeless at cost. Ballou said the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, a landlord group, has already volunteered help and is considering the task force's requests.

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Metro/Region

3/30/83





## State news

# State will give \$1 million for aid to needy

By Betty Wilson  
Staff Writer

The state will free up \$1 million to help emergency food and shelter programs this winter, Gov. Rudy Perpich said Wednesday.

The Department of Economic Security has about \$4 million more than expected for its fuel assistance programs, he said; a quarter of that will be distributed to private, religious and nonprofit organizations providing food and shelter for the needy.

"Our intention is to get the funds out to those organizations that are already doing a good job and who need help to maintain their programs," Perpich said.

The other \$3 million will be avail-

able for energy conservation projects that will provide jobs and further aid to the needy, the governor said. Details will be announced later.

Perpich said his task force on emergency food and shelter will play a major role in determining how the \$1 million will be spent. Community action agencies are expected to assist, and to distribute the money to individual agencies.

Areas with high unemployment will get most of the money, according to Rep. James Rice, DFL-Minneapolis, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, who has been working with the governor's office.

The money should carry private programs through the winter, Rice said. He added, "This isn't going to solve

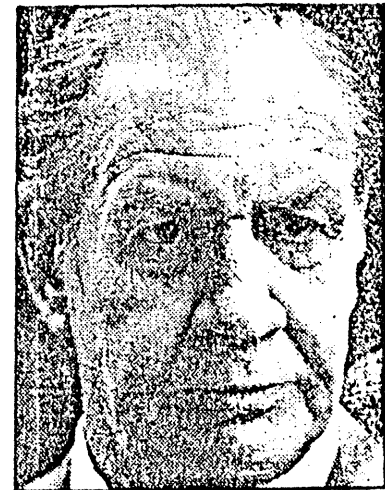


Jan Smaby

all of our problems, but it should go a long way."

Jan Smaby, director of economic assistance for Hennepin County, said she expects Hennepin County to get about \$100,000. The county already has set \$500,000 aside for private emergency programs, she said. "I can't say for sure it will get us through the winter, but it will be enormously helpful," she said.

Martha Ballou, an aide to Perpich, said the money "gives us breathing time," pending longer-term solutions



Rep. James Rice

for the hungry and the homeless.

Perpich's task force is examining the easing of general assistance eligibility rules and the finding of jobs, she added.

Ballou, who works with the task force, said its members are concerned that the large number of poor people now relying on emergency aid may become a permanent "underclass." If they aren't brought into the economy, she said, "they are going to be poor the rest of their lives."

# Range food-aid needs soar; donations decline

By Sharon Schmickle  
Northern Minnesota Correspondent.

## Hibbing, Minn.

The number of people seeking emergency food on the Iron Range has skyrocketed and food donations have leveled off or declined, volunteers who staff emergency food shelves told state and business officials Thursday.

In Hibbing, 367 families sought emergency rations in January, compared with fewer than 100 families in November, according to the Rev. Mark Hollenhorst of Blessed Sacrament Church. He said Hibbing food shelves ran out of food twice in January and had to close.

Hollenhorst was one of more than 100 volunteers from northeastern Minnesota who attended a public

hearing at First Lutheran Church in Hibbing.

The hearing was called by Gina Paolucci and Martha Ballou of the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter; Frank Dougherty, assistant public safety commissioner, and Robert Bonine, Pillsbury Co. vice president, community relations. They said they wanted to get information on emergency food and shelter needs.

They got an earful.

Aurora's food shelves served 149 families in January, more than twice the number that they had in periods before Christmas, Lois Lindgren reported. But contributions were down by about one-third, she said.

Chisholm shelves served 19 families

in November and 120 in January. Contributions have slowed to a trickle, volunteers said, and food has been purchased with emergency cash reserves donated earlier.

In Silver Bay and Two Harbors, the number of families seeking aid rose from 21 in November to more than 100 last month. Backing from the community has been strong, volunteers said, but added that they "are giving the food out as fast as it comes in."

Helvi Sipola from the Tower/Sudan/Vermillion food shelves said, "We do get a lot of donations, but I have to say that last month the donations were going out as fast as they were coming in. Now we are seeing more families coming in with five, six, or seven (members). The families are starting to express their hurting

needs. A lot of these people can't go on AFDC and they don't know where to turn."

What's more, speakers said, they're bracing themselves for a rush on emergency assistance in March when unemployment benefits for thousands of miners who were laid off last summer are scheduled to run out.

A study commissioned by the Blandin Foundation, Grand Rapids, said that about 40,000 people on the Iron Range are expected to suffer when benefits expire between now and March 31.

For some families, unemployment benefits are already gone.

Volunteers from Nashwauk, where Butler Taconite has been shut down

since May 30, said people are beginning to use up their savings and other assets.

Volunteers from Deer River and Grand Rapids said they were starting to see Iron Range problems spill over into their areas.

"Those families who are losing their jobs and homes here on the Range are coming back to live with families in Deer River," said Sadie Broeson, in charge of the Deer River Food Shelf.

Families are doubling up in rural homes, Broeson said. Some homes have up to 16 children, she said.

Gov. Rudy Perpich has allocated \$1 million for emergency assistance

Food continued on page 4B

throughout the state. The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency expects Lake, Cook and St. Louis counties to share about \$98,000 of that money. About half will be spent for food and half for other needs such as shelter, fuel assistance and medical care.

Until now, northeastern Minnesota food shelves have been stocked largely with private donations from local and other sources. For instance, the Pillsbury Co. has donated thousands of pounds of food in recent months on a matching pound-for-pound basis.

Recently, the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers said farmers will donate about 100,000 pounds of wheat flour to Iron Range and Twin Cities food shelves in March. Bemis, Inc., and International Multifoods Corp. are assisting with the project.

Several speakers at yesterday's hearing said they feared local sources of donations were starting to dry up.

"People are being bled," one woman said. "The same ones just can't keep giving and giving. They don't have it."

Hibbing churches collected 24,000 pounds of food in a recent drive. But it's gone.

"How long can we keep having these drives?" one man asked. "How long can people keep supporting it?"

Said Bill O'Brien, co-director of the Hibbing Food Shelves, "If people start going back to work who have been down to the food shelf, I just hope that they don't forget the little help they got and remember the people who still need it."

Minneapolis

STAR

and Tribune

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## State plans ads to show needy where help is

By Betty Wilson  
Staff Writer

*"If you're one of Minnesota's homeless and hungry ... regardless of the reason ... there's help for you and your family. We can even help you find a job. Minnesota cares about its people. And it cares about you."*

That's the message in an advertising blitz planned by Gov. Rudy Perpich's task force on emergency food and shelter, to let needy people in the state know where to go for help.

Task force members say they hope radio and television stations and newspapers will run the ads, containing a telephone number to call for aid, as free public service announcements. They've also designed posters for display in bus stations and other public places.

Northwestern Bell has agreed to provide a toll-free "800" number for people seeking help, according to Roy Weir, an assistant vice president. Callers could be assisted after regular office hours, he said.

The advertising campaign, expected to get underway next month, will be aimed especially at what the task force calls "the new poor," who lack previous contact with welfare and charitable organizations.

The task force said in a report Tuesday that it's getting ready for a "third wave" of hungry and homeless who will soon need help, in addition to about 200,000 people already being assisted.

The first wave showing up at emergency food shelves and shelters were those who lost welfare benefits when eligibility standards were tightened in the past two years, said the report. The second wave were those laid off from low-paying jobs in recent months, it said. The third are more people facing layoffs, and an estimated 25,000 about to exhaust unemployment benefits.

Task force members said they expect the need for large-scale assistance to expand and to last through next winter, and said the amount of food required each month may double or triple.

Michael Kramer, manager of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, said local newspapers around the state have in the past been willing to give space for public service promotion and are likely to support the task force's advertising program.

William Nusbaum, advertising manager for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, said it is flooded with such requests for free advertising space by charitable groups and normally does not provide such free space.

Tom Beaver, public service director for WCCO television and radio, said the company is providing free promotion for Metro Foodshare, which solicits contributions for food shelves, and probably would carry the task force advertising.

1A Metro

Wednesday

February 23, 1983

5 Sections

25¢ Single copy

Section A/Part I

# Minneapolis Star and Tribune

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3A □

Wednesday, March 9, 1983

## Food sharing: a look ahead

By Leonard Inskip  
Associate editor

The extraordinarily successful Metro Foodshare drive — six times original goals — did more than put badly needed food into emergency food shelves in the Twin Cities and north-eastern Minnesota. And it did more than show again a caring community.

The February drive raised consciousness about hunger, created opportunities for stronger links between shelves and donor groups (mainly churches), brought more corporations into the donated-food network, and moved the shelves toward higher efficiency through increased cooperation and coordination.

The Perpich administration is looking at ways the state can address hunger more forcefully, too. One possibility later this year is a statewide food drive. More immediate is the prospect of increased distribution of federal surplus commodities. Gov. Rudy Perpich's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter will encourage him to ask Minnesota's congressional delegation to support such distribution.

Although Metro Foodshare was endorsed by public officials, the drive was basically a partnership among the religious community, business and the food shelves, many of which have church ties. Two principal architects were Robert Bonine, Pillsbury's vice president of community relations, and Thomas Quigley, executive director of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Pillsbury's final outlay of about \$110,000 was a splendid example of creative leveraging of a limited resource to help produce a much greater result.

Planning for Metro Foodshare began last summer as wide holes became apparent in the safety net. There had long been emergency shelves in the Twin Cities, but they couldn't keep up with people's deprivation. The shelves couldn't get enough food — or they got the wrong kind. Cooperation and coordination among shelves were inadequate. Shelves

kept inadequate records. They needed more volunteers. There was little factual information about the shelves — often only a sideline for a social agency or a pantry in a church. These weaknesses, and more, were documented by an earlier United Way study.

Metro Foodshare is putting more food into the food shelves, at least for the short term. But the cash that was contributed directly to the drive itself, rather than to individual shelves, will address some of the weaknesses. The money will be allocated over 10 months according to meals each shelf has handed out the previous month. That will require record keeping. For the first time, there can be a central data base. Also, the money will buy food the shelves need for nutritional balance; it will permit cooperative buying at below-retail prices, something being planned by shelves in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The 10-month payout will help offset the traditional Thanksgiving/Christmas cyclical nature of donations.

Coincidentally but importantly, the United Way last week announced its allocations. It gave to eight new recipients, as part of priority restructuring. One was Emergency Food Shelves in Hennepin County, Inc., the only coordinating body for shelves in the county. It got \$35,000. That can help strengthen member shelves.

Another key to the food shelves' future success, says Quigley, is the extent to which they build on the relationships established with individual churches and other groups during the drive. Food delivered to a church went directly to a shelf, often not far from the church. The goal is to keep food flowing — if not in the quantities raised during the February blitz, at least more than before and more systematically.

The biggest potential source of emergency food remains the federal government, which started giving away surplus dairy products last year but which could give a lot more, according to Perpich task force director Martha Ballou and co-chair Bonine. (Bonine also headed Gov. Quie's

committee for federal food.)

Ballou says Congress and the Department of Agriculture are considering ways to release more food, including commodities not previously distributed. The state should prepare for such an eventuality. One way might be to develop a system of depots from which that food could be sent to food shelves and Community Action Program agencies.

But there's a problem. There are fewer food shelves in rural Minnesota, and the CAP agencies don't have funds for on-going distribution, says Bonine. "Many rural counties have not responded to emergency needs. We think facilities for depots are available. But we need a signal people want one."

Bonine favors a grass-roots incremental expansion of what he calls the "food pipeline" as localities identify emergency needs and indicate they want to participate. Ballou, somewhat more ambitiously, would provide more food for longer periods than present practices, but even she says "we're not out to institutionalize anything."

That's one of the dilemmas: how to create a workable statewide emergency program, based mainly on volunteers, without institutionalizing it in government agencies and budgets. Church and food-shelf relations are a form of institutionalizing. But what happens when unemployment begins to dip — or volunteers go to the lake this summer? Quigley wonders whether Metro Foodshare, based on the particular resources and needs of the metropolitan community, can be replicated on a statewide basis.

However, Quigley notes, Metro Foodshare's success had an ingredient shared statewide: unemployment. "While the community has demonstrated caring about each other, I have a hunch another part of it is that many gave realizing they're very close to the edge themselves. People have been touched by unemployment in their families, their neighborhoods. We've demonstrated the community is aware of a bigger problem than just the hungry poor."

# News-Tribune & Herald

Volume 1, No. 193

Duluth, Minn.

Friday, Feb. 11, 1983

25¢

## Food shelf officials say they can't keep up with demand

BY SYLVIA WIER  
Staff writer

HIBBING — The volunteer from the Chisholm Food Shelf summed up the problem.

"In November, we took care of 19 families for the month," said William Krancich, Chisholm. "In January, it was 100 families.



Paulucci

"Now food is not coming in at all. The same ones can't keep giving and giving because they don't have it."

Cheryl Kutsi, Food Shelf volunteer from Gilbert, stood up after Krancich.

"It's kind of sad to come in one day and see the food shelves stocked and the next day you come in and they're empty."

The story — and other problems dealing with health care, fuel assistance and shelter — was repeated Thursday to members of the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter at First Lutheran Church here.

Gina Paulucci, head of the task force, said members will report their findings to Gov. Rudy Perpich today.

About 125 people gathered to tell the task force how they and

their neighbors are getting by. Some 9,000 of 14,000 steelworkers in Northeastern Minnesota remain laid off.

The unemployment rate in St. Louis County, excluding Duluth, is 28.4 percent. In both Cook and Lake counties, the unemployment rate is 38 percent. "Before Christmas, Hibbing had no problems with collections ... but since then donations have fallen off. But the number of recipients has increased," said Bill O'Brien, Hibbing Food Shelf volunteer.

"It isn't that people aren't willing to give. They just need to be reminded."

Robert Bonine, a Pillsbury Co. vice president who conducted the public hearing, asked the group about the future. Pillsbury has been active in the Food Shelf program since last summer.

"The future?" said Lois Lindgren, a Food Shelf volunteer from Aurora. "It looks real bad. We have to wait and see who goes back to work."

Mary Lou Freyholtz, an Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency outreach worker from Cook, said she's been in homes without heat.

"I've had to go to homes where there's no heat, no wood," she said. "The pipes have frozen and the people will bring in water from the outside in pails and it would drop on the floor and freeze. I've seen babies crawling

around on those floors in snowsuits.

"I know of people that are sleeping in a pickup camper."

"The situation is causing a lot of strain and tension for senior citizens because children are moving back home or because the seniors feel they have to help them and can't," said Lollie Hess, director of the senior volunteer program for the agency.

By the end of March, unemployment benefits for many will run out and a study done by the Blandin Foundation reported 42,000 workers and their families on the Iron Range will be affected.

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., introduced a bill Tuesday in the House Ways and Means Committee that would extend unemployment benefits to September.

Kim Stokes, an Oberstar aide, said Thursday the bill would repeal changes in the Reconciliation Bill, which made Minnesota ineligible to receive extended unemployment benefits, and it would target unemployment aid to regions, not states.

# St. Paul Dispatch

Wednesday

Jan. 19, 1983

Metro Final-25¢

## State fund to help the homeless

By Don Ahern  
Staff Writer

Gov. Rudy Perpich announced today that \$1 million will be made available immediately to pay for emergency food and shelter programs this winter.

Perpich has asked the Department of Economic Security to transfer \$1 million in federal discretionary funds to the emergency program. The money will be distributed to Community Action Agencies throughout the state and to private, religious and non-profit organizations that are providing food and shelter programs for the needy.

Martha Ballou, director of the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter, said, "The private agencies have already been doing a good job. We'll just help them keep doing it."

Because of an unexpectedly mild winter so far, the Depart-

ment of Economic Security has about \$4 million more than anticipated for its fuel assistance program. The transfer will come from those funds. But the transfer will not mean that fuel assistance will be short of funds, Ballou said.

She said about 25 percent of the money will be spent in Hennepin County, about 15 percent in Ramsey County, 15 percent in the Arrowhead region, and the rest throughout the remainder of the state.

She said the task force determined there are about 300 to 500 people in Ramsey County who are either wandering the streets without a place to live, or who are doubling up with friends because they can't afford available living units. There are about 500 to 1,000 street people in Hennepin County.

Ballou said the task force found there are enough beds for

Please see Shelter/4A

### Shelter

■ Continued from Page 1A  
homeless people maintained by private or quasi-government agencies to handle the current demand. The new funds primarily are for emergencies beyond the normal demand, such as further weakening of the economy, unexpected bad weather, heat shutoffs, or a large number of people using up their general assistance eligibility.

The money is expected to be in the hands of the agencies by the end of this week or early next week. Although details have not yet been worked out, the funds probably will be distributed through the state's network of Community Action Programs.

The governor was alerted to the availability of the excess fuel assistance funds by Rep. James Rice, DFL-Minneapolis, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and by Economic Security Commissioner Barbara Beerhalter.

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GRANT COUNTY

# Herald

An independent newspaper established in 1879, serving Grant County. Published every Thursday at Elbow Lake, Minnesota.  
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*March 14, 1983*

## Uplifting community spirits

By the time many of you read this, four Elbow Lake area residents will, weather permitting, be traveling to the Iron Range city of Aurora to set up contacts for the upcoming adopted community food shelf drive.

The drive, which is being sponsored by churches in the Elbow Lake area, will culminate in the delivery of a large shipment of food and other needed commodities to Aurora and two neighboring communities during the week after Easter.

Already, donations of food and money are coming in. Leaders in the drive are being contacted daily with offers of help and ideas. Enthusiasm is running high.

If our initial reports from the Range are even close to accurate, the four member delegation which is traveling to Aurora Thursday will find communities and families in desperate need.

Aurora and its neighboring communities of Hoyt Lakes and Biwabik are heavily dependent on mines and taconite plants which are shut down.

Unemployment among steelworkers in Aurora is running at more than 90 percent.

Unemployment benefits are being exhausted.

And, the ability of the local communities to take care of their own is decreasing daily.

That's why, in our food abundant farming community, local churches, farmers, business people, and others are getting together to help.

There's a lot of work to be done.

While much of the emphasis to date has been on how what we do here will help those on the Range, we in the Elbow Lake area have much from this drive to gain as well.

Without question, these are difficult economic times in the Elbow Lake area. One need only look at the empty buildings on main street and talk to business owners and farmers to find out just how fragile our local economy is.

Yet, with very few exceptions, we have food to eat and enough money to keep up our house payments or rent. That's not true for many families in Aurora and other communities on the Iron Range.

Certainly, realizing that we have much to give is an important benefit to us from participation in the Iron Range Community Food Shelf Project. So is digging in to make up our fair share.

And, certainly, when this drive is completed, we will all feel a little better about ourselves and our community—maybe even a lot better.

Even if others weren't going to benefit from our generosity, that kind of uplifting of spirit will make our efforts worthwhile.

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GRANT  
COUNTY

Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56521

# Herald

Thursday, March 4, 1983

105th Year -- Number 4

USPS No. 226-360

To aid Iron Range city

## Organizational meeting set for new food shelf

By Jon Schroeder

An organizational meeting will be held Friday morning for a new food shelf project designed to aid an adopted community on the hard-pressed Iron Range.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Home 20.

The new food shelf project is being sponsored by the Elbow Lake Ministerial Association. It has been endorsed by that organization which includes clergy from Elbow Lake area churches.

The adopted community food shelf idea was presented Sunday, February 20 to six Elbow Lake area churches during their morning worship services.

Outlining the growing needs for food shelf assistance on the Iron Range at the worship services was Martha Ballou, director of the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter. The state task force is coordinating efforts to deal with what Ballou called a growing need for assistance in providing food and shelter for unemployed families throughout the state, with a particular emphasis on the Iron Range.

As presently envisioned, the Elbow Lake adopted community food shelf project will culminate during Easter Week. During the Lenten season, food items will be brought to area churches and may be left at the Bank of Elbow

Lake.

Unprocessed food items including wheat and livestock will also be solicited as will cash donations. The Pillsbury Company in Minneapolis has offered to mill wheat donated from the area into flour, bag it, and transport it to the Iron Range.

According to the organizers of Friday's meeting, a task force is being formed to manage the drive. Representatives are being recruited from the six participating churches as well as others in the community who wish to become involved.

At Friday's meeting, a steering committee for the task force will be selected

and sub-committee chairmen named to work on specific aspects of the drive.

Also, at Friday's meeting, a specific community food shelf in an Iron Range city or cities will be selected. Cities currently under consideration include Keewatin and Biwabik, both of which have about the same population as Elbow Lake and well-organized local food shelves.

Individuals who have ideas about the adopted community food shelf or who wish to get involved should come to Friday morning's meeting or call Dorothy Hermes, manager of the Elbow Lake Civic and Commerce Association at 685-4957.



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# Task force discourages use of armories as shelters

1A Metro

Thursday

January 13, 1983

4 Sections

25¢ Single copy

By Betty Wilson  
Staff Writer

Money is running out for shelters for the homeless.

Hundreds of people soon will exhaust their general assistance benefits and have nowhere to go.

And further layoffs are likely to drive more people into the cold, a state task force on emergency food and shelter warned Wednesday.

Gov. Rudy Perpich set up the task

force to coordinate efforts for the poor. But the group promptly discouraged one of Perpich's own suggestions — that National Guard armories could be used for shelters.

That would put men, women and children together in one big room without adequate sanitary facilities, and would be unworkable for long periods, they said. So armories should be considered only as emergency backup shelters.

Gerry Nelson, Perpich's communications director, agreed. "We have con-

cluded that national guard armories are not to be used as hotels and motels for weeks and days at a time."

Adjutant General James Sieben said the state's 67 armories could be ready with cots to shelter people on three to five hours' notice, and until other agencies could find suitable housing for them. But the armories do not have showers and other facilities for long-term shelter, and federal property stored in them would have to be guarded, he said.

A well-organized, hard-working, local, church and volunteer network is working to meet the needs, the task force reported. "But they cannot go on forever or go on unaided. What we hear constantly from them is that they need money to handle emergencies," said Gina Paulucci, who heads the task force.

More broadly, the task force said, shelters must be considered at best a stop-gap solution. What's really needed, it said, are jobs and long-term, affordable housing.

The tightening of general eligibility standards and the of state institutions have created a new class of homeless, said a daughter of Duluth businesswoman Jenio Paulucci. "People who are getting by, or who were being taken care of, now wander the streets."

The message from churches, food shelves, state and local agencies and others who deal with the needy "came through loud and clear — please restore the safety net. They ask assurance that no one can go without housing or food,

you will help mobilize the resources of the state to make it happen," said the report to the governor.

According to the report, representatives of organizations who are working to help the homeless and hungry want state government to:

- Coordinate public and private fund-raising efforts.

- Provide emergency state money to counties and expand existing shelters for emergency situations. Ask private industry and local governments to match those funds.

- Establish hotlines to get people who need food or housing matched up with resources. (People in the Minneapolis area who need food or want to make donations may call 823-6315; in the St. Paul area, 227-6516.)

- Provide a backup system for emergency housing. Put the armories on standby alert and call on churches and private industry to free emergency space.

- Ask the people of the state to support their local food shelves and donate clothing and money through their churches and community social service agencies.

David Schultz, branch manager of Catholic Charities in Minneapolis and member of the task force, said he's concerned that "We are creating second-class citizens who have to spend most of their time lining up for shelter and food and whatever they get. That's intolerable. It's a very inhumane way of helping out. These people want jobs."

Some people sleep on the street because they are "looking for some dignity and some pride," he said. "They have some control over their own lives in that situation. They don't have to stand in line. They don't have to be subservient to a donation that's going on."

The major problems are with homeless people in the Twin Cities and Duluth, the task force reported.

While there are enough beds to meet present needs on a short-term, non-emergency basis, more beds and an emergency backup system will be needed if an emergency such as a snowstorm hits, said the report.

Special housing is needed now for the chronically chemically dependent, the report said. The first wave of the homeless were people who lost public benefits including general assistance and food stamps or were de-institutionalized when eligibility standards were tightened, it said.

The second wave, it said, are the "new poor" — people who formerly worked at low-paying jobs, lost them and two weeks later needed emergency help.

The average "homeless person" is a single 27-year-old white man with a cash income of less than \$100 in the last month, primarily from day labor, according to a survey by Catholic Charities, the task force said. That person had not worked in the last week, his most recent steady employment was in an unskilled service job lasting three months and he had recently spent time in a hospital.

Robert Bonine, a vice president of the Pillsbury Co. and task force member, said more than 200,000 Minnesota families now have incomes below the federal poverty guidelines and are unable to meet their basic living costs, including food.

# Estimates of state's needy 'exceed fears'

By Berry Wilson  
Staff Writer

*Mpls. ST*  
*7/23*

About one Minnesotan in five will need food from a food shelf at some time in the next year, according to a report issued Tuesday by Gov. Rudy Perpich's task force on emergency food and shelter.

More than 1,000 people are homeless in the state, according to the panel's report, which said: "Our estimates of need for food and shelter exceeded our greatest fears."

Some who need food assistance may need help for only a few days a month, but some will require it for longer periods, said Robert Bonine, a member of the panel and a vice president of the Pillsbury Co. who has been active in food-assistance programs.

Bonine said the estimate that 750,000 Minnesotans will need some food assistance in the next year was reached with calculations based upon the number of people in the state whose income makes them eligible to receive surplus commodities, including cheese and butter.

For a family of four, the maximum eligible income is \$15,236 a year, he said, and more than 1 million Minnesotans are in families that fall below that line. Estimating that perhaps 60

percent of those people will need food assistance next year, he said, the panel arrived at the 750,000 figure — about 18 percent of the state's population.

Bonine said the panel regarded its estimate as a conservative one, noting that 500,000 people received surplus commodities in October and thousands more were turned away. He said the panel also reviewed the number of people who had sought public help in paying fuel bills and the number whose long-term unemployment benefits had run out in October.

Martha Ballou, a Perpich aide who served on the panel, said the estimate of the number of homeless Minnesotans was based on reports from shelters in the Twin Cities and Duluth and on "conservative" estimates from county officials around the state.

To meet the projected need for food assistance, the panel said, between 10 million and 24 million pounds of food would be required each month. Ballou said that cannot be achieved, and the panel recommended a goal of 7 million pounds a month.

The current food-shelf system delivers about 2 million pounds of food in the state each month.

"We were appalled and amazed" by the figures, Ballou said. "The terrible thing is, these people need help."

The panel recommended to Perpich that the state set up a one-year "Minnesota Emergency Food Distribution Program" to accept and distribute 5 million to 7 million pounds of federal surplus commodities each month, beginning in July.

The program would be run by the state Department of Economic Security through regional emergency food depots around the state and would require a \$2.9 million appropriation from state and perhaps federal funds, the panel said.

The task force also recommended that a statewide food drive be launched next fall.

The task force also reaffirmed an earlier recommendation that general assistance be restored to 1981 levels to provide a safety net to those who are needy and cannot find jobs.

Gerry Nelson, Perpich's communications director, said yesterday that the governor had not seen the report and could not comment on it.

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ury 13, 1983

# St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota's First Newspaper

## Efforts to help the homeless fall short

By Ozzie St. George  
Staff Writer

Minnesota churches, private social service agencies and volunteers are well organized and working hard to aid the homeless, the hungry and the unemployed, but they need government assistance, Gov. Rudy Perpich's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter reported Wednesday.

Task Force Chairwoman Gina Paulucci told a state Capitol press conference "the message that came through loud and clear" in interviews with people in shelters and drop-in centers "was please restore the safety net. They ask assurance that no one will go without housing or food . . ."

Perpich named the task force a week ago. In this, its first report, it recommended that state government:

- Establish local hotlines to match people in need with local resources immediately.

- Organize back-up shelter and housing in churches, privately owned buildings and National Guard armories for use in emergencies, such as major winter storms. Maj. Gen. James Sieben, state adjutant-general, said the National Guard's 67 armories can be made ready for temporary use with three to five hours' notice. He said the armories aren't suitable for long-term occupancy because they don't have enough sanitary facilities.

- Provide funds to keep shelters open and enlarge them, and ask local governments and private industry to match such funds.

- Ease general assistance eligibility standards, board the mentally ill and "find creative ways to make long-term housing affordable." A Perpich spokesman said the

governor already is looking at the eligibility standards.

- Coordinate public and private fund, food and clothing drives and urge Minnesotans to contribute to these. Some food drives are planned.

Paulucci said existing shelters and food programs appear to be coping with short-term non-emergency needs but can't cope with emergencies, "and we know emergencies are coming — this month we can expect at least one major storm and serious below-freezing temperatures."

In February, she said, "we expect hundreds of people will have exhausted their general assistance benefits and have nowhere to go."

Paulucci said the task force "expects further layoffs" and predicted that "homelessness and hunger will continue . . . What people want and need most of all is jobs."

# St. Paul Dispatch

Wednesday, March 23, 1983

★Metro Final

## Many in state lack food, home

Associated Press

Nearly one out of every five Minnesotans will need food from a food shelf at some time during the next year, according to a report issued by Gov. Rudy Perpich's task force on emergency food and shelter.

More than 1,000 people are homeless in the state, the report said.

"Our estimates of need for food and shelter exceeded our greatest

fears," the panel reported.

Some who need food assistance may need help for only a few days a month, but some will require it for longer periods, said Robert Bonine, a member of the panel and a vice president of the Pillsbury Co., which has been active in food-assistance programs.

Bonine said that to "look at stark numbers, the need appears to be much greater than we had anticipated . . . but we do not know the strength of that need."

A lot of people who qualify get assistance from their parents or from relatives and will not use a public assistance program, he explained.

"And there are many senior citizens who would qualify under the income guideline who have no need for, nor interest in, receiving emergency food," Bonine said.

(To qualify for commodities, a single person's income would be limited to \$7,620.)

"We can get the raw data on

numbers (of those who may need food), but to interpret the real need versus the arithmetic need is difficult," he said.

Bonine said Tuesday the estimate that 750,000 Minnesotans will need some food assistance in the next year was reached with calculations based upon the number of people in the state whose incomes make them eligible to receive surplus commodities, including cheese and butter.

The maximum eligible income

for a family of four is \$15,235 a year, and more than 1 million Minnesotans are in families that fall below that level. Estimating that 60 percent of those people will need food assistance next year, he said, the panel arrived at the 750,000 figure. That equals about 18 percent of the state's population.

Bonine said the panel regards the estimate as a conservative figure. He noted that more than 500,000 people received surplus

commodities in October and thousands more were turned away.

To meet the need for food assistance, the panel said between 16 million and 24 million pounds of food will be required each month. Martha Ballou, an aide to Perpich, said that level can't be reached, so the panel recommended a goal of 7 million pounds a month.

The food-shelf system now delivers about 2 million pounds of food in the state each month.

The panel recommends that the state set up a one-year emergency food distribution program to accept and distribute 5 million to 7 million pounds of federal surplus commodities each month, beginning in July.

The program would be run by the state Department of Economic Security through regional emergency food depots around the state and would require a \$2.9 million state appropriation plus some federal funds, the report said.

Perpich could not immediately be reached for comment, but his press secretary, Gerry Nelson, said today the governor had not seen the report and would not have any action until he had reviewed it.

Nelson said other staff members were reviewing the report to discuss its recommendations with Perpich.

"The task force was appointed to do an inventory to see what was going on out there, to see the needs and then proceed with a discussion on how to take care of those needs," Nelson said.

Asked if the task force recommendations were likely to be endorsed by Perpich, Nelson said, "Not necessarily, the obvious thing is the cost."

"Not that there's any price on hunger and need, but at the same time the state's resources are not unlimited."

This story includes material from St. Paul Dispatch staff writers Dorothy Lewis and Gary Dawson.

# St. Paul Dispatch

25¢

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1983

Metro Final

## Minnesotans' generosity draws praise

By Don Ahern  
Staff Writer

Minnesotans are responding to increasing hunger and homelessness in the state with "unprecedented generosity," according to the director of the Governor's Task Force on Shelter and Food.

"People are looking at each other as brother and sister and are taking care of each other; people are really pulling together," the director, Martha Ballou, said today.

For instance, the Minnesota Wheat Growers Association has donated 25,000 bushels of wheat that will be milled by International Multifoods, bagged by Bemis Co., and presented to the AFL-CIO in Duluth for distribution to the jobless on

the Iron Range.

Churches and social agencies have provided enough short-term housing for the homeless that public buildings have not been used. And the Minnesota Hotel and Resort Association and the Minnesota Motel Association have promised 300 to 600 rooms as backup emergency housing if needed. So far, however, they have not been needed.

Towns that are still relatively well off, like Elbow Lake and Roosevelt have started programs to adopt sister cities on the Iron Range to feed them.

"And our task force has been getting unsolicited calls from individuals asking what they can do to help," Ballou added.

But between February and March about 1,500 to 3,000

people will have exhausted their 1983 general assistance and unemployment benefits and will have no place to go, according to the task force chairwoman, Gina Paulucci. "With the economy continuing to worsen we can expect further layoffs," she said.

The task force met Tuesday and determined that the paramount need right now is to significantly increase the amount of food going to food shelves from a three-day supply to a 15-day supply, and to find longer-term low-cost housing.

"We are finding that the short-term housing in church basements and social centers is turning into longer term housing," Ballou said. "Churches and social service agencies built a terrific response in the shelters, opening up church

Please see Food/2C

## Food

■ Continued from Page 1C

basements and starting places like Dorothy Day, Mary Hall, Mustard Seed and so forth. And what we have to do now is find long-term housing for people, and take a special look at people who are chronically alcoholic or mentally ill."

Ballou said that despite the unprecedented response to human misery caused by the recession, more money is needed to provide food and shelter for the increasing numbers of people in need.

Ballou said the task force sees four primary ways of dealing with the problem:

- Breaking loose more surplus commodities from the government, which involves working through both domestic and foreign policy red tape.

- Increasing individual donations of food and money.

- Getting the food industry and other private firms more deeply involved.

- Encouraging poor people to grow their own food on community plots.

The task force has already distributed \$1 million from the state's federal fuel assistance fund to social service agencies for emergency care. Until the Legislature acts, there are no more state funds available.

Contributions can be made to any of a number of social agencies. Emergency Care Fund, sponsored by the St. Paul Foundation and run by Nancy Latimer, wife of St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, has already collected a half million dollars in emergency care funds. The number for that agency is 224-5463.

# Minneapolis Star and Tribune

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14A S

Friday, March 25, 1983

## How many Minnesotans go hungry?

On Tuesday, the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter recommended that Minnesota help provide additional food assistance to needy people. The task force gave the impression that 750,000 state residents, nearly one in five, need emergency food aid. That number seemed exaggerated. Subsequent explanations confirmed that it was. Those explanations also suggest that the issue is not the precise number, but the fact that many Minnesotans desperately need help.

No one knows how many Minnesota residents face emergency food shortages. In some communities, people in difficulty can receive three days of food per month from community food shelves, which are volunteer-run distribution points for donated goods. All that can be said with confidence is that existing food shelves cannot reach everyone who needs help and cannot provide enough help to many they reach. The task force recommends a statewide collection campaign next fall to enlarge food-shelf stores.

In addition, the task force proposes an expanded federal surplus-commodities distribution program for one year. Butter, cheese and dried milk now are available. The federal government may soon include a wider assortment of foodstuffs.

Confusion over numbers develops because in many communities surplus commodities are distributed

through emergency food shelves, and the task force envisions expanding this relationship. But many people who qualify for commodities under lenient federal guidelines face no emergency; they would not qualify for food-shelf aid. The 750,000 figure represents the task force's best guess of the number of people who would qualify for, and take, federal commodities — not the number who will go hungry without emergency assistance.

Currently, about 2 million pounds of federal commodities are distributed monthly in Minnesota. The task force recommends expanding that amount to a maximum 7 million pounds per month. To avoid a breakdown in the volunteer distribution system — and because food demand can only be estimated — the task force recommends that the commodities program be expanded incrementally, until it either satisfies the need or reaches the system's capacity to store and distribute goods.

The task force is wise to favor an incremental approach. It would give Minnesota communities time to assess their own food needs and establish or expand donation and distribution programs. That approach also makes the numbers question irrelevant. Some Minnesotans who need emergency food assistance are not now getting it. In considering the task force recommendations, that's all the state's leaders need to know.

# Range food-aid needs soar; donations decline

By Sharon Schmickle  
Northern Minnesota Correspondent.

## Hibbing, Minn.

The number of people seeking emergency food on the Iron Range has skyrocketed and food donations have leveled off or declined, volunteers who staff emergency food shelves told state and business officials Thursday.

In Hibbing, 367 families sought emergency rations in January, compared with fewer than 100 families in November, according to the Rev. Mark Hollenhorst of Blessed Sacrament Church. He said Hibbing food shelves ran out of food twice in January and had to close.

Hollenhorst was one of more than 100 volunteers from northeastern Minnesota who attended a public

hearing at First Lutheran Church in Hibbing.

The hearing was called by Gina Paulucci and Martha Ballou of the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Food and Shelter; Frank Dougherty, assistant public safety commissioner, and Robert Bonine, Pillsbury Co. vice president, community relations. They said they wanted to get information on emergency food and shelter needs.

They got an earful.

Aurora's food shelves served 149 families in January, more than twice the number that they had in periods before Christmas, Lois Lindgren reported. But contributions were down by about one-third, she said.

Chisholm shelves served 19 families

In November and 120 in January. Contributions have slowed to a trickle, volunteers said, and food has been purchased with emergency cash reserves donated earlier.

In Silver Bay and Two Harbors, the number of families seeking aid rose from 21 in November to more than 100 last month. Backing from the community has been strong, volunteers said, but added that they "are giving the food out as fast as it comes in."

Helvi Sipola from the Tower/Sudan/Vermillion food shelves said, "We do get a lot of donations, but I have to say that last month the donations were going out as fast as they were coming in. Now we are seeing more families coming in with five, six, or seven (members). The families are starting to express their hurting

needs. A lot of these people can't go on AFDC and they don't know where to turn."

What's more, speakers said, they're bracing themselves for a rush on emergency assistance in March when unemployment benefits for thousands of miners who were laid off last summer are scheduled to run out.

A study commissioned by the Blandin Foundation, Grand Rapids, said that about 40,000 people on the Iron Range are expected to suffer when benefits expire between now and March 31.

For some families, unemployment benefits are already gone.

Volunteers from Nashauk, where Butler Taconite has been shut down

since May 30, said people are beginning to use up their savings and other assets.

Volunteers from Deer River and Grand Rapids said they were starting to see Iron Range problems spill over into their areas.

"Those families who are losing their jobs and homes here on the Range are coming back to live with families in Deer River," said Sadie Broeson, in charge of the Deer River Food Shelf.

Families are doubling up in rural homes, Broeson said. Some homes have up to 16 children, she said.

Gov. Rudy Perpich has allocated \$1 million for emergency assistance

Food continued on page 4B

throughout the state. The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency expects Lake, Cook and St. Louis counties to share about \$98,000 of that money. About half will be spent for food and half for other needs such as shelter, fuel assistance and medical care.

Until now, northeastern Minnesota food shelves have been stocked largely with private donations from local and other sources. For instance, the Pillsbury Co. has donated thousands of pounds of food in recent months on a matching pound-

Recently, the Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers said farmers will donate about 100,000 pounds of wheat flour to Iron Range and Twin Cues food shelves in March. Bemis, Inc., and International Multifoods Corp. are assisting with the project.

Several speakers at yesterday's hearing said they feared local sources of donations were starting to dry up.

"People are being bled," one woman said. "The same ones just can't keep giving and giving. They don't have it"

Hibbing churches collected 24,000 pounds of food in a recent drive. But it's gone.

"How long can we keep having these drives?" one man asked. "How long can people keep supporting it?"

Said Bill O'Brien, co-director of the Hibbing Food Shelves, "If people start going back to work who have been down to the food shelf, I just hope that they don't forget the little help they got and remember the people who still need it."



# More aid asked for homeless

By Jackie Roedler  
Staff Writer

One of the ways the needs of Minnesota's homeless should be met is to expand the welfare general assistance program so people who can't find work would be eligible for full payments, a state subcommittee on shelter said today.

Now, unemployed people with marketable skills are eligible for only five weeks of help.

General assistance was cut back by the Legislature two years ago, and Martha Ballou, director of Rudy Perpich's Task Force

## Shelter

■ Continued from Page 1A

have marketable skills. They can't find jobs in these economic times."

The general assistance proposal was among several recommendations for meeting the needs of the state's estimated 1,000 homeless that were included in the subcommittee's report to the full task force.

Ultimately, Perpich will face making a recommendation on the welfare program, and Ballou admitted it won't be an easy decision when the state is facing a billion-dollar deficit.

"We know the governor is going to have to make some tough choices," she said. "But he has been entirely supportive of the subcommittee's work. Our charge was to give him the best possible information, and the subcommittee has been in favor of full reinstatement of general assistance payments since the beginning. That's the bottom line."

It is expected that fully reinstating the program would cost the state \$42.7 million more in financial aid and \$37.1 million more in medical help over the two-year budget period, according to state

on Emergency Food and Shelter, said the task force subcommittee is proposing that the general assistance program be returned to its former level.

The program is "sunsetted" to return to full payments at the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, unless new action is taken by the Legislature.

"We feel the program should be allowed to sunset, because we are denying help to those who need it most," Ballou said. "The point is not whether unemployed people

Please see Shelter/4A

Welfare Department figures. An estimated 38 percent of those eligible for financial aid are expected to meet medical aid requirements.

Counties also would face an increase in welfare costs. An estimated \$14.2 would be needed to cover financial aid, \$4.1 million for medical aid.

General assistance financial payments would average \$147.50 a month. Medical payments would average an estimated \$301 monthly in 1984.

Frank Dougherty, an assistant Public Safety Department commissioner, said the numbers are being checked and double-checked because of the "heat" state departments took last week when a task force report on food needs showed 750,000, or nearly one out of every five Minnesotans, will need food from a food shelf at some time during the next year.

Dougherty maintains the "heat was undeserved."

Other subcommittee recommendations call for:

■ Funds being made available to counties with the largest number of homeless that can demonstrate a need for supplemental resources.

The program would be evaluated in January 1984.

■ Allocating special funds for counties that need to set up special shelters for those with mental health problems. The report noted that their behavior is disruptive in existing shelters.

■ The state Welfare Department altering its requirements that general assistance recipients forfeit part of their grants if they share housing.

■ Launching a "tenant retrieval" project with the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association (landlords) so current tenants who have lost employment, unemployment benefits or public assistance can remain in their apartments or homes.

Ballou said that the MMHA has been "very helpful." Since many housing units are currently unoccupied, she said, another recommendation would seek MMHA's help in making vacant units available, at cost, to people who are without benefits.

The subcommittee also suggests that as a "preventative" measure, the state seek the cooperation of mortgage holders to allow families to remain in their own homes for minimum payments or that mortgage foreclosures be frozen.

Tuesday, March 29, 1983

# St. Paul Dispatch

*St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch*

Saturday, March 26, 1983

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## Week's news in review/

### **Local/regional**

Almost one of five Minnesotans will need food assistance from "food shelf" programs during the next year, according to a report issued by Gov. Rudy Perpich's task force on emergency food and shelter. More than 1,000 people in the state are homeless, the report said. "Our estimates of need for food and shelter exceeded our greatest fears," the panel's report said.

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Minnesota. Governor's Task  
Force on Emergency Food  
Report to Governor Rudy

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