

April 20, 2008

Hon. Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

As one of your neighbors on the Upper East Side, and as a parishioner of St. James' Episcopal Church at Madison Avenue and 71<sup>st</sup> Street, I am appealing to you to save our Neighborhood Center for Homeless People (NCHP) at 237 East 77<sup>th</sup> Street. It is unconscionable that the Department of Homeless Services intends to close NCHP on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

In 1983, my church and other congregations on the Upper East Side founded the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS) in response to the desperate need of homeless people in our neighborhood for services to help them turn their lives around and to restore them to full membership in our community. In 1989, we founded NCHP, one of the few programs and the only drop-in/referral center for homeless people on the Upper East Side.

At NCHP, homeless men and women receive support and essential services leading to an independent life, services such as food, clean clothing, showers, laundry services, case management, psychiatric counseling, substance abuse treatment, medical services, vocational training and overnight stays in volunteer-staffed shelters. NCHP serves over 800 people a year with many placed in housing, some with supportive services.

Without NCHP the homeless men and women in our area would be completely deprived of the services they currently receive. Rather than leave our neighborhood, which they consider safe, to go 40 blocks south and/or west to other larger drop-in centers, they would return to our streets and doorways. Closing NCHP would be a terrible loss to our most vulnerable neighbors, and to our community's ability to serve them.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to close this indispensable community resource for our poorest neighbors, and to visit NCHP personally, since it is only a few blocks from your home. I look forward to your compassionate response.

Sincerely,

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE TO SEND COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO:

Robert V. Hess  
Office of the Commissioner  
Department of Homeless Services  
33 Beaver Street, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker, City Council  
224 West 30th St (Suite 1206)  
New York, NY 10001

Jessica S. Lappin  
City Council Member  
336 East 73<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite C  
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City Council Member  
211 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, #2004  
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