Question One

How does Starlight Ministries understand the current homeless/street-involved system in Boston? How do people get into the system, what is “in” like, and how do people get out?
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVolVEMENT

Who becomes homeless or street involved?
What supports a balanced life?

1. OK

People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS create balance in life:
- home & health
- family & friends & community
- employment
- faith

People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

1B. NOT OK

HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
2. LOSS OF SUPPORT

A DEFINING EVENT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- job loss
- illness
- addiction crisis
- crisis of faith
- death of family member or spouse

ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

WHAT GOES WRONG?

1. OK
People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

1B. NOT OK
People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT

HOMELESS
STREET INVOLVED

Some come through their crisis and never become homeless.

“HOMELESS” STREET INVOLVED
Some lose their housing, but never become street involved.

Some may or may not have housing, but find their community on the street.
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

1. OK

People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

1B. NOT OK

A DEFINING EVENT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- job loss
- illness
- addiction crisis
- crisis of faith
- death of family member or spouse

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT

ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

The individual ends up on the street where he finds himself in the middle of...

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

...a false community based on survival and lacking hope.

The barriers to escape intensify the earlier problems.

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
The street-involved community is undergirded by substitute support systems:

- These tend to be compartmentalized, each dealing with a different aspect of the person’s life.
- Some groups are at odds with or antagonistic toward others.
- Some services tend to maintain the street-involved community rather than provide a pathway out.
The pathway out is a RELATIONSHIP:

A street-involved person forms a relationship with a caring person who offers hope, resources, and empathy.

The helping person needs to be trained, supported, and equipped.

Each person is unique and faces personal issues which they must resolve themselves.
First Engine:
Personal Breakthrough
Someone walks with the individual through the “stages of change,” offering hope and encouragement, one decision after another.

Problem: the Personal Breakthrough engine is a negative loop. It requires a strong, external support system to maintain momentum.
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community. The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.

Second Engine: Gains New Community

The individual learns to associate with positive people, replacing the street community with a healthy community.

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job • etc.

The New Community empowers Personal Breakthrough.
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

As the individual cycles through these steps, he or she begins to discover his or her “NEW OK.”

The GOAL is beyond housing. The goal is to regain balance in the 5 life dynamics:

- physical
- vocational
- emotional
- spiritual
- social

DECISION/COMMITMENT
- gains housing
- enters detox program
- joins church community
- applies for job
- etc.

The two engines provide the means to rebuild each of these broken life dynamics to help the individual regain balance.
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Relapse is a constant threat.
The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

4. PATHWAY OUT

RELATIONSHIP

DECISION/COMMITMENT
• gains housing
• enters detox program
• joins church community
• applies for job • etc.

5. NEW OK

“Stages of Change”

(-) high risk of failure

(+) hope

(+/-) hope
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Relationship is the pathway out again.

A relationship with a caring person and a caring community who are willing to walk with the individual through the steps of the two engines again and again is the best means to forming the “NEW OK.”

5. NEW OK

The New Community can play an important role in helping the individual recover from relapse and regain solid footing.

(-) high risk of failure

4. PATHWAY OUT

RELATIONSHIP

(+ ) hope

DECISION/COMMITMENT

• gains housing
• enters detox program
• joins church community
• applies for job • etc.

PERSONAL BREAK-THROUGH

preparation

contemplation

action

maintenance

relapse

repeat cycle

“Stages of Change”

GAINS NEW COMMUNITY

learns to love others

learns to love him/ herself

associates with positive people

gains hope/ courage

The New Community can play an important role in helping the individual recover from relapse and regain solid footing.
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

1. OK
People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

1B. NOT OK
People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT
Individually suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- job loss
- illness
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

A DEFINING EVENT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- addiction crisis
- job loss
- crisis of faith
- death of family member or spouse

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

initial street allure/street addiction

STREETINVOLVED
survival mentality

low self esteem
post traumatic stress
anger
loss of hope
loss of trust

[compartmentalized]

4. PATHWAY OUT
RELATIONSHIP

(-) hope

5. NEW OK

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

For more information, contact:
Rev. Cynthia Bell, Director,
Starlight Ministries of the
Emmanuel Gospel Center, Boston.
617-262-4567  www.egc.org
cbell@egc.org

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
Question Two

From Starlight’s understanding, how can churches effectively engage the homelessness system to make system-wide impact?
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

1. Prevention
- Real support systems create balance in life:
  - faith
  - home & health
  - employment
  - family & friends & community

2. Intervention
- Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
  - divorce
  - job loss
  - illness
  - history of abuse
  - mental illness
  - sense of failure
  - sexuality issues
  - maintenance of addiction

3. Incarnation
- A defining event
  - loss of support system
  - added stressors
  - initial street allure/street addiction
  - low self esteem
  - post traumatic stress
  - loss of trust
  - loss of hope

4. Redemption
- Real support systems
  - substitute support systems
  - enters detox program
  - joins church community
  - applies for job

5. Restoration
- Gain new community
- Decision/commitment
- gains hope/courage
- associates with positive people
- learns to love others
- gains new community

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

1. Prevention
2. Intervention
3. Incarnation
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
- create balance in life:
  - faith
  - home & health
  - employment
  - family & friends & community

ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

PERSONAL BREAK-THROUGH
- Stages of Change

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

Stellar Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

1. Prevention

- church intentionally integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

1. OK
People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

1B. NOT OK

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT
ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED
4. PATHWAY OUT RELATIONSHIP

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

4. PATHWAY OUT RELATIONSHIP

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

5. NEW OK

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

2. Intervention

• church community is aware of people’s needs and rallies around people who suffer loss
• church offers effective intervention and recovery programs to help people navigate life crises (addiction, divorce, grief, illness, etc.)
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

3. Incarnation

- trained, supported, and networked outreach workers build relationships with people who are street involved and offer them a pathway out

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

1. OK
People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

1B. NOT OK
People who lack balance in 5 life dynamics:

2. LOSS OF SUPPORT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- job loss
- illness
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

ADDED STRESSORS
- history of abuse
- mental illness
- sense of failure
- sexuality issues
- maintenance of addiction

3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED

street-involved survival mentality
only care for myself

street-involved community

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

4. PATHWAY OUT

RELATIONSHIP

GAINS NEW COMMUNITY

5. NEW OK

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:

- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

4. Redemption

- trained outreach workers walk people through “stages of change”
- church offers job programs, addiction recovery programs, etc., to help people make positive choices toward a healthy and balanced life
- church offers effective programs to build relationships with people in shelters, motels, SRO facilities, residential programs, etc.
- church actively welcomes people into their faith community

SYSTEM OF STREET-INFRINGEMENT
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

5. Restoration

- church intentionally and fully integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics
- church offers a generous measure of real support for people in recovery
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Numbers needed

1. Prevention
2. Intervention
3. Incarnation
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

“Is there a place for me?”

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

A DEFINING EVENT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- addiction crisis
- job loss
- crisis of faith
- illness
- death of family member or spouse

Numbers of workers needed across the system

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

5. NEW OK

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Commitment required

1. Prevention
2. Intervention
3. Incarnation
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

“How much time will this require?”

Time/energy commitment needed to serve in each area

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

A DEFINING EVENT Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- addiction crisis
- job loss
- crisis of faith
- illness
- death of family member or spouse

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

learn to love him/

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Training / Experience

1. Prevention
2. Intervention
3. Incarnation
4. Redemption
5. Restoration

“Do I need training?”

Amount of training/experience required to serve effectively

REAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS
create balance in life:
- faith
- home & health
- employment
- family & friends & community

People who have balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

A DEFINING EVENT
Individual suffers loss of real support system, through:
- divorce
- job loss
- illness
- death of family member or spouse

1. OK
2. LOSS OF SUPPORT
3. HOMELESS STREET-INVOLVED
4. PATHWAY OUT RELATIONSHIP
5. NEW OK

GOAL: To regain balance in 5 life dynamics:
- physical
- emotional
- social
- vocational
- spiritual

The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.

The NEW OK learns to love him/herself

Starlight Ministries, Emmanuel Gospel Center, 06/2012, revised 12/2013
WHERE DO WE START?

How can churches take the next steps toward effective ministry to those who may suffer loss, lose their balance, become homeless, or are working toward recovery?

1. **Prayer**  
As leaders, as a congregation, start by asking God to help you discover his plan and purpose for you.

2. **Assessment**  
Find out what tools, skills, and resources you already have.

3. **Discernment**  
Ask God to give you a clear vision of how and where he wants your church to be involved.

4. **Training**  
Seek both formal and informal learning opportunities to gain and enhance your skills. Collaborate and learn from others.

5. **Engagement**  
Begin by taking small steps or experimenting with your outreach plans, and let the ministry grow at its own speed.

6. **Evaluation**  
Make evaluation a part of the process. Debrief regularly. Pray continually. Ask hard questions of yourselves. See where your ministry is bearing fruit and do whatever you can to make it more fruitful. Keep love at the core.
Starlight Ministries is available to help churches walk through this process. We offer training, coaching, resources, and more. Ask us how we can help you!

For more information, contact:
Rev. Cynthia Bell, Director,
Starlight Ministries
Emmanuel Gospel Center, Boston
617-262-4567  www.egc.org  cbell@egc.org