

Name of Group: Super Eight

Women and Homelessness

Stage 1

Contact: Leona Garchow

Congregation: Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand

Geographic Location: Epsom, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

Participants: 8 members: 3 Sisters of Mercy, 1 Auckland City Mission worker, a nurse, a small business owner and 2 friends who are former teachers

Meetings: meeting every 2-3 weeks for two hours



Back: Mary Neven rsm, Leona Garchow rsm (Facilitator), Kirsten Sloan, Anna Nicholls rsm
Front: Helen Robinson, Sandra Barden, Joan Fogarty, Ally Hawkes

Group Focus: Women and Homelessness

Stage 2

Key Critical Categories

1. For women who are rough sleepers to have a chance for a safer and better life.
2. We are looking at what is available in Auckland now and where the gaps are.
3. What is possible for this group to initiate to respond to this need that is seen.

Stage 3

Texts from Wisdom Tradition

- From Mercy charism and Catherine McAuley
 - Catherine unable to help a woman who came to her for help: “The poor need help today not next week”
 - Catherine’s response to and care for the poor and needy of Dublin in her time
 - The dream of a group member of Catherine coming to her and holding out her hand in encouragement

- From Scripture
 - Jesus' response to the woman caught in adultery. (John 8:1-11)
 - Healing of the Paralytic. (Matthew 9:2-8)

Key Insight

We need to respond as Jesus did and as Catherine did.

New vision:

We need to seek to find a house for homeless women in Auckland.

Stage 4

Actions:

1. Provide a house for homeless women in Auckland
2. Explore how to attain a property, finance and resources for this
3. Explore models - how other groups respond to homeless people
4. Document the model we envisage to include: our Vision, our Mission and the wrap around Services that need to be provided. (In process)