



On **November 5, 2022**, the **St. Philip the Apostle** family will become ‘homeless’ for one night to raise awareness and support for homeless families in DuPage County by participating in **Sleep Out Saturday**.

This year, the **St. Philip the Apostle** family will join dozens of other DuPage County churches and civic organizations to raise dollars and awareness of the growing problem of homelessness in the western suburbs.

Though it can be hard to understand how homelessness can be a significant problem in an area as blessed as ours, unfortunately, the numbers don’t lie. In DuPage County alone, 13,143 children live in poverty. Children under the age of 5 are the fastest growing segment. Over 15% of the homeless in DuPage County are victims of domestic violence. It costs about \$1500 a month to rent a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage County. A parent would need to work 120 hours per week at a minimum wage job to be able to afford this rent.

At Sleep Out Saturday, our **St. Philip the Apostle** families can really make a difference--while mixing fun, food and worship together in a great evening for a worthwhile cause.

There are many ways you and your family can take part:

- You and your family can sleep out in your backyard or in your car on Saturday night, November 5.
- Make a donation of \$50 or more to support the effort.
- Recruit three other families to join the effort and make a donation.
- Send the link to our fundraising page <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/group137> to ten people that you think will support your efforts.

Most of all, I hope that you will feel moved to have a family dinner discussion about homelessness and the tremendous blessings we enjoy. One way to approach this with younger children is to talk about the differences between ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ and to talk about the basic needs we all have of food, clothing, and shelter and the ‘nice-to-have’ things such as candy. With older children, you might consider a discussion about the impact on kids (their schoolwork, self-esteem, etc.) when their families don’t have a safe place to sleep.

We, as **St. Philip the Apostle** families, really **can** do something positive about homelessness. Your family’s awareness and participation can make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors right here in DuPage County.

If you would like to help the teens in their effort to raise funds for Bridge, please visit <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/group137> to make a donation by credit card. If you would prefer to write a check, please make checks payable to Bridge Communities and drop it in the church collection basket with Attention: Nancy McKnight on the envelope, or mail it in to the St. Philip RE Office at 1233 W. Holtz Avenue in Addison, IL 60101. For more information on Bridge Communities, please visit their website www.bridgecommunities.org.

Nancy McKnight, Director of Religious Education

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