

Gunther Stern

Executive Director

Georgetown Ministry Center

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SUMMARY

Nearly 30 years of progressive experience managing programs for and providing direct service to people who are homeless in the Washington, DC area and 24 years as Executive Director of Georgetown Ministry Center, a non-profit organization that provides basic services to the most vulnerable and withdrawn people who are homeless.

EDUCATION

1986 M.A. Urban Studies, University of Maryland,

1981 B.A. Fine Arts, George Washington University

EMPLOYMENT

Executive Director, Georgetown Ministry Center - 1990-Present

As Executive Director of Georgetown Ministry Center, I have gained a wealth of experience and knowledge about the conditions and needs of homeless people who live on the streets of our community. Georgetown Ministry Center provides for the most important and basic needs of people who are homeless in our community. Our Center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offers showers, laundry, and a safe and welcoming space for Washington's most vulnerable and withdrawn homeless individuals to sit and have a sandwich and a cup of coffee. We offer a lifeline for our members to the outside world through phones, a mail service, and the use of five computers.

As Executive Director, I am responsible for the overall management of Georgetown Ministry Center, including program development, financial management, personnel recruitment and supervision, community relations, and fundraising. The Center operates a winter shelter in collaboration with the area's faith community, bringing hundreds of volunteers in this affluent community together to provide a welcoming environment for our residents. Psychiatric and medical consultants see people in our Center and on outreach in the streets, and we have embraced collaboration with other programs to bring high quality services to Georgetown's homeless population. We deliberately remain small and community-based.

As part of my duties, I continue to provide direct service including assessment, short term case advocacy, and street outreach.

Service Coordinator, Shepherd's Table, Inc. - 1986-1990

As Service Coordinator I managed the counseling center in an active soup kitchen serving approximately 160 people each evening. I was responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising approximately 25 volunteers. I expanded services to include a weekly medical clinic, which I coordinated; a weekly psychiatrist on site; and innovated street outreach to homeless people in the community. I was also primary case manager for the program.