

# Bethesda Cares, Inc.

Bethesda Cares, Inc. was founded in 1988 by area clergy, the county government and area businesses with the purpose of providing services to the homeless on the street and preventing homelessness by helping with financial grants that keep people facing eviction in their homes. For people on the street, we provide food, clothing and medical care among other services. In addition, a full time professional social worker provides counseling and referrals to services. For people living on the margin, we provide the safety net. Our clients on the street are primarily men but the gender changes for our eviction prevention program. Families, most with children, are our customers. Often it is a single mother with small children that faces eviction. With high rents and the cost of childcare, it is not hard to understand how difficult it is for the lower end wage earner to live close to the edge.

Daily, we prove Bethesda Cares!

BETHESDA CARES,  
INC.

7728 Woodmont Avenue  
Bethesda Maryland 20814

Phone: 301/907-9244

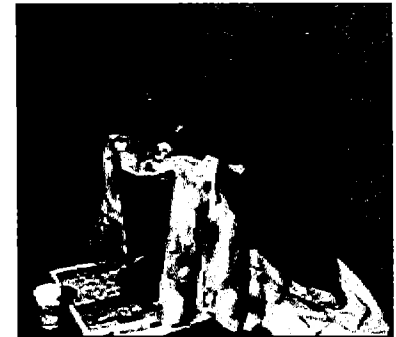
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...A COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS.

# Bethesda Cares

*Panhandling and You  
Make a difference*



(TOP PHOTO)

301-907-9244

BETHESDA CARES, INC.

## **If you are approached for money . . .**

### **Alternative Options:**

Change won't make change unless it falls into the right hands....don't give money to panhandlers. Panhandlers may be homeless who are on the street because of serious personal issues such as mental illness or addictions. In many cases, the panhandlers are con artists. This is a job and they make good money doing it. They prey on your concern for the homeless. This is why you see the same person in the same spot daily. In Montgomery County, there are services for the homeless including outreach programs, clothing closets, medical care, shelters and soup kitchens. Resources and services are available.

Some suggestions if you are approached for money:

- Do not give cash, be firm and keep moving
- If you want to give, offer food or coffee
  - Offer information, resource list available at Bethesda Cares office.
- Call the police if you feel threatened.

*The staff at Bethesda Cares is available to answer your questions. Also, we are available to give employee trainings on the issues of homelessness, panhandling and giving.*

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