

CONNECTING

to COMMUNITY

Hillcrest
Church of Christ



Katherine Bisson
Hope Haven



Jim and Susan Clark
Christian Service Center



Joyce Dalzell
Faithworks



Mark Hewitt
Love and Care Ministries



ABILENE, Texas - A survey done by the West Texas Homeless Network shows a significant increase in the number of homeless people counted versus those counted last year.

West Texas Homeless Network says 129 surveys were conducted in Abilene beginning in January 2017. In those surveys, 172 people identified as homeless.

According to the survey results, 34 of the 172 people are "chronically homeless," meaning they have been homeless for at least one year or have experienced four or more extensive episodes of homeless in the past three years.

West Texas Homeless Network says this is a jump from the 97 found homeless last year, but it cites a record turnout of volunteers collecting data for the surging numbers.

Reported by Alex Ervin, KTXS 2017

ABOUT HOPE HAVEN...325.677.4673

abilenehopehaven.org

*Abilene Hope Haven's mission is to **INSPIRE HOPE** in our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. How do we do it? We embrace each neighbor with two simple, yet powerful words. **WELCOME HOME** More than a greeting, this is a guiding principle for us at Hope Haven. We believe when our most basic needs are met... when we have food, clothing, and shelter... only then can we dare to dream for our futures, to believe things can change, and to Hope for a better tomorrow. That's why we work with each neighbor to address his or her housing needs through one of our programs or by means of referral to other area organizations. We strive to demonstrate radical hospitality to each of our neighbors. Jesus said, "Love your neighbors as yourself." -Mark 12:31 **So how do you spell hope? We spell it H-O-M-E.***

ABOUT CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER... 325.673.7531

cscabilene.org

This ministry is privileged to show the love of Jesus each weekday to those who come to us with a variety of need. Whether it's clothing, food, household items, school supplies, a Bible or spiritual counsel and prayer -- we do all we can to let people know that God loves them and hasn't forgotten them. With this larger space we plan to expand our programs to do more than provide relief, but also development. For those who are able to work, we will provide our jobs list and inform them of organizations in town that can help them get into the work force. Our Hope Room will be a place where volunteers can tutor school children, provide ESL classes or guide those who need to understand how God has wired them for a vocation that fits their gifts. We'll also offer space for Abilene agencies to explain their services to those who desire and need "a hand up and not a hand out."

ABOUT FAITHWORKS... 325.437.2272

faithworksofabilene.org

FaithWorks formed in the mind and heart of Joyce Dalzell several years before the first class began in 2003. It was while she was volunteering at a local food pantry that she realized that the people being served "just have never learned the skills they need to find a good job and be a good employee." At that time, Joyce was employed as a human resource specialist. (Well, she still is, in a way.) Joyce and others prayed about the possibility of a training center for unemployed adults for over a year before doors started opening. Joyce visited a similar program, Hope Works, in Memphis, and she was hooked. She received training in the Adkins Life Skills Program at Columbia University in New York. The Highland Church of Christ elders blessed this fledgling ministry, provided a space for it to start, and the first class met in January of 2003..

ABOUT LOVE AND CARE MINISTRIES... 325.670.0246

lcmin.com

Love and Care Ministries began as a vision that God placed in the hearts of two men who were called to minister to the homeless of their community. God led these men to the streets, under bridges and in abandoned buildings where they found people in desperate need. With the mighty armor of prayer and twenty large hot cups of soup, they hit the streets that first Sunday in January 1995 serving from the back of their pick up truck. Ministering to the homeless turned out to be only a part of God's plan for this ministry. After a few short months God showed them there was a great need to help the poor in their community as well. Today the ministry provides over 415,000 meals annually, clothing and financial assistance for emergency needs. We are so thankful for partnering organizations, businesses, churches, volunteers and faithful donors.