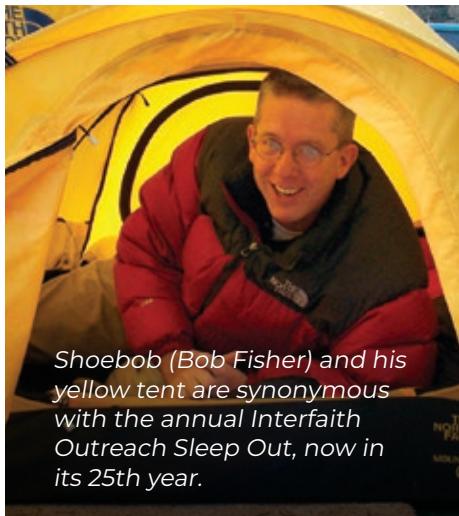


OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020

From one man in a tent to a community transformed



When Wayzata businessman Shoebob (Bob Fisher) pitched his tent 25 years ago in front of his home, he wasn't trying to start a movement. Yet his individual action captured the imagination and heart of an entire community. What began as "Bob's Sleep Out" has grown to be an important local tradition that transforms its participants – as well as the individuals, families and kids who benefit from the funds that the Sleep Out raises.

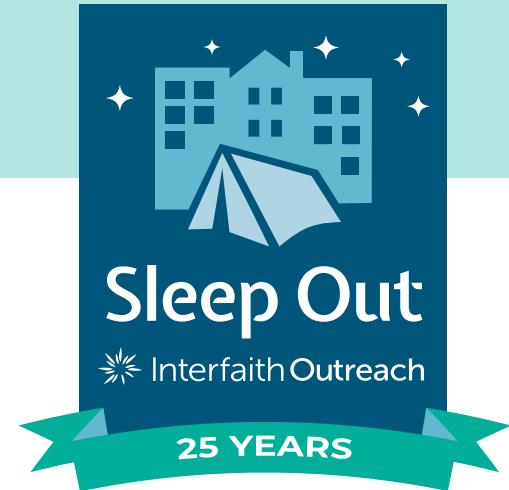
The pandemic has left even more of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. But 25 years of Sleep Outs have shown us that we have the power and resources in our community to take care of each other. And that begins with helping families and individuals stabilize and strengthen in times of crisis.

As we head into the darkest time of the year, we can be sources of light for each other. We can transform the risk of eviction into housing security. We can transform hunger into hope. And this year, more than ever, we can transform isolation into connection.

This year, Interfaith Outreach is setting out to raise \$2.6 million by Dec. 31, 2020. Together, we can do this! The Sleep Out started with one man in a tent. You are invited to "be like Bob" and take part in this tradition of collective compassion that transforms our community.

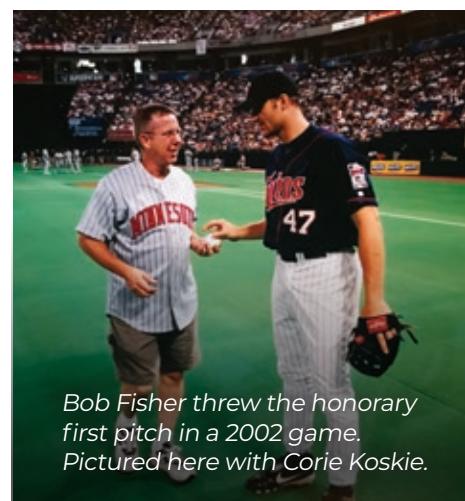


Bob Fisher treasures passing the Sleep Out torch. Pictured here with grandson Avery in the early 2000's.



“The Sleep Out has prevented homelessness enough times to fill most of the seats in the Minnesota Twins stadium. In 25 years, homelessness has been prevented 34,281 times.”

- Bob Fisher



Bob Fisher threw the honorary first pitch in a 2002 game. Pictured here with Corie Koskie.

The Sleep Out goal: \$2.6 million to support local families. Double your dollars up to **\$250,000** when you donate between now and Nov. 19.

Neighbors helping neighbors: we are stronger together

Do you remember what life was like for you 25 years ago during the Sleep Out? I do. Fresh out of graduate school, I was newly married and had recently transplanted to Minnesota with my husband Erik to begin our professional careers. I didn't know a Maggie's pizza from a LaTuff's and I thought Big Island was a part of Hawaii. All I knew for certain was that I craved a sense of belonging in my new community of Plymouth.

Fast forward to 2020 and I have raised two sons here, amassed an impressive blue and gold wardrobe, and can give detailed directions for the shortcut called "pigtail alley." I even know the best place to go to get shoes repaired! With the rest of you, I stand in awe at the legacy of the Sleep Out. Twenty-five years ago,

Shoebob Fisher took action – with his selfless act of humility – to make this community a better place for all of us to live, work, go to school and raise our families. Starting with Bob, the Sleep Out has continued to be about neighbors helping neighbors to become stronger together. What started as one man in a tent has become a compassionate community's way of saying, "We all belong here."

The Interfaith Outreach Sleep Out – a yearly tradition – powers our community's ability to stabilize neighbors who are in the midst of crisis. Together we can contribute to a caring community that creates real belonging for everyone. Thank you for saying boldly and loudly, "Yes, it's my turn to be like Bob!"



I encourage you to find your place of belonging in this silver anniversary Sleep Out. The simplest and most impactful way to do so is by making a financial donation using the enclosed giving envelope or at iocp.org/sleepout. Join us, friends.

Rima Torgerson
Chair, Interfaith Outreach
Board of Directors

Sleep Out: More important than ever

COVID-19 has only amplified the urgency in responding to our community members in need and our longing to connect. This year's Sleep Out events and experiences have been re-imagined so we can connect and achieve our goals safely. For more details, see the events insert or visit sleepout.iocp.org.

2020 Virtual Kickoff

The Sleep Out is how our community celebrates and taps into the transformative power of collective compassion.

This year, more committed than ever, we come together to say:

- EVERYONE in our community belongs.
- We are on this human journey TOGETHER.

- There is TRANSFORMATIVE POWER in giving and receiving.

Join us virtually on Nov. 12 to help kick off our community's 25th annual Sleep Out. Hear how the Sleep Out has inspired your neighbors and transformed the lives of families who now have a place to call home. Learn how you can bring 2020 to a close with hope and compassion at iocp.org/kickoff.

Join the "Be Like Bob" Challenge!

Take action yourself and challenge others to do the same. Take action:

- 1) make a donation
- 2) plan a fundraiser
- 3) sleep out (or in)
- 4) plant a "You Belong" yard sign

When you do we will add a star to the night sky in your honor. What action will you take this year?

iocp.org/belikebob

Donate at iocp.org/sleepout. Double your dollars up to \$250,000 when you donate between now and Nov. 19.

We are on this human journey together

Living in the time of a pandemic is hard on our entire community, and it has left even more of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. As we enter into our 2020 Sleep Out, we know that it's more important than ever that we help neighbors who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The Sleep Out's goals of preventing homelessness and helping ensure everyone in our community thrives have never been more critical.

COVID-19 has only amplified the instability so many of our neighbors are experiencing.

- *We are in a housing crisis: rents are high, vacancies are low, families are struggling to make their budgets work*
- *We are seeing an increase in housing instability, financial vulnerability and homelessness*



Twenty-five years of Sleep Outs have shown that there is awesome power in collective compassion, and that we have the heart and resources in our community to help each other thrive. That begins with helping families and individuals stabilize and strengthen in times of crisis. If there were ever a time to tackle such a challenge, this is it.

This year, our ability to physically unite as a community is hindered and so many are grieving the loss of connecting with their families, friends

and neighbors. So we're tapping into the Sleep Out's ability to celebrate and ignite the transformative power of collective community. If this pandemic has reinforced anything it is this: we are on this human journey together.

Your gift helps 2,000 local families stabilize, strengthen and thrive by meeting their emergency needs. Thank you!

Help raise \$2.6 million and prevent homelessness

A contribution to the Sleep Out today prevents homelessness. You can ignite a powerful message of belonging with members of our community who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Give today at iocp.org/sleepout. Here are just a few examples of how Sleep Out dollars make a life-changing difference:

- **\$3,061** provides services to stabilize and strengthen a family for a year
- **\$1,964** provides employment services for a parent to land a career job
- **\$1,337** provides a child one month of care in a quality early childhood center

- **\$917** prevents homelessness with rent assistance that keeps a family of four in their housing for a month
- **\$410** puts tires on a car so a family can get to work and school
- **\$264** offers payment assistance that keeps the lights and other utilities on

Melissa and Madi came to know Interfaith Outreach as program participants many years ago.

Melissa explains, "What immediately struck me when I walked through those doors was just the comfort and the support they offered. The most important thing for me was staying positive for my daughter. The reality was that we needed help. We needed housing. We needed food. I needed a job. For us, we didn't need [Interfaith] forever. We only needed them

through a transition in our lives." Today, Melissa and Madi are pillars of community connection with a beautiful home and an amazing family. Melissa is employed full time and Madi is attending school (hybrid). Melissa, her husband and Madi give back with all their hearts. They have hosted a Sleep Out in their home for the last three years, sharing their experience with others. Thank you, Melissa and Madi, for all the care and compassion you inspire in our community!



Sleep Out: the way our community comes together



Everyone can find a way to support the Sleep Out.
Go to iocp.org/belikebob for ideas.



Hear Interfaith Outreach Founder and Executive Director Emerita, LaDonna Hoy, and Sleep Out Founder, Bob Fisher, tell their inspiring stories during the 25 Nights of Stories. iocp.org/25stories

MEMORIALS June - August 2020

Linda Barua / Evelyn Berg / Muriel Berg / Peter Blyth / Carl Challgren / Frances Fazio / Luther Forde / Mary Jo Franzen
Marvin Fritz / Karleen Gause / Trey Graft / Patricia Hazard / David Heegaard / Ruth Horvath / Christina (Kouzes) Houck, Ph.D.
Charles House / Russell Johnson / Linda Kaderlik / Dixie Labat / Carmen LaFrance / Tony Laurent / Barb Laven
Joan Leuer / Linda Machmeier / Krystal Magnuson / Ken Melrose / Patti Nash / Patricia Newell / Daniel Novak, Jr.
Bernard Parrington / Jay Perrill / Linda Podiak / Bette Skreen / James Soderberg / Ruth Stricker / Eldrine Stumne
Rebecca Thompson / Louise Wierschem / Tanya Williams / Jean Wrobel

GRANTS June - August 2020

Frey Foundation

General Operating

General Mills

General Operating

Old National Bank Foundation

Housing & Neighborhoods

Otto Bremer Trust

Family Support
(Emergency COVID-19 Relief)

CAPTRUST Community Foundation

Family Support (Back to School)

Polaris

Food Shelf

Second Harvest Heartland

Food Shelf

MISSION – To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

VISION – To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

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Sign up for emails at iocp.org/connect



SERVING THE CITIES OF HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINE LAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

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