

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

“securing economic self reliance, social equality and civil rights...”

The Urban League provides those needs that stabilize families so that empowered clients may focus on bettering themselves and their communities. The basic needs of food, clothing and shelter must first be met and available for clients and their families so they can then strive for their economic self sufficiency. The following factors contribute to an increasing demand for basic need services:

- The unemployment rate for African Americans nationwide is twice that for whites.
- Housing costs far exceed the income level of people in poverty. With recent rent increases of nearly 24%, more than half of the impoverished community's monthly income must pay for housing.
- The aging population is a greater percentage of the population in St. Louis, as compared to most metropolitan areas, and is increasing. These individuals are on fixed incomes, cannot work, and often live in homes in dire need of repair and energy efficiency.
- The extreme incidence of lead poisoning in St. Louis regional youth requires adequate nutrition to combat its negative and permanent defects.

Rent/Mortgage Assistance—The Urban League helps families to prevent evictions and foreclosures. In 2007, the League provided rent or mortgage assistance to 332 St. Louis families.

Utility Assistance — The Urban League provides utility assistance, resulting in reconnection and/or the prevention of utility shut offs. Over 1,265 households received utility assistance in the St. Louis metropolitan area during 2007.

Lead Remediation—The Urban League provided lead remediation services to 4 homes in the St. Louis area in 2007, with an emphasis on making homes with children under the age of six lead safe.

Clothing — Approximately 2,400 families received new, clean and quality clothing of their choice from the Urban League's "Clothes Closets" in 2007.

Food — Food pantry operations at the Urban League's three Community Outreach Centers provides over 8,000 seniors and low-income families with food baskets annually.

Turkey Giveaway — At the Annual Rams/Schnucks Thanksgiving Giveaway, over 2,000 households in the St. Louis bi-state region receive free turkeys with all the trimmings.

100 Neediest Program — The Urban League serves over 900 low-income families through the United Way/Post Dispatch 100 Neediest Case Programs.

15,074 Direct Clients served in 2007 through the Urban League's Basic Needs Programs.