

Homelessness in Birmingham

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
For Immediate Release

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Annual survey releases findings on the homeless

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., **Jan. 4, 2016** – After an abnormally warm Christmas holiday, the weather is finally turning cold. And though that might be a welcome change for most, it's definitely not welcome among those experience homelessness. The Jimmie Hale Mission and dozens of other organizations across North America are providing help and hope to those who need it now.

The 26th annual *Snapshot Survey*, conducted at gospel rescue missions across North America in October 2015 by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM), provides a valuable snapshot of those seeking assistance from rescue missions, most (85 percent) of whom are currently homeless; nearly one out of two people surveyed find themselves homeless for the first time.

“We count it a blessing to be able to provide much needed assistance to men, women and children this year and every year,” said Tony Cooper, executive director of the Jimmie Hale Mission ministries. ***“The generosity of our community has meant that we are able to offer real help and hope during the winter season, which can be a very difficult time of year for those living on the streets.”***

Demographically, the survey showed little change over the last four years in the age, gender and ethnicity of the homeless at rescue missions. Just over half were Caucasian, just over a third were African-American; one notable change is the Hispanic population moved from just over 10 percent to only 2 percent. Among the people surveyed, 84 percent were single individuals. The largest group of homeless were between 46 and 65 years of age – at 39 percent of those surveyed, a slight decrease from the 2014 survey. Those between 36 and 45 years of age were the second largest group at 24 percent – a slight increase over last year.

Eighty-one percent of the individuals come daily to the mission where they were surveyed; almost as many (82 percent) prefer to receive assistance from an agency with a spiritual emphasis. The number jumps to 92% for those surveyed at the local Jimmie Hale Mission.

Every year, faith-based ministries that are members of AGRM serve nearly 50 million meals, provide 20 million nights of shelter, bandage the wounds of hundreds of abuse victims, and graduate more than 18,000 men and women from addiction recovery programs and into productive living.

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About The Jimmie Hale Mission

Downtown Jimmie Hale Mission, Inc. is a Christian-based, 501c3 charitable organization that does not receive United Way funding. What started as a storefront chapel has grown to include a shelter for homeless men, Bible-based 12-step recovery programs, fundraising thrift stores, learning centers for education

remediation and career readiness, and a shelter for homeless women and children called Jessie's Place. Discovery Clubs is also a ministry of the Jimmie Hale Mission. For more information, contact our business office at (205) 323-5878 or visit our online [media kit](#).

About AGRM

Now in its 102nd year, The Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM) has nearly 300 rescue mission members across North America, including The Jimmie Hale Mission. For more information, visit www.agrm.org.