



August 5, 2013

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Korean Church of Knoxville

108 Farlow Drive

Knoxville TN 37934-3013

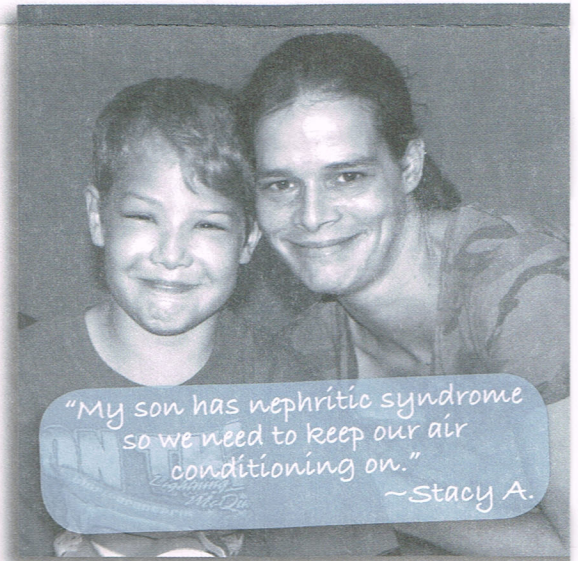


Dear Rev. Dan Park,

I will never forget how surprised I was to learn, when I first started at VMC, that more homeless people die of heat exposure during the summer than die of cold in the winter. The dangers of the cold are so obvious; that is less true of the summer heat.

A gentleman came to our door recently with a badly swollen arm. He had been bitten by a brown recluse spider while sleeping outside. His mental illness meant that he could not tolerate the crowds of the local mission. He needed a quieter place – but that was dangerous for him.

Our Refuge volunteers meet with families who must make the choice between cooling their home to a comfortable degree with air conditioning or buying their medication. When they have any of a myriad of breathing afflictions which affect the elderly in our part of the country, this is a difficult choice.



As the heat increases, so do the numbers of people who come to us for help. They seek respite from the elements, but also meals and medicine, counseling and care. Our utility bills go up. Our food bill goes up. We spend more on direct assistance to help those in need. And we are happy to do it.

But we need your help. Just as it is for our visitors, summer is a difficult time for us. Many of our donors take last minute vacations, and the start of school also diverts their attention. As the need goes up, donations go down. And that's why we need your help.

Our visitor with the spider bite will be fine. I'm glad we were here for him. We are working now to get him into housing so that he doesn't have to sleep outside anymore. We are also working to help stabilize the housing for those at risk who need advice and financial assistance. There is hope for them. And that hope is VMC.

And YOU are our hope. Please give as generously as you can as we struggle to meet the summer needs. Please help us to help others.

