

OPERATION CHILLOUT

WELCOME

Please consider becoming a business sponsor, church partner, location guardian angel, volunteer or donor.

Can you help us help those who cannot help themselves?

NO BORDERS - NO BOUNDARIES

Late Fall - 2008 Newsletter



WINTER DELIVERY CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

Now in our 8th year, we will be delivering supplies to Dover, Newton, Morristown, Paterson, Hackensack and Newark

EARLY WINTER - 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The New Jersey Human Relations Council of the Attorney Generals Office, promotes prejudice reduction education and addresses bias and violent acts based on a victim's race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability. Among its many activities, the Council cooperates with state, county, and local government agencies to educate, encourage, develop, promote, and strengthen respect for human rights and cultural diversity and prevent and combat racism, intolerance and bigotry. On November 17, the Council recognized ten organizations and individuals for outstanding commitment to promoting tolerance in their communities. Ray Chimileski accepted an award on behalf of **OPERATION CHILLOUT** cited for its commitment to protecting one of NJ's most vulnerable populations - homeless men, women and children.



Just a thought Poverty is the great equalizer among people. With the global economy in a tailspin, making ends meet will be harder than ever this winter and the pain will affect more people than ever before. With unemployment rising and home foreclosures escalating, even the "middle class" – the bedrock of our democracy is threatened. Over the years, we have seen the ebb and flow of new groups entering home-less-ness. Last year, many 'working poor' finally slipped off the ladder and plunged head-long into the street. Over the past three years, migrant agricultural workers, faced the terrible decision to either leave the US and return to their home countries for the winter with no guarantee they will be able to return, or to wait it out on the street to be first in line for a job when spring arrives. The heartbreaker of all this year was to meet so many 20-something servicemen arriving from Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD, finding themselves without a job, a spouse, a family or a place to call home. Indeed times are tough all around, and "there but for fortune go you or I", as Phil Ochs sang, but our path is clear. It is not an option to help those who cannot help themselves, rather it is an honor and a commitment. Let us all hope for a speedy end to our collective economic plight and pray for the strength to "put our feet where our hearts are" this winter. *pax+ Ray*