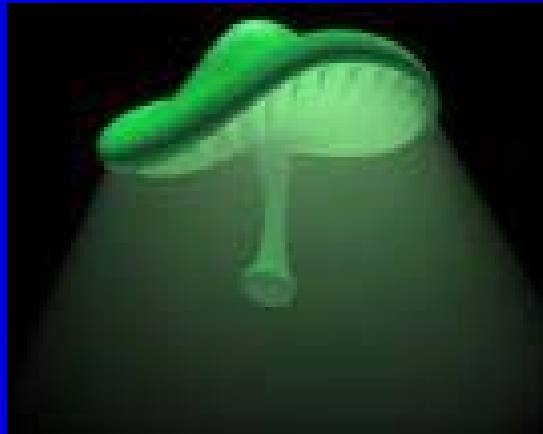


The MUSHROOM Experience at WVU



Morgantown, West Virginia



- Small city of 50,000 people
- Home of West Virginia University and 28,000 students

Morgantown, West Virginia

- Long history of social and community development
- Rapidly growing economy
- High demand for housing



Our Homeless Resources

- Average 120 people
- Homeless shelter capacity 30-35
- Drop in capacity 20-25
- Caritas House for HIV/AIDS
- Habitat for Humanity



Additional Resources

- **Faith based meal centers**
- **Drop in center for clients with mental illness**
- **Salvation Army**
- **WVU Hospitals with specialty care access**
- **Health Right**

Challenges to Homeless Services

- **Limited subsidized housing**
- **Relatively high housing costs**
- **Limited state resources**
- **One homeless outreach worker for 4 counties (population of 200,000)**

Further Challenges

- **Limited access to mental health services for uninsured**
- **Very limited access to extended/inpatient substance abuse programs**
- **No local VA Hospital**
- **No cold weather shelter**

MUSHROOM



- Multidisciplinary UnSheltered Homeless Relief Outreach Of Morgantown
 - Medical Student driven outreach started in March 2005
 - Modeled after Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh

Development

- Apprenticeship with OSN in Pittsburgh
- Linkage with local Homeless Outreach Worker
- Contact with local Homeless Coalition
- On-the-street rounds in Morgantown with Dr. Withers



Development



- **Recruitment and training of student volunteers**
- **Recruitment of physicians and social workers**
- **Formulation of Mission and Values Statement**
- **Formulation of operational policies**

MUSHROOM TEAMS

- Physician
- Social Worker
- 1-3 Coalition volunteers
- 3-4 medical students
- 1-2 community volunteers



Resources

- **Student energy and enthusiasm**
- **Core stock of basic medical supplies (thanks to Hurricane Katrina)**
- **Experienced homeless outreach worker**
- **Volunteer education including expertise of Coalition Members**



Services Provided

- **Medical triage**
- **Basic first aid**
- **Food and hydration**
- **Clothing especially socks**
- **Social support**
- **Referral to appropriate medical and social agencies**



Typical Night

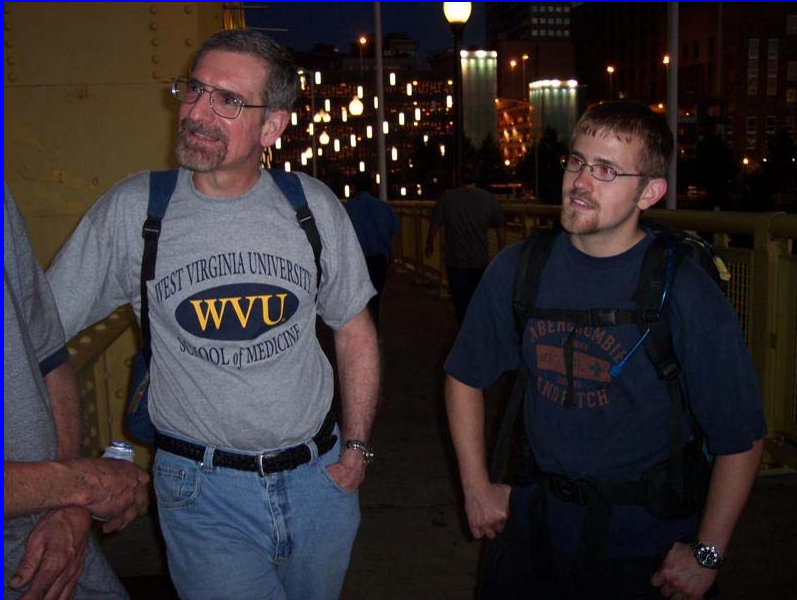
- **Defined route for street rounds**
- **10-15 individuals served in the field**
- **10-15 individuals served at the “Drop in Shelter”**
- **3 hours and 3 miles of territory**

The Magic of MUSHROOM for Clients

- Lives are touched
- Humanity is validated
- Early warning medical system saves lives and money
- Care is better facilitated
- Basic life needs met



The Magic of MUSHROOM for Students



- Experience core values of medicine
- Meet underserved
- Experience first hand medical and psychosocial issues
- Employ newly learned doctoring skills

The Magic of MUSHROOM Partnerships

- **Philanthropic grant from WVU School of Business**
- **Political Science**
- **Social Work**
- **Journalism**
- **Broadcast Journalism**
- **Public Health**

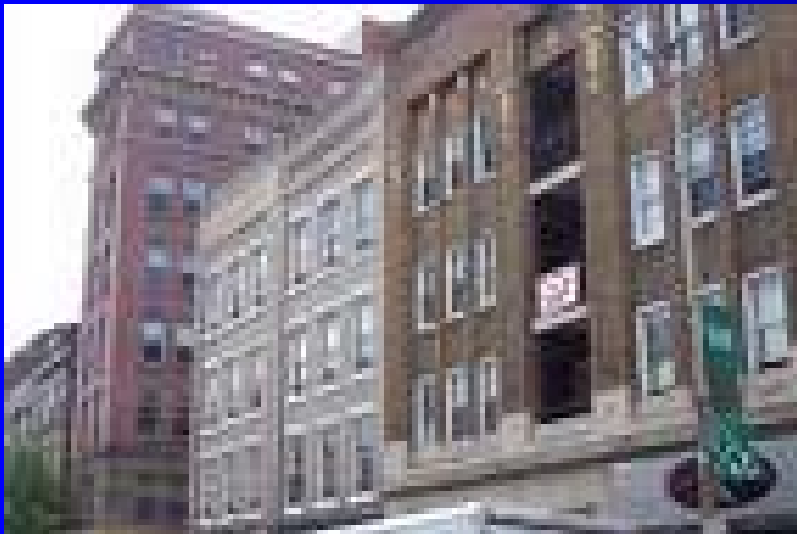


The Magic of MUSHROOM Partnerships

- **Capstone Projects**
 - **Non-profit status**
 - **Service coordination**
 - **Public Awareness**
 - **Grant funding**
 - **Advocacy**
 - **Legal rights**



The Magic of MUSHROOM Partnerships



- Presentation before mayor and city council
- TV, radio and newspaper coverage
- Presentations to local church and civic groups

The Magic of MUSHROOM Successes

Since first Street Rounds in June 2005:

- **2200+ client encounters**
- **225 medical service treatments with value of more than \$55,000**
- **275 volunteers with 2300 volunteer hours**
- **\$28,000 raised for direct client services**

The Magic of MUSHROOM Successes

- School of Medicine
Annual Report 2006
- Component of Family
Medicine Interest Group
Program of Excellence
2006 Award
- Governor's Service
Award 2006
- Dean's Award for
Excellence in
Community Service 2007



The Magic of MUSHROOM Partnerships



- Linkage with newly developed Homeless Care Clinic at Health Right
- Linkage with WV School of Medicine Physical Diagnosis Course

The Magic of MUSHROOM Partnerships



The Rewards of Homeless Outreach: Priceless

- Influences attitudes
- Enhances practical clinical skills
- Links classroom to community
- Promotes collaboration
- Develops leadership
- Fosters self awareness and self growth

Changing Lives One at a Time

I spend a good bit of time on the rail trail. I guess you could say that it is my home away from home – the place I go to run, relax, and relieve stress. Last night, however, I was fortunate enough to see it in a completely different light, as a true home to those who have no place else to go. In our society, we are all aware of homelessness, but tend to marginalize these individuals as alcoholics, drug addicts, those who are just too lazy to work or simply charity cases. Putting a face on homelessness with programs such as the Mushroom Project allows us to see that homelessness can result from a turn of luck as small as an unfortunate injury, an expensive medical bill, a broken down car, or lack of access to psychiatric care or a detoxification program. So, in fact, homelessness is closer to each of us than we normally care to realize. By having the privilege to get to know and care for the homeless, I was able to see beyond the hardships, health needs, and obstacles into the face of humanity, one not unlike my own.

Tara Newcomb, MS I December 11, 2007

Questions and Discussion

