



Mayor Paul Fraim recently met with nearly 150 local clergy and faith-based organization members to discuss and promote the City of Norfolk’s new initiative called the “Faith Partnership.” Serving as one critical component of Norfolk’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the Faith Partnership is modeled after similar successful efforts across the country that combines both emergency response and ongoing support from the local faith based community.

During the luncheon, faith-based organizations were asked to commit to providing \$1,000 annually and to identify two or three members of their congregation or association interested in providing mentoring services to identified homeless or at-risk families. Once perspective mentors have passed a criminal background check, the Faith Partnership will provide training, referral services, and on-going support to the mentors through Norfolk’s Office to End Homelessness.

“By combining additional emergency assistance resources and mentors from the faith community, we hope to end the vicious cycle of homelessness for families who have fallen upon hard times” said Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim.”



Thus far, some 27 local houses of worship have agreed to become Faith Partners and dozens more have expressed an interest. Training is expected to commence in September or October. Congregations are asked to respond indicating their interest by September 30, 2008. More information on the Faith Partnership is available through the Office to End Homelessness at 664-4488.