

## Sacred Fire

by Andrea Adams, a seventh grade teacher in Lancaster PA

**H**oly God,

We long for peace,  
somewhere,  
somehow.

Breathe on the smoldering embers of our wishful longings  
that Your holy breath may rekindle our faith.

Ignite our distant desires  
with the here-and-now power of Your possibilities.

Stir up the fire of our convictions  
with a gritty, love-driven determination  
that transforms us from wistful peace lovers  
to roll-up-our-sleeves peace makers.

Set us ablaze with faithful passion for this world  
that Your flame in us may light the way as we seek to walk the  
path of peace.



Martin is roughed up by police after one of several arrests for protesting in Montgomery Alabama in 1958 : "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice..."

## Hunger, Homelessness Still On the Rise in Major U.S. Cities . . .

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Additionally, for homeless families, 32 percent of the requests for assistance were not met.

"These survey results indicate, as they have in the past 19 years that we have done this survey, that there is still a great deal to be done to address the serious issue of homelessness in America," said Cedar Rapids Mayor Paul Pate and co-chair of the Conference's Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. "Again this year, the Hunger and Homeless survey shows that the demand for homeless shelters in our communities continues to increase. It is important that we all take seriously the challenge of eliminating chronic homelessness over the next 10 years."

According to the survey, the lack of affordable housing was the leading cause of homelessness. Participating cities reported that other causes most likely attributing to homelessness, in order of frequency, include mental illness and the lack of needed services, substance abuse and the lack of needed services, low-paying jobs, unemployment, domestic violence, poverty, and prisoner re-entry.

The survey also shows that people remained homeless for an average of eight months in the

survey cities. Forty-six percent of the cities reported that the length of time people are homeless increased during the last year.

Single men comprised 41 percent of the homeless population, families with children 40 percent, single women 14 percent, and unaccompanied youth five percent.

Outlook: Eighty-eight percent of the cities surveyed expect that requests for emergency food assistance will increase during 2005. Eighty-four percent expect that requests for emergency food assistance by families with children will increase next year. Furthermore, 88 percent of participating cities expect that requests for emergency shelter will increase next year, and 78 percent expect requests for shelter by homeless families will increase in 2005.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban

## Food Lion shoppers can help the homeless through *Lion Shop & Share*

Dear Partner:

Meeting Ground has enrolled in the Food Lion "Lion Shop & Share" program. LionShop and Share is a convenient way to raise money for your organization. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to Meeting Ground

Please help by linking your MVP card and shopping at Food Lion. You may link your MVP card by either completing the MVP customer sign up form and return it to the address below or visit our website at [www.meetingground.org](http://www.meetingground.org).

Remember to shop Food Lion and scan your MVP card. This program does not interfere with the MVP discounts and no MVP product has to be purchased to participate.

Organization Name: Meeting Ground

Organization Coordinator and Address: Attn: Shirley Wilson  
Meeting Ground, PO Box 808 Elkton, MD 21922

**Please clip and send the form below to us:**

### Food Lion Customer Sign-Up

MVP Card # (12 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

Full report available:

[www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

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