



Kruse Receives FOCUS Award for Work with Homeless

Paul W. Kruse, Lake St. Louis, was the recipient of the prestigious FOCUS St. Louis “What’s Right with the Region” award given May 11, 2006 at a Celebration and Reception at the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis, MO. As one of twenty people and organizations recognized for their contributions in the 16-county region surrounding the city, Kruse received his honor in the category of “Social Justice and Racial Equality.” In March of 2005 he founded a ministry to help the homeless called “First Step Back Home (FSBH).”

Kruse received a beautiful plaque and recognition at the event attended by more than 500 people. It was presented by FOCUS St. Louis in partnership with KMOV-TV, KMOX-AM, and St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Lead Sponsors were Anheuser Busch Companies, Brown Shoe Co., Edward Jones, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, Maritz, Inc., and underwriters were AT & T, Monsanto, National City and Paradigm New Media Group.

Kruse has raised his own funds through donations from local community groups and organizations to help the more than 325 homeless people who have contacted him for assistance. He works with and receives referrals from the St. Charles County Continuum of Care, Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Center, the Salvation Army and other community social agencies. He focuses on temporary lodging to stabilize the homeless, then helps them find jobs so they can begin to re-build their lives. The homeless in our area come from recent prisoner releases, men who have lost jobs, families in crisis and mentally ill folks who have lost their networks of support from estranged family and social situations.

“A high priority goal of FSBH, “ according to Kruse, “is to encourage all people who are doing well in life to help at least one homeless person or family get to the bare minimum lifestyle status of self-sufficiency. Half of the people in Missouri are not self-sufficient. We have a large mission field to draw from. Please consider our Lord’s command to Love God, Love others and bear one another’s burdens, today.”