

*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

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Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk

City Council members in overnight shelters and County Commission members trying to find housing, these are activities of the Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk event.

The first part (*Walk the Walk*) consisted of 8 members of these governing bodies who were appointed to experience homelessness and the local efforts to address the problem. Each participant was assigned to an agency that serves the homeless and they visited with that agency and their clients. They learned how those agencies help break down the barriers preventing homeless people from becoming housed.

The second part (*Talk the Talk*) is taking place on **Tuesday, March 31st** at Volunteer Ministry Center, 511 N. Broadway, from 4:30pm-6:00pm. Mayor Haslam and Mayor Ragsdale, City Council members and County Commission members who participated will be talking about their experiences and the insight they gained. Thus, they will expose the full body to the barriers people face to end their homelessness and how homeless service agencies provide different opportunities to achieve housing. Dr. Roger Nooe will moderate the discussion.

"This event will highlight not only the good work of the participating agencies but will also educate our local leaders on the challenges that Knoxville's homeless population face on a daily basis," said Frank Rothermel, president of the Knoxville/Knox County Homeless Coalition. The Coalition is the sponsor of Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk.

Eight local agencies participated in this year's event: Child and Family Tennessee, Community Action Committee, Helen Ross McNabb, Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries, Knoxville Family Promise, Salvation Army and Volunteer Ministry Center.

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