

Exhibit 6

New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc.

1411 Locust Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone: 314-421-3020, Fax: 314-421-1702

January 7, 2004

Eula M. Samuel
Acting Chief, Real Property Branch
Division of Property Management
Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Eula Samuel:

Thank you for the prompt review of our application for the lease, acquisition of the L. Douglas Abrams Federal Building at 1520 Market in St. Louis, Missouri to assist the homeless. The purpose of this letter is to clarify various points that came up in your review of our application for this facility which has the GSA No. of 7-G-MO-0636 and the HUD NO. 54200330012. In your letter you state, "A preliminary review of the application indicates that it is not complete. As examples, the following deficiencies are noted." In this letter I hope to respond to that which you have cited. Your words, "as examples" make me wonder if there are other concerns. If so, please let me know, as the critical homeless situation in St. Louis dictates that we utilize this facility in accordance with the Stewart B. McKinney Act as soon as possible. To give you some indication of how critical the situation is, I have included two recent articles appearing in the St. Louis Post Dispatch. The article of Dec. 26, 2003 featured five homeless women staying in our shelter. The article of Dec. 30, 2003 tells the story of one of these women, Lamonica House, who died Dec. 28, 2003. Also included are two more letters of endorsement of New Life Evangelistic Center's application. One is from Thomas A. Villa, former president of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen - now state representative from district 108 - and 17th Ward Alderman Joseph D. Roddy.

In answer to number 2 in your letter of Jan. 2, 2004, let me clarify the fact that New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc., which is tax-exempt under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, is the applicant for the 1520 Market Street building. Please disregard anything in the letters of other organizations included in the application indicating anything other than offering volunteer services for the homeless at 1520 Market in compliance with the Stewart B. McKinney Act.

The question 2E states, "Identify all possible lessees, sub-organization affiliates, etc. that may participate in and/or operate the proposed program on the requested property, if any." The answer is none. If any do officially lease space they will be required to fully comply with all requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Act.

With that being said please let me clarify section (C) A: In addition to the free store and day center cited, which will utilize 30,000 square feet of space on the first floor, New Life Evangelistic Center will provide the following services in the remaining 40,000 square feet of space. These services include an emergency shelter for homeless men when the NLEC facility at 1411 Locust Street in downtown St. Louis is filled. This overflow shelter on the first floor will be set up to accommodate homeless men in emergency situations. Last night with the temperature below 10 degrees, NLEC at 1411 Locust had 135 men in that building with many others turned away because of lack of space. If NLEC were utilizing 1520 Market, then homeless men could have gone to that building for help. On the first floor a health clinic will also be established as indicated by Barbara Martin's letter. Jerome Bracely's letter confirms the provision of a free moving service to help the homeless move into apartments of their own. Jay Swoda's letter from "What's Up Magazine" shares a willingness to train homeless persons in graphic web and publication design. The letter from Faithful Few Ministry states they wish to offer basic reading, writing and math assistance, along with filling out applications, mock interviews, and learning how to dress for success. Basic home care skills will be taught, which consist of learning how to clean, prepare and plan meals, write checks, budget, and pay bills.

Then your letter mentions a concern about the offer to provide Bible study. My response is that we will encourage Faithful Few Ministry and others to hold their Bible studies in their own facilities or at the NLEC headquarters at 1411 Locust Street. Then in the Faithful Few letter the word prayer is mentioned. I don't know anything in the Stewart B. McKinney Act that says if a battered, beaten, bruised or hurting homeless person prays or requests prayer that they should be thrown out of this building or any other federal building. If that is to be done, I guess it will have to start with our own U.S. Attorney General, John Ashcroft, who I understand prays and has Bible studies in his federal office.

New Life Evangelistic Center, in its 32 years of service, has never denied help to anyone regardless of their religious affiliations or beliefs. If anyone in a position to help denies service for this reason, they will be asked to leave this

facility and any other facility under the direction of New Life Evangelistic Center.

Erin M. Weyerich's letter from the Magnificat Center shares her willingness to help New Life Evangelistic Center in the provision of child care. Robert A. Weng's letter from the St. Louis Public Schools is an indication of their willingness to provide certified Adult Education Instructors for adult education and literacy/GED classes. These are services that New Life Evangelistic Center will provide and the letters show the willingness of others to volunteer.

James Potter's offer to assist from the Agape House will be in the form of alcohol and drug counseling. The Agape House will be encouraged to hold their "Stairway to the Future" classes at their facility at 1201-1211 Tower Grove. The concepts of Modeling Support, Encouragement and Accountability will be helpful as volunteers from the Agape House assist at 1520 Market in encouraging the homeless with alcohol and drug problems to leave that lifestyle and strive to become productive citizens. Larry Brown's letter from Grace Chapel indicates a willingness to establish a community resource library and assistance center plus job, business and resource development. Before we implement their suggestions we will be requesting more specific information on how these will result in direct assistance to help the homeless be set free from the cycle of homelessness. These are just a few of many offers that NLEC is receiving to provide assistance to the homeless.

Many other caring individuals and groups are coming forward who want to help New Life Evangelistic Center as it utilizes 1520 Market to help the homeless. For example, Josephine Goff-Gardner's letter was recently received where she indicates she is a registered nurse and wants to "provide health risk screening and nutritional counseling for eight hours per week to the homeless in St. Louis." Jeanne Davis has experience with abused women and children and wants to "donate 8 hours per week to the homeless." There are many who want to help and New Life Evangelistic Center, knowing the needs that exists among the homeless, wants to give them that opportunity. The 40,000 square feet will provide, as indicated above, GED classes, alcohol and drug counseling, additional shelter for homeless men, job training, health care and a wide range of other programs to directly help the homeless.

In response to 4. Proposed Program Brief Item 4.A, you ask me to describe in more detail the job training in the areas of radio and television broadcasting. Specifically, on the second floor of the 1520 Market building New Life Evangelistic Center proposes to build a 5000 square foot television

studio and control room. Funding for this facility will be through the Here's Help Network funds and will not affect the proposed funding for 1520 Market. It will be part of KNLC TV 24's digital upgrade program that has been planned for two years. The TV programs produced will be non-commercial public service programs involving the homeless. The program is called "Here's Help." It will include the homeless not only as guests, but also as hosts, camera operators and production technicians. The type of the programs will be talk shows, news and informational programs. As mentioned earlier the programs will all be non-commercial programs. The homeless will learn camera operations, interviewing, recording, graphics, editing & lighting techniques and set design.

In your letter under item 4.C, you request for me to describe in further detail the types of professionals and technicians that will staff 1520 Market. These include the building maintenance supervisor, two nurses, two child care professionals, three certified AEL teachers provided by the St. Louis public schools, five computer and accounting professionals, one free store supervisor, three shelter shift supervisors, and two television instructors. Other volunteers and staff provisions are explained in 4.C. As indicated in your letter the second to the last paragraph in page 5 under item 4.C is incomplete. The completion of that paragraph involved the citing of services provided by organizations that I have already covered earlier in this letter.

In response to 5. Physical Layout, Plans and Cost Estimates, you ask for an explanation concerning discrepancies about implementation and program start-up. To clarify this let me say that the program will be operational within four months but reaching the goals of full operation, meaning the provision of emergency shelter for up to 200 women, is anticipated during the second year and the provision of six months of transitional housing to 200 additional women will be reached the third year. The provision of the services will be available during the first four months of the first year, but full utilization may not occur until years 2 and 3.

In response to your question under Ability to Finance, Item 6.A. Concerning the proposed parking revenue, New Life Evangelistic Center, as a result of your advice, will not be charging for parking usage in this underground parking garage. The garage will provide free parking to the NLEC volunteers, staff and homeless clients who have cars and need such assistance. This revenue is not needed to achieve the finances needed to operate 1520 Market in service for the homeless. Presently, New Life Evangelistic Center has on deposit \$70,000 in a special savings fund at Cass Bank to be utilized for the implementation of proposed services for the homeless at 1520 Market. In addition it has a

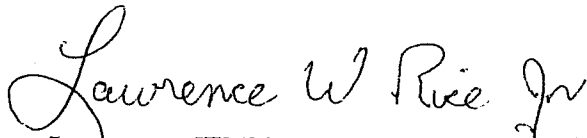
\$3,000,000 letter of credit from Cass Bank that is using KNLC Channel 24 as collateral for this credit. For further information on these funds please contact the Vice President of the bank, Brett Dempsey, at (314) 506-5534.

The property name and description have been inserted in the governing board resolution as you requested.

Homeless individuals served by New Life Evangelistic Center at 1520 Market will meet the definition of homeless as contained in section 12a.1 in the Department of Health and Human Services regulation, 45 C.F.R. Part 12a. Energy conservation and renewable energy instruction will be part of the life skills classes for the homeless as defined above, who are moving from the shelters into residencies of their own.

Since I did not see a place on the application to sign and date, I hereby, as a duly authorized representative of New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc. (see resolution in Attachment B), sign this document on January 7, 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence W. Rice, Jr." with a small flourish at the end.

Lawrence W. Rice, Jr. (Larry Rice)
Director of the
New Life Evangelistic Center, Inc.



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS
MISSOURI

Joseph D. Roddy
ALDERMAN

17th Ward

December 22, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed New Evangelistic Center's proposed use of the 1520 Market Street federal building and commend its holistic approach to solving the problem of homelessness in the City of St. Louis. NLEC's combination of providing overnight shelter, day services and extensive training programs to break the cycle of homelessness is urgently needed. No person - man, woman or child - should be required to sleep outside because of the present affordable housing crisis St. Louis is experiencing.

The fact that NLEC has proposed a solution is highly commendable. I would encourage you to make it possible for NLEC and the agencies working with it to use the federal building at 1520 Market Street in accordance with the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide the much needed services for the homeless.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Roddy
Alderman, 17th Ward

JDR/mk
nlec-shelter-1520market.wpd



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HOME ADDRESS
3847 Holly Hills Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
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Thomas A. Villa
Missouri House of Representatives
District 108

Today is Monday
December 22, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the New Life Evangelistic Center and their proposal to expand their homeless ministry.

New Life Evangelistic Center is taking steps to lease 1520 Market Street in conjunction with other non-profit organizations to provide a wide range of services to the poor and homeless. If this lease arrangement is approved, it is estimated that service will be provided to over 1000 homeless people daily. This includes emergency shelter and transitional housing to 500 homeless women and children plus additional assistance in the form of a large free store, (sharing clothing, personal hygiene items, furniture, housing items, etc.) day center, health care, alcohol and drug treatment, job training, relocation assistance., etc.

I thank you in advance for any consideration you can afford my request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Villa".

Thomas A. Villa

TAV/km

Homeless mother featured in story dies after surgery

LaMonica House, whose back pains were detailed in the Post-Dispatch last week, had bleeding ulcers that went untreated.

BY MARIANNA RILEY
Of the Post-Dispatch

LaMonica House was homeless. Homeless with two children, one a 2-month-old preemie. Homeless and suffering from back pain that was so debilitating that sometimes she had trouble talking.

But she was brave and independent. "I stopped crying a long time ago," she said a couple of weeks ago as she struggled to lift her tiny baby, Kevin Thomas, to her lap to give him a bottle.

Even her mother, Dionne House, didn't know about her daughter's troubles.

"We didn't find out about the baby until he was born," Dionne House said. "We didn't know she was in a homeless shelter until just a few weeks ago."

But LaMonica House, driven by Debbie Anderson, who runs the shelter where she was staying, had spent the past few weeks making the rounds at the city's emergency rooms. Her major complaint: back pain. Occasionally she was hospitalized for a day or two. Usually she was seen and sent home with ibuprofen for the pain.

Early Friday morning, House, 20, made her last trip to a hospital. It was then that Anderson found her in the hallway of the shelter, almost incoherent. Anderson said



Tamikka DeVould (left) and Brenda Lindsey console each other during a memorial service for their friend, LaMonica House, on Monday at the New Life Evangelistic Center downtown.

House had apparently vomited large amounts of blood. She was taken to St. Alexius Hospital, where she underwent surgery for two bleeding ulcers, Anderson said. Early Sunday morning she died.

LaMonica House, who was featured in a short profile about homeless women that ran in Friday's Post-Dispatch, had delivered her youngest child, Kevin House, on Oct. 27. The preemie was the delight of the shelter where they lived and was fussed over by all the women

See Homeless, B4

December 30, 2003

HOMIE IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



Mae Fuller, 47, waits at the bus stop last month at Tucker Boulevard and Locust Street downtown for the bus to take her and her children back to the women's shelter in south St. Louis.



PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES / POST-DISPATCH

Mae Fuller's two younger children, Maya Nelson, 8, and Leonard "Scooby" Nelson, 5, help decorate the Christmas tree that was donated Tuesday at the family's new apartment, the home they prayed they'd be living in before Christmas. Volunteers gave Fuller (background) and her family furniture, clothing, presents and a tree with lights and ornaments two days before Christmas.

Mae Fuller prayed that her family might leave the city's homeless shelters behind. Readers moved by a recent photo of her and Leonard "Scooby" Nelson, 5, helped make her family's dream home a reality.

HOMELESS

Homeless family gets Christmas wish

Continued from A1

The family began living at New Life Evangelistic Center on Locust Street downtown. Not long after, James Fuller took a turn for the worse. He died in October, two days after surgeons amputated his leg.

Homeless problem grows

A few weeks later, Mae Fuller — depressed and shell-shocked — met a Post-Dispatch reporter on assignment to document the homelessness problem in St. Louis. The city and state were on the verge of announcing a major effort to ease chronic homelessness — multiple episodes of homelessness over a period of time or being homeless for 12 consecutive months. Included in this category are people who are homeless because they are mentally ill, substance abusers or, more and more frequently, people with five or more family members, since larger families have more trouble finding shelter.

How bad is the problem? Very bad and getting worse.

The New Life Center had seen a 150 percent increase over the past year in the number of women and children seeking shelter. The waiting list for public housing ranges from six months to a year and that's if you can get on a list. Some are closed.

In Illinois, the situation is equally bleak. Anthony Vinson, executive director of the Metro East Weather Crisis Task Force, a volunteer organization working out of Holy Angels Shelter in East St. Louis, estimates he's seen at least a threefold increase of homeless people in

“If I could just be in my own place by Christmas. That's what I know it would take a miracle, but that's what I want.”



Mae Fuller passes out candy to her children as they prepare to split up in downtown St. Louis early on a school day. Dominic Phillips (in background), 10, and were catching a bus to school. Mae and Leonard “Scooby” Nelson, 5, were going to Christ Church Cathedral to get out of the cold and get something to eat on another day. They had come downtown via Metro from Mae's grandfather's home in Easttown. Mae was staying temporarily at her grandfather's while she waited

PHOTOS BY



Whitni Trice, 12, with her mother Tamikka DeVould, 31, in the living room of the New Life Evangelistic Center shelter that is their home. They just-decorated Christmas tree at the shelter, as DeVould said the family hadn't had their own tree for more than three years. "I hope we'll have DeVould. "I pray every day and hope someone will reach out to us. I don't want to do this forever."

PHO

DeVould lives at the shelter with her daughter, Whitni Trice, 12. DeVould is in New Life Evangelistic Center's program destined to get

women such as herself out of homelessness. Among other things, she is learning to run a shelter. "I'm here because we had no place to turn," she said.

She became homeless after her house burned down. She lost everything. Her salary from working part time as a gas station attendant provided her with few reserves.

Before landing at this women's shelter, DeVould was living in one for battered women. She's struggling to find a way to pay off an old utility bill, so

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No room at the inns

Finding and paying for a permanent home is what most homeless people want. And although Fuller was willing to work and Givens arrived with a great deal of savvy, they had no idea how difficult it would be.

Givens and Fuller visited almost every public housing development or transitional housing facility in the city. They learned that the list for federally subsidized housing, or Section 8, is long and closed to new applicants. Of three open waiting lists in public housing throughout the city, the wait is between six months and a year.

Two weeks into the search, Givens was realizing what she was up against. And what others like Fuller faced.

"How are these people supposed to get off the street and out of the shelters if public housing is closed to them?" she asked.

And there was other work to be done. Fuller needed birth certificates for Scooby and his sister, Maya Nelson, 8, both of whom she and her husband took in a few years ago to rear along with her biological son, Dominic Phillips, 10. She also needed a

**"I never thought that this day would come w
in my own house, and saying the words: my o**

death certificate for her husband.

As the holiday season approached, Mae Fuller and her kids were living in the New Life shelter in south St. Louis. Her days were a blur of rising well before daylight to get her children ready to catch the bus to get to the main shelter on Locust, which is where Dominic and Maya can catch their bus to school.

Nighttime at the shelter also proved problematic. On a recent evening, Dominic, who prides himself on his good grades, mostly A's and B's, tried to find a place to do his homework. The only horizontal surface he could find was a small patch of the carpeted floor. His pencil punctured the paper, and he was not happy. "I'm going to flunk," he complained to Fuller. It seemed another child has put sticky fingers on the homework. Then it got wet. He flung himself on a nearby bed, disconsolate.

"If I could just be in my own place by Christmas," Fuller

said. "That's what I want. I know it would take a miracle, but that's what I want." Christmas was four weeks away.

Turning to family

After 12 weeks, Fuller's time had run out at the shelter in south St. Louis. She was given the option of returning to the main shelter on Locust, but she decided against it. The big shelter seems so impersonal, and she was tired of shelter life.

For a week or so she held out hope that she could get into a transitional housing program at Hope House, in the northwest-ern part of the city, but she hadn't heard from the agency.

She decided the time had come to prevail upon her daughter who lives in Ferguson with her own three children. "I wanted this to be the last alternative," Fuller said. She worried about causing her daughter, who is buying the house, to violate the

city's occupancy permits.

But she also thought she might be able to help. Her daughter, Tracy Phillips, a manager of a clothing store in Overland, had just learned that the uterine cancer that had been in remission after chemotherapy 10 years ago had probably returned. Fuller shook her head. "The doctors seem to think it's back, but they have to do more tests," she said.

She's enjoyed the freedom of her daughter's home and being surrounded by the chaos of both her grandchildren and her own children. Her children were enjoying PlayStation 2 and the large-screen television. Still, it's not their own home. "We want a place of our own," said Dominic.

Mae Fuller shook her head. "It will take a miracle," she said.

A home of their own

Givens found a good Samari-

tan, who insisted on anonymous, but bedroom apartment in Louis for the family location, Fuller's it's near the bus blocks to the child. Two days before

was the moving. Fuller will pay rate of \$500 a month fund will help for that's all the more needs to get back. She has applied ment at several I can't return to her job, she'll do hou commercial clean been working since cotton as a 7-year Ark. "Work is whi she said.

About 15 volunteers at Fuller's new a the near north si Tuesday. Some c others arrived in Haul truck loader

crease of homeless people in the past three years. Some of these people are not jobless; they just don't make enough to pay for shelter.

Despite her difficulties, Mae Fuller had taken two more children under her wing. She focused on keeping them in school and making sure they hit the books. She was eager to return to work once she could find a home.

The story on homelessness started with Fuller's plight. A picture appeared with that story. It showed Fuller's youngest, 5-year-old Leonard Nelson, who lay sleeping in a crumpled heap on the sidewalk. And near the end of the story, there was a quote from Leonard, known to everyone as "Scooby." He was reassuring Mae Fuller: "I'm gonna have to protect you Granny," he said.

The article elicited an outpouring of letters of sympathy and encouragement, offers of clothing and money and the involvement of Paula Givens, a St. Louis federal labor lawyer.

Givens has become the family's friend and advocate. She is self-effacing and uninterested in taking credit for what seems like a natural impulse — to use her skills to help someone in need.

Givens established a fund for Fuller and shepherded her through the maze of social services and red tape to help her find a permanent home. She persuaded the regulators at Carmody's, a bar in west St. Louis County, to adopt the family for Christmas this year, and people in her office have raised more than \$500 for Fuller. Because of Givens' intervention, others became interested, including the health classes at the ninth-grade high school, who have collected money for toys. "That girl," said Fuller, "is an angel of mercy."



"How are these people supposed to get off the street and out of the shelters if public housing is closed to them?"

Paula Givens, a St. Louis federal labor lawyer who has become the Fuller family's friend and advocate

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAE FULLER. MAE AND LEONARD, SCOOBY, NELSON, 5, WITH HIS BROTHERS IN THE BACK SEAT OF A BUS. MAE WAS STAYING TEMPORARILY AT HER DAUGHTER'S HOME IN FERGUSON. MAE WAS STAYING TEMPORARILY AT HER DAUGHTER'S HOME IN FERGUSON.



Leonard "Scooby" Nelson, 5, hugs Mae Fuller outside of the women's shelter in south St. Louis this month as they wait in the cold for a ride to take them and their belongings to Fuller's daughter's home in Ferguson.



Mae Fuller and her family get their own place to live. Even though Fuller admitted about peeking at gifts under the Christmas tree Tuesday afternoon, she could stuffed bear and claim it for her own. She said she just loves stuffed animals filled with gifts for the family.



Social workers are quick to point out that Mae Fuller is one of thousands who are homeless. Most have stories just as compelling and needs just as great. While homeless, Fuller lived part of the time in a city women's shelter where she met others whose lives and experiences are shared.

STORIES BY MARIANNA RILEY | Of the Post-Dispatch

TILE, 41



She is waiting room of Barnes-Jewish Health Care in St. Louis to keep out of the cold. She has had just given up the last of her four children for young men in St. Charles.

you what to such an existence. She's lived all over the country and has an associate's degree in business administration from Pasadena City College in Pasadena, Calif. But 4 1/2 years ago she learned she had multiple sclerosis and that coupled with severe depression and a host of other physical problems meant she could no longer work or care for her two younger sons who are now staying with their father in North Carolina. An older son is staying with her father, a stroke victim who lives in Breckenridge Hills.

In St. Louis, she is now staying with their father in North Carolina. An older son is staying with her father, a stroke victim who lives in Breckenridge Hills.

DEBBIE CLAYTON, 31



Tameca Coleman, 11, hugs her mother, Debbie Clayton, 31, who is holding her baby, Tyra, 8 months, in the kitchen of the homeless shelter run by New Life Evangelistic Center. Clayton has been in and out of shelters for many years.

Clayton has been homeless for about two years, ever since the apartment she was living in was condemned. The first night she was actually on the street, "I stayed up all night watching my daughter," she said of Tameca Coleman, now 11. Since then, Clayton has been in almost every shelter in the city. "I'm tired of shelters, but I can't afford rent anymore," she says, as she cradles her baby daughter, Tyra, 8 months old. In their years of sometimes living in the same shelter, Tameca and Whitney Trice have become the best of friends. "Whitni, will you sing with me?" Tameca asked.

"Let's do that Cheetah Girls' song," Whitney said, taking the lead. The song, titled "Cinderella," was about a little girl whose mother tucks her into bed and reads her a story about a princess in distress and how she gets rescued. Taking some freedom with the lyrics, they sang, softly at first, then gaining volume: "I don't wanna be like Cinderella, sitting in a dark cold dusty cellar waiting for some body to come and rescue me. . . . I can slay my own dragons. I can dream my own dreams. My angel's watching over me. So I'm gonna be set free."

LAMONICA HOUSE, 20



Lamonica House sits in the dining room of the New Life Evangelistic Center shelter with her 1-month-old baby, Kevin. House became homeless when someone robbed her apartment. "I gave up crying a long time ago," House said.

House became homeless a few months ago after she gave up her last apartment in south St. Louis because it was robbed. She lost almost everything. "I didn't feel safe staying there," she said. At least she feels safe and secure at the shelter. "It's like you are a family," said House, whose baby, Kevin, was born in October — two months early. She's been back in the hospital three more times, mostly because of extreme back pain. It's so severe that she can't lift her other son, Lawrence Thomas, 2. House plans to go back to work, and Kevin will join Lawrence in day care. She says it's a problem not having a telephone. She spends her days searching for apartments, often at the library, where she does online searches. Now, with no money and down on her luck, she shook her head about her recent problems. "I stopped crying a long time ago," she said.

Homeless

Mother featured in story dies after surgery

Continued from B1

who lived there. LaMonica House also had another child, a 2-year-old, Lawrence Thomas.

The children are now in the care of Dionne House, of St. Louis, who said she had known her daughter was hurting when she saw her on Christmas.

"She was in a lot of pain then," Dionne House said. She said a doctor told her that the ibuprofen probably made the bleeding ulcers worse.

Dionne House and Anderson said that LaMonica House's only complaint had been about the back pain, not about any bleeding. But Dionne House said that doctors told her that they thought the bleeding had been going on for some time.

"It's just confusing for us," she said.

Also confusing to Dionne House was why her daughter had concealed her pregnancy. She speculated that her daughter, whom she called "Monie," was ashamed when she got pregnant the second time and was too embarrassed to tell her family.

Ray Redlich, assistant director of New Life Evangelistic Center in St. Louis, said that in general homeless people don't get the care they need, partly because their energies and their focus is on day-to-day survival. Often a physical ailment will be given the last priority. If and when their living situation improves and they finally go to a

clinic, they often learn that the ailments they have been ignoring are more serious than they would have thought, he said.

He said that he visited LaMonica House at the hospital Saturday night.

"She seemed to be doing well," Redlich said. "I prayed with her and read a little Scripture."

Dionne House said she had no money to pay for her daughter's funeral and that LaMonica House had no insurance. She said that New Life was trying to help the family get donations to pay for a funeral.

The children, she said, "are doing OK." But she added, "Lawrence has a lot of questions. He wants to know where his mother is."

A memorial service for LaMonica House was held Monday night at the New Life Center. About 45 women and children attended, including Tamikka DeVould, who knew LaMonica House for three years.

"She was like a best friend, a little sister," DeVould said, choking up as she stood at the lectern.

Kelly Little, who once lived next door to LaMonica House at a shelter, said she will always remember the young woman's dedication to her children, who were "the most special thing for LaMonica."

Funeral plans are pending, said DeVould and the Rev. Larry Rice of the New Life Center. But the family is struggling to raise the expected \$2,000 cost of a funeral. Rice said his center would cover the cost and pray that donations would follow.

Reporter Marianna Riley
E-mail: mriley@post-dispatch.com
Phone: 314-340-8121