

August 18, 2010
Letter to the Editor

In early August, 2010, Ty Alan Depew was attacked in downtown Harrisburg. He died shortly thereafter. Ty was homeless and ate lunch at Downtown Daily Bread. He was a soft spoken, respectful man who complimented the cook and thanked her for the meal. We knew that Ty, like other DDB clients, had issues that were contributing to his homelessness. The demons were in control; he was not. Ty was sick and homeless but he did not deserve to die the way he did. He had a loving family and friends, hobbies, and dreams like the rest of us.

Two Harrisburg police detectives visited Downtown Daily Bread as part of their crime investigation. They had seen Ty on the streets for years and had found him to be friendly and harmless. They, too, were saddened by his death. They were also committed to finding his assailants. I was impressed with these representatives of the Harrisburg police department. They showed sensitivity to the homeless and their plight. They spoke of mental illness, which they knew to be the core of many who live on the streets. They were familiar with homeless individuals and saw them as people, rather than “problems.” I was relieved to learn that these detectives regarded most of Harrisburg’s homeless as “harmless.”

Word is that Ty’s alleged attackers have been apprehended. We at Downtown Daily Bread are grateful for everyone who helped in that effort. We would especially like to thank the Harrisburg Police Department for doing commendable work in this investigation and want to thank them for keeping our community safe and for pursuing justice.

Elaine Strokoff
Executive Director
Downtown Daily Bread