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Sharon Hunt Sleeps Out to Raise Money for Homeless Youth

Sharon Hunt, recruitment manager in the Office of Human Resources, slept outside in the cold rain to raise money to end youth homelessness during Covenant House's Sleep Out: Mother's Edition in Atlantic City, N.J. on April 29. Hunt was one of 25 women who joined in solidarity to recognize youth struggles and honor their braveness in coming to Covenant House, sharing their stories and moving forward to bright futures.

"Ironically, the first person I met was 'E,' a resident of the Covenant House, who was excited to tell me about her new job and the fact that she had recently applied to Stockton as a transfer student from [Atlantic Cape Community College]. She plans to pursue Social Work," Hunt said.

Throughout the evening a group of residents, staff, volunteers and sleepers shared their stories, participated in panel discussions and took part in a prayer vigil.

"The evening was filled with overwhelming emotion," Hunt said. "One would never think that 'E' could be a homeless person. Homeless teens tend to blend in and go unnoticed. The Sleep Out allowed these young people to be 'visible' as Erin O'Hanlon [of Service-Learning] so eloquently stated when she spoke to us."

Residents of Covenant House gave the participants advice on how to put their boxes together in order to shelter from the rain, and the best way to be comfortable when sleeping outside.

"It was a cold and rainy night but I would not trade the experience for anything," Hunt said. "Amidst blaring sirens, constant traffic, pouring rain and blinking lights, I tucked myse Î ʿ mys š ʿ m Z א f ɑ and

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service?

Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 (ext. 5521) or via email at StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, contact the editor by emailing distinctive@stockton.edu.