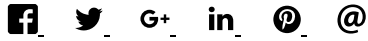


## Experts to discuss citizen advocacy in Port program

Nov 21, 2018



NEWBURYPORT – Two experts will discuss the role of citizen advocacy in addressing housing insecurity on the North Shore in a program Dec. 4.

Kelly Turley, who leads advocacy work for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, and Ed Cameron, whose career has focused on housing insecurity and who serves on Newburyport’s zoning board, will explore how citizen advocacy can affect government action to support people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

This free session, presented by Pennies for Poverty and the Housing Opportunities through Partnerships and Education initiative, or HOPE, will be held at 7 p.m. at Central Congregational Church, 14 Titcomb St.

Addressing housing insecurity depends on the budget and policy decisions that federal, state and local government officials make, according to a press release.

Turley and Cameron will share ways of staying informed about key policy and budget issues and strategies for influencing outcomes.

“Legislators take notice,” Cameron said, “when even three to five people show up on their doorstep. Being there in person matters.”

For those for whom showing up in person isn’t practical, Cameron and Turley will discuss a range of ways to have an impact, including some that take minutes and others that require hours or days.

The educational sessions that Pennies for Poverty and the HOPE initiative have presented over the last year have ended with the audience asking, “What can we do?” The answers most often given involve donating time and money to the organizations helping people experiencing housing insecurity.

This session goes beyond those answers to address the way people can help by influencing governmental decisions that make it easier or harder for those organizations to do their work.

HOPE’s focus is to educate the community about the extent of area homelessness and provide an avenue for assisting those who need help.

Pennies for Poverty carries out efforts to reduce poverty in Greater Newburyport by raising awareness about the issue, encouraging volunteerism and fundraising for local anti-poverty organizations. The group’s focus in 2018 has been homelessness.

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