

2017 HOMELESS CONSUMER SURVEY

NUMBER OF HOMELESS CREEPING UPWARDS

The number of Tulsa's homeless has been creeping upwards.

The Homeless Consumer Survey taken earlier this year documented 824 homeless people on the streets, an increase of nearly 18% from just three years ago. Sadly, a significant number of children, 114, are homeless, representing about 14% of the documented homeless population.

Rev. Steve Whitaker, the Mission's *President & Sr. Pastor*, cautions that much of the problem of homelessness is hidden.

"The survey gives us valuable insight, but it's only a snapshot. In reality, about 6,500 people become homeless in Tulsa every year, many for only a brief period. We've got to be ready to meet their needs for food and shelter and help equip them to get back into housing. Also, the survey can't take into account what we know are dozens, if not hundreds, of people who are camping in hidden areas, staying out of the shelter system."