

The *Indianapolis Star* has [a front page story today on the late Lucious Newsom](#) and his enduring legacy. Newsom, a friend of Congressman Pence, [passed away over a year ago](#)

When the one-man social services agency Lucious Newsom died a year ago, some people in the hardscrabble Stringtown neighborhood feared the worst: They'd be forgotten. They'd go hungry.

But through a corps of his volunteers, Newsom's work continues. As the economy has tanked and unemployment has risen, his work has even expanded.

Last year, on average, 50 people gobbled up the free Wednesday night dinners at Anna's House, the community center Newsom built in Stringtown. These days, the dinners draw 125.

In the spring, the Saturday food giveaway attracted 600 people -- an all-time high that led to the opening of a second food pantry, at Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in the 5100 block of Michigan Road.

"The needs are as great as they ever were," says Julie Molloy, who has taken the reins as the volunteer in charge. "My feet aren't big enough to fill Lucious' shoes, but I know we're helping a lot of people."

Newsom, a former Baptist preacher who called himself "the Lord's beggar" for the way he solicited funds and services from anyone who'd stand still, spent the last 20 years of his life in his singular war on poverty. He focused on Stringtown, on Indianapolis' Westside, where he gave away food to thousands of residents and helped them pay their rent and utility bills.

"He'd roll in that van, wearing those overalls, and he'd just . . . help, even if he'd just hand you a doughnut," said Chuck Douglas, a resident of what Newsom called Indianapolis' "poorest, most

underserved neighborhood."

Newsom, who was 93 when he died, was a modest man, but his plan was so bold and his intentions so obviously pure that he became well-known and revered. His funeral drew 1,000 mourners, including the mayor and governor.