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Boss trades places with homeless

7/07/2009 10:22:00 AM

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BLACKTOWN businessman Ross Lewis found out how the other half lives recently, leaving his warm bed to spend a cold Sydney night under the protection of nothing but a cardboard box.

Mr Lewis, chief executive of Break Thru People Solutions, a non-profit company set up to help those with a disability find work, was among 220 CEOs who took part in the recent St Vincent de Paul's CEO Sleepout at Luna Park.

He said an estimated 100,000 Australians were homeless and that the event aimed to place the human rights issue before some of the country's most powerful business leaders. The event also aimed to raise funds.

"I am amazed by the stories of homelessness from those affected, including an ex-manager who shared his story of losing his job, marriage, home and dignity," Mr Lewis said.

"He and his young children were living on the streets or in whichever crisis accommodation he could find."

Mr Lewis has raised nearly \$1600 for the cause.

A St Vincent de Paul spokeswoman said the business leaders endured the winter night without any shelter.

The CEOs Sleepout has so far raised more than \$500,000 with donations being accepted until August 31.

Details, donations: ceosleepout.org.au.