

CREW: Collaborative Response for Extreme Weather



For Release: Immediately

CREW Serves Unsheltered Neighbors During Monday and Tuesday's Winter Weather

Community Support Needed to Help Save Our Unsheltered Neighbors from Cold Weather related Death or Injury

Fayetteville— January 30, 2023 — Temperatures on Monday and Tuesday present a potentially deadly scenario for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Frostbite, hypothermia, and even death are very likely to occur when someone is exposed to temperatures of 15 degrees or less for long periods of time. 7hills is providing a warming center Monday and Tuesday from 6AM to 6PM. Salvation Army and Genesis Church will provide overnight shelter on Monday from 6PM to 6AM. We will continue to monitor the weather and make a call on Tuesday night and Wednesday by Tuesday at 2:00PM.

7hills Homeless Center, Genesis Church, New Beginnings Bridge Housing Community, NWA Continuum of Care, and The Salvation Army of Northwest Arkansas have teamed up to provide a collaborative solution to protect anyone needing shelter during these extreme cold days. When the temperatures reach a wind chill or “feels-like” temperature of 15 degrees or less, this team springs into action to save lives. During the evening, once the emergency shelter at Salvation Army reaches capacity, Genesis Church will open its doors to operate an emergency overflow shelter. Guests staying there will have cots, blankets, pillows, and a storage bin. People are allowed to check in at 6PM and enjoy a warm dinner provided by Genesis Church. Staffing for the overnight shelter is provided by New Beginnings and Micah 6:8 Ministries.

At 6:00 AM, Genesis Church and The Salvation Army close their overnight shelter. Transportation is provided to 7hills Homeless Center. 7hills opens at 6:00AM on these cold days to provide a warming center, coffee, breakfast and lunch, winter clothing, and bathrooms. 7hills extends their normal operating hours to 6PM to complement the Salvation Army and Genesis Church shelter operating hours.

“With wind chill in the teens this week coupled with freezing rain, this presents a very dangerous scenario for our unsheltered neighbors. This collaborative response is all about saving lives.” said Mike Williams, CEO at 7hills Homeless Center.

In response, 7hills has established a collaborative fund to support the operational costs of the overnight and day shelter operations.

Community Support Needed

The most urgent need is for funding to support rehousing efforts. It costs on average about \$2,000 per day to provide 24 hours of emergency shelter.

How to Help

Those wanting to support the CREW's emergency response can go to <https://tinyurl.com/COLDWXNWA> to learn more or make a gift.

1519 S School Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72701 · (479) 966-4378 · info@7hillscenter.org

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The CREW stands for “Collaborative Response for Extreme Weather.” The CREW consists of 7hills Homeless Center, Genesis Church, New Beginnings Bridge Housing Community, NWA Continuum of Care and Salvation Army of Northwest Arkansas. Support for this effort comes from Excellerate Foundation, City of Fayetteville, and other generous supporters from the community.

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For more information, press only:

Mike Williams, CEO, 7hills Homeless Center
Cell: 901-237-0252
mike@7hillscenter.org