

Welcome Back to Church Shelter!

Returning to church shelter is exactly what we need to do! This is our heartbeat. It is where we meet God's heartbeat every shelter night.



**SEVERE WEATHER
SHELTER NETWORK**
REFUGE. RELATIONSHIP. RESTORATION.

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Reintroducing Church Shelter

Severe Weather Shelter Network is re-introducing emergency shelter in the church this fall. We are so excited to welcome our guests back into our spaces!

There will be a few changes in our structure that we believe will help us provide shelter more easily and without requiring quite so many volunteers.

Don't be mistaken! Our volunteers are critically important to making shelter nights happen. You will be needed!

Our church partners are equally as critical. COVID has had its impact and we are currently meeting with churches to determine where we will be hosting our guests.

Please pray for us in the coming months as we meet church partners, and service provider partners as we seek to rebuild our foundation.

I invite you to read through the Newsletter and begin to see how God is inviting you to join us this fall.

Lynn Ann Huizingh
Executive Director of Development

Celebrating Our Guests!

Perseverance, Strength, Grace under fire. These are all words that describe our guests. More people living on the streets and fewer resources have made life even more challenging.

What Will Shelter Look Like This Fall?

Even before COVID was a thing, Severe Weather Shelter Network was challenged in several ways that had us thinking about how to restructure.

Overnight hosts were becoming harder to find. Volunteers were committed to their night and/or location.

Church vans were and are becoming a thing of the past making transportation a bit challenging.

When COVID caused us to close our shelter in March of 2020 we weren't sure how we were going to proceed.

As you all know, the last two shelter seasons SWSN has served through the motel voucher system. There were a few things we grieved:

- The loss of relationship
- The incredible expense
- The reduced engagement opportunities

By God's grace and mercy we are all beginning to emerge on the other side of COVID. SWSN is now beginning to implement a revised plan for providing shelter in church buildings.

What will it look like?

We will have one church building in each region to provide both the Warming and Host Site activities.

Each Warming/Host site will have a capacity of up to 40 individuals on any shelter night.

Service Provider partners and Outreach teams will be welcomed into the Warming Site hours to connect with guests for their immediate and on-going needs.

Volunteers will be welcomed into daytime roles during Warming Site hours and the familiar evening and overnight roles during Host Site hours.

Guests will be able to register for the season online and in person this season during scheduled Registration days.

Shelter days will allow registered guests to reserve their shelter space online, over the phone and in person this season.

SWSN believes by moving to a regional shelter model we will be able to streamline the shelter experience for the guests, the volunteers, and our shelter staff.



One building in each Region gives SWSN a designated place for donation drop off and relationship connections over the course of the whole season.

This is an exciting time for all of us! We look forward to sharing more details as the season approaches.

How Can You Help Us Get Ready?

We need Church Liaisons in each partner church. Church Liaisons

Share volunteer opportunities with their church family

Help volunteers sign up through the new website application

Keep the church family updated regarding specific volunteer and supply needs for shelter

Will you be a Church Liaison for SWSN?

Contact Christy Smith:

christy@swshelternetwork.com

720-362-7067

Christy can give you more information and help you get set up and ready rock and roll!

We are looking for new Board Members.

Community and Business leaders who are passionate about working on behalf of our guests

People who have experienced homelessness, and are now stable with work and home

People who operate from a place of compassion with healthy boundaries.

Do you know someone who would be interested? Are you interested?

Contact Lynn Ann Huizingh:

lynnann@swshelternetwork.com

720-362-7058

Or refer your friends directly to Lynn Ann for information.

We need resources to help us launch the season well.

Will you consider hosting a Drive to support SWSN guests this season?

Outdoor gear to support guests outside of shelter

Double fleece blankets for the Host Sites

RTD Bus ticket books: 24 books of 10 tickets needed per shelter night

Does your Corporate Office sponsor local organizations?

Refer SWSN as an organization to support.

Contact either Christy or Lynn Ann for information.

Consider Your Volunteer Opportunity to Serve with Us

Day Time Opportunities:

Registration Assistants:

SWSN is looking for volunteers to assist our guests in completing their annual registration.

Days and hours will be scheduled through Christy.

Warming Site Hosts:

Hospitality and Welcome. Various tasks will be available to help guests connect with resources.

Shelter Night Opportunities:

Evening Hosts:

Welcoming guests into shelter and hosting the dinner hour

Overnight Hosts:

A member of a team keeping guests safe while they sleep and assisting with morning routine.

Food Volunteers:

Provide part of the evening meal

Other Shelter Support:

Laundry support:

Launder 2-3 loads of blankets and towels at the end of a week and return to the Host Site

Summer Giving Opportunities

Spring and summer are always light on giving. The warmer temperatures allow us to forget work is still happening to prepare for shelter.

Severe Weather Shelter Network needs \$60,000 through the summer to cover our expenses to prepare for shelter this fall. Your gift today is very appreciated as we continue to prepare to receive guests!

You can help us raise \$60,000 by:

1. Making a financial gift through our website
2. Become an influencer by inviting others in your Network to give
3. Ask your Employer about matching gifts
4. Invite your Church or Community organization to share Severe Weather Shelter Network with their members

For more information contact us by contacting our Executive Director of Development at:

Email: lynnann@swshelternetwork.com

Phone: 720-362-7058

Severe Weather Shelter Network is a nonprofit organization under IRS code 501c3. All financial gifts are deductible according to IRS.

Severe Weather Shelter Network

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