

SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER NETWORK

New North Rotation launched December 3, 2017

Last July the City of Arvada approached Severe Weather Shelter Network about beginning to provide emergency shelter in Arvada. They had already laid a good foundation for us to build on together.

Severe Weather Shelter Network exists through partnerships with the Faith community, other non-profits and city and county support. This is the first time a city has approached us to ask for our help. We were so excited for the opportunity!

A lot of work goes into launching a new rotation for shelter. Host sites need to be identified, a warming site needed to be identified, vans located and most especially...volunteer support.

City Unite and the City of

Arvada took on the responsibility for identifying the necessary spaces and helped very significantly with the volunteer recruitment.

November 18th Severe Weather Shelter Network hosted a volunteer training at Arvada Covenant Church in which 114 volunteers received the necessary training to equip them to serve in our shelter and warming site settings.

Our new North Rotation officially launched on December 3rd and was shortly fully initiated with a number of shelter nights throughout the month.

Severe Weather Shelter Network could not be more pleased and excited for the new relationships with volunteers, guests and community leaders in Arvada! Way to go team!

Issue 10 March 16, 2018

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*For more information contact:
Lynn Ann Huizingh
lynnann@swshelternetwork.com
720.515.9313*

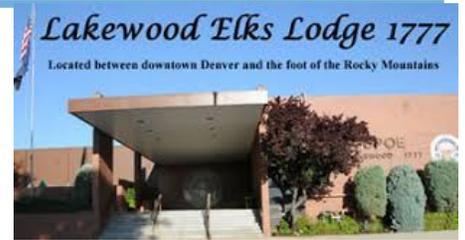
It is a matter for prayer...

One of our core values is Faithfulness in Prayer. With out prayer next steps would be unclear. We recognize there is power in prayer and in the name of Jesus. Thank you for partnering with us as we pray!

Pray with us for these items:

- Guests and volunteers as we continue building relationships and laying a solid foundation for growth and awareness.
- Connections with city and county governments that are opening up and seem willing to work collaboratively toward the future for a continuum of housing.

New Community Partnership launches Central Warming Site



Our biggest celebration this season is our new partnership with the Lakewood Elks Lodge! The Elks have stepped up to allow Severe Weather Shelter Network to use their building as a Warming Site in Lakewood. Many of our volunteers for that site are Elks members. Because of our growing partnership with the City of Lakewood we also have a number of volunteers from the surrounding community in addition to church volunteers from the community.

Warming Sites are a very important part of any shelter night for Severe Weather Shelter Network guests. In the suburban corridor around Denver Day sites are not common. In fact, in the communities where we provide shelter there are no full time Day sites available for people experiencing homelessness.

Day sites like St Francis Center in downtown Denver provide a variety of services that assist people experiencing homelessness to meet their immediate needs, but also assist them with resources that can aide them in taking important steps toward a sustainable and self-sufficient life off the streets.

In Arvada, The Rising Church provides a Day Site experience Monday through Friday between 9am-3pm where our guests can go to rest, find a noontime meal and have access to necessary resources and support.

In Englewood, Giving Heart is a very important partner for us as they provide a Day Site experience on Tuesdays between 10am-3pm. Guests experience a place to rest, a noontime meal and access to many resources and support.

In Lakewood, Mean Street Ministry is another of our very important partners that provide a Day Site experience Monday through Thursday from 9am-Noon. Guests experience a café and have access to resources and support.

Severe Weather Shelter Network celebrates these important partners as we work together to meet immediate and long-term needs for people

living on the streets of these communities.

These same partners help our guests register for Severe Weather Shelter Network each fall as the season approaches and help answer phones on designated shelter days in order to help our guests reserve their spot at the shelter for that night.

While we celebrate these daytime ministries and the work they do, **it is the need at night for a Warming Site that is such a critical component of any shelter night.** Why is that?

Warming Sites provide a centralized location where our guests can gather inside to wait for transportation to the Host Site where they will shelter for the night. Warming Sites allow our guests to come in from the cold, confirm their nightly reservation, enjoy a hot drink and have access to bathrooms for perhaps the first time that day.

Our Warming Site volunteers provide a warm smile and a listening ear for our guests as they begin to unwind, knowing they have a warm place to spend the night.

We give a BIG shout out to Giving Heart and the City of Arvada as they have provided Warming Sites and volunteers for Severe Weather Shelter Network this season. Thank you!

This newest Warming Site opened in January. Our guests are so grateful for the opportunity to be inside now. We had been meeting them outside in a parking lot and transporting from there.

We are very grateful for our core volunteers who have served in a Warming Site capacity at the Charles Whitlock Rec Center last season, the dirt parking lot at the beginning of this season and now at the Elks Lodge.

Thank you Darcy, Jan, Susan, Mark and Diane for your faithful and loving service to and for our guests! Thank you for braving the cold... thank you for pushing forward and joining us now. We treasure your experience and leadership in this new partnership at the Elks Lodge!

Unfinished

An art experience bringing awareness to life on the streets

Severe Weather Shelter Network is excited to announce a brand new event!

We have loved and will continue to host Refuge from the Cold each November. That event is traditional in its nature as a banquet, which many people enjoy and understand.

The new event, **Unfinished**, is an art focused event. The goal of the event is to bring awareness to life on the streets through artistic expression. This year we are featuring a short film called "The Journey Home". Our new Ambassador Frederick is the focus of the film. Together we will learn Frederick's story from how he lost his home to the frustrations and challenges he encountered on The Journey Home.

You will have seen a clip from this film at Refuge from the Cold in November. So...now here it is! The completed project and we are so excited to share it with you!

In addition to the film, this year we are bringing together art pieces from local artists. The artists have generously donated their art piece to be sold with all proceeds benefitting the work of Severe Weather Shelter Network.

Watch our website as we will be revealing an online Gallery with the art pieces to be sold along with the artist biographies and photos. This will be a wonderful way to consider ahead of time which piece you may want to add to your art collection!



The theme verse underlying this event comes from Philippians 1:6 "I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the Day of Jesus Christ."

We believe that every one of us is an **Unfinished** masterpiece that God takes a lifetime to complete.

God values each one of us so highly that He is continually working to refine and perfect our character and to build His competencies into our lives for His ultimate glory.

We look forward to welcoming you, your family and friends as we celebrate

Unfinished

An art experience bringing awareness to life on the streets

Saturday, April 21, 2018

**Faith Community Church
6228 S Carr Ct
Littleton CO 80123**

7-8:30 pm

Tickets: \$25 online/ \$30 at the door

Eventbrite.com/Unfinished: An Art Experience

Online Gallery: swshelternetwork.com/Events

New Event: Mark your calendars now!

Unfinished.

An art experience bringing awareness to life on the streets

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Faith Community Church
7-8:30 pm



Tickets: \$25 online via [Eventbrite.com/Unfinished](https://www.eventbrite.com/Unfinished)

- Includes viewing the short film, movie snacks and entrance to the Art Gallery
- Visit [Eventbrite.com/Unfinished](https://www.eventbrite.com/Unfinished) to purchase tickets
- Visit www.swshelternetwork.com for complete information and to view the Art Gallery

Tickets at the door: \$30

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Stewardship Reflections	
7.2017 – 6.2018 Budget: \$120,000	
Year to date budget:	\$92,264.64
Year to date: Giving:	\$72,243.78

Your continued financial support is very appreciated and blesses so many.

Severe Weather Shelter Network is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation whose mission is to mobilize the church, community organizations and agencies to provide emergency overnight shelter on life threatening winter nights for individuals living on the streets.

For more information please visit www.swshelternetwork.com

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PO Box 620546
Littleton, CO 80162

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