



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Justin Lockhart
417-888-2020, 417-770-0878 (cell)
jlockhart@cpozarks.org

Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Protect Homeless from Winter Storm

February 2, 2022: Plummeting temperatures, ice, and snow create life-threatening conditions for those that are homeless in our community. Providing overnight shelter during the harsh winter months is the mission of nine area churches/organizations in our community, opening their doors to over 175 individuals each night when temperatures drop below freezing. These include:

- Asbury United Methodist
- East Sunshine Church of Christ
- Eden Village
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Harbor House
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Revive 66 Trailer Park
- The Connecting Grounds/Venues 425
- Unity Church

These volunteer run shelter sites create a safe space for individuals to seek solace during cold winter nights. Crisis Cold Weather Shelters are experiencing great demands through the months of January, February, and March. Volunteers are critical in making sure our homeless community is cared for during freezing weather and overnight volunteers are really needed now. Shifts run from 7:30 p.m. – 7:30 a.m.; volunteers are always paired with another volunteer and can sleep for part of the night.

If you can help, please fill out the Volunteer Interest Form at <https://bit.ly/3qVZzdN>. This form is a shared sign-up across all Crisis Cold Weather Shelter sites. You can also email OAEH@cpozarks.org for more information.

Since opening their doors in November 2021, sites have offered overnight sheltering on 40 nights. City Utilities of Springfield and CPO provide transportation services to the shelter sites from Veterans Coming Home, a drop-in center for the homeless.

Crisis Cold Weather Sheltering is made possible through the City of Springfield's Declaration of Economic and Housing Calamity ordinance. Businesses, churches, or other entities address overnight shelter needs by hosting additional overnight emergency shelter beds in their buildings. This ordinance allows entities to host overnight emergency shelter beds after completing health and safety inspections with the City of Springfield.

Community Partnership's Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness works closely with host sites to coordinate other logistics involved in hosting a shelter, including training, volunteers, transportation, and supplies.

Interested parties can learn more about these needs by visiting www.cpozarks.org/coldweather

###

ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.