

Redmond Cold Weather Shelter Short History and Description of Services

History

The Redmond Cold Weather Shelter has served the homeless for five years. It has operated at Highland Baptist Church (HBC) on nights between mid-October and the end of March when the temperature was forecast to be below 28 degrees. From 2010 through 2013 the Shelter was operated by volunteers provided primarily by HBC volunteers. On January 1, 2014 the shelter closed for the remainder of the year due to supervision and security concerns. Subsequent to this, a group of concerned individuals in Redmond approached The Shepherd's House leadership to operate the shelter with better supervision. The Shepherd's House agreed to provide trained staff and general oversight of the Shelter contingent on being able to generate financial support from the Redmond community to provide adequate staff and other needed items.

A group of concerned leaders from the Redmond faith community and The Shepherd's House began meeting monthly to formulate a plan to raise the support needed. The community of Redmond, primarily through local churches, raised over \$10,000 in October. The Shepherd's House staff made contact with NeighborImpact to apply for and ultimately receive a grant was for up to \$17,000 to operate a cold weather warming shelter. With this support we were able to operate from October 15, 2014 until March 31, 2015, and in fact we raised the shelter activation temperature to 30 degrees.

Operations

Shelter guests are required to complete a short demographic form, arrive sober and follow basic instructions. No alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed on site. Smoking is restricted to a specific area outside. Guests must take all of their personal belongings with them in the morning. There are no pets allowed in the shelter. This was discussed at length and has been determined to be the best course to provide safe, stable shelter for the most people. Guests are provided a comfortable sleeping mat, sheet, blanket, and pillow. Light snacks, coffee, tea, and other food items are provided. We arrange to pick up guests from the Jericho Table meal site and in front of the Library. In the morning we transport guests from the shelter location back to the downtown core area to a public space.

Last year was the first that The Shepherd's House was involved with the shelter, and we tracked the activity very carefully. Results from last year and a partial list of community partners follows.

Current Issues

Highland Baptist Church has been a gracious and accommodating host. We would, however, like to have a site that is under more direct control, without the issues of coordinating building use, and be able to operate every day between November 1st and March 31st. Leasing a vacant property for the season at a very low rate would be our best solution, but we are currently working out a rotating schedule among Redmond churches. By sharing the hosting responsibilities we plan on being open every night. Opening and closing the shelter based on temperature did not allow us to accomplish one of our main goals: to build relationships and trust with shelter guests and begin the discussion of change.

Redmond Cold Weather Shelter 2014/2015

Operated by The Shepherd's House at Highland Baptist Church

Oct 15 2014 to Mar 31, 2015

Nights Open	73
Bed Nights	703
Showers	327
Guests Served	71
Women	23
Men	48
Children	1
Veterans	12
Volunteer Hours	583
Staff Hours	564
# of Volunteers	28

Community Partners

Highland Baptist Church	Love Inc. of Central Oregon
Community Presbyterian Church	City Center Church
Jericho Table	Deschutes County Health Department
Redmond School District FAN advocates	Grace Gate Community Church
Redmond Ministerial Alliance	Little Caesar's Pizza
Joseph House Ministries of Redmond	Redmond Assembly of God