

Introducing the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

Sponsored by the Peace of Bread Community Kitchen

So many people in our society are overlooked, under served and in need of a helping hand, especially during the harsh winter months. Many right here in our own community do not have a warm place to sleep at night, are their lives are endangered by the cold and snow. As a community of faith, we have seen this need and feel called to respond by literally opening our doors and offering a warm welcome to all those in need. We believe that this kind of loving care is at the center of our call to discipleship, and that anything that we do for the least of these, we do for Christ.

In response, we will begin to open our doors on the harshest of nights from 7pm to 7am in order to provide a warm place to sleep for men, women and children. Teams of volunteers are needed to help supervise the shelter throughout the night. The decision of whether to open the shelter on any given night will be made by our Shelter Coordinators 24 hours in advance. Volunteers will then be contacted to welcome our guests and the shelter will be opened to all those in need.

Get involved!

- **Volunteer**

Volunteers are needed to staff the shelter in four hour shifts throughout the night. Fill out the application below to apply, and join us for one of our training sessions on Sunday January 29 from noon to 2pm or Thursday February 2 from 7-9pm. Bring a bagged lunch if you are joining us on Sunday, refreshments will be provided. Volunteers need to be 18+ to apply and both men and women are needed!

Contact our church office to pick up an application, or download it on our church website at www.whitinpres.org/shelter

- **Donate**

Help provide a warm place for somebody to sleep by donating towards the startup costs of this ministry. Just \$25 provides a comfortable mat for our guests to use and donations over and above that help us turn up the heat and provide for those in need.

Giving is easy. Checks can be made out to the "Friends of Peace of Bread" and mailed to the church office at 7 Spring Street, Whitinsville MA 01588 or you can give online by visiting us at www.whitinpres.org/shelter

- **Become a Host Congregation**

Our dream is that next year we will have three other churches willing to open their doors for one week a month, allowing this shelter to run continuously throughout the winter. Start talking to your church leadership about the possibility now, and let us know if you would like more information on how to get involved.

Learn More

To learn more about the heart and soul behind this ministry, visit us online at www.whitinpres.org/shelter to view a short video clip by one of our Peace of Bread Team Members and download program forms.

Questions? Contact the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter at (508) 266-5122 or email bv.emergency.shelter@gmail.com to find out more.