**FRIENDS OF THE STATE ST. FAMILY – Tami Miller**

Last year, I tried in vain to get outreach workers from Porchlight, Tullarian, Birarpatch and any other agency that had them together. We have worked collaboritvely with Briarpatch on several occasion and share information with them... and, of course, share everything with Stone Soup... For this Weather advisory we had an outreach meeting and coordinated teams to go out and find people and convince them to come in from the cold- advising them of the danger, and the shelter regulation change. We also provided bus passes and transportation, and our outreach line to call if anyone is stranded at any point. People were brought into the shelters, and some who had mental health issues with staying there were taken to sponsored hotel rooms. FSSF handled the known car campers and tent/bridge campers outside of the downtown areas, and Stone Soup handled the downtown. We have a "secret" group page where we post and update most activities to be sure that everyone was reached in a timely manner and helped in whatever way was practical and useful to get them to shelter or survive this cold. We have been doing this on a smaller scale for over a year now, but with the recent addition of about a dozen volunteers willing to do this type of outreach- we were really able to get people where they needed to go, and had people on standby for emergencies. WE delivered propane and gas cards to some, extra warm gear to others... We also made a conscious effort at the preceeding food run on state street to talk to each person about what their plan was for the cold weather- where they would be, trying to convince the "hardcore" outside campers to come in from the cold for safety, and also giving them our number if they were worried about going to the shelter, offering to accompany them inside and make sure they had access. Today people put up in hotels will be given bus passes or rides back to their location of choice after 12, and the rest of the sites will be checked in on again. WE have 100 -30 army surplus modular sleeping bags coming in this week that we plan to distribute to outside winter campers first, (Stone Soup will distribute to the downtown) and each team will be adopting "Zones" of urban campers that they will develop relationships with and monitor- and help connect them with exsisting services... that is our current plan. would love input on other steps that could be taken.



**STONE SOUP – Carrie Riddle**

Stone Soup convinced and made sure everyone in the down town area got into the shelters. Those that didn’t, 6 of them, were given rides to a hotel followed up with feeding everyone at the hotel including Occupy’s and Tami’s people. Stone Soup gave bus passes out to make sure everyone could get back up town. We also went into the capitol during the day and handed out several (at least 6) cases of hand warmers during the day.

**OTHER ADVOCATES – Brenda, Heidi, Preston**

**12/20 (Friday)–** Starting to become apparent there are large gaps in services for the next few weeks. Brenda’s blog. <http://www.forwardlookout.com/2013/12/homeless-doors-closing-everywhere/20599>

* Public Library Closed: Sunday 12/22, Tuesday 12/24, Wednesday 12/25, Sunday 12/29. Tuesday 12/31, Wednesday 1/1, Monday 1/20
* Bethel Church Closed
	+ Tuesday, 12/24 – Closed at noon
	Wednesday, 12/25 – Closed
	Tuesday, 12/31 – Closed at noon
	(Also closed Saturdays and Sundays throughout the winter)
* First United Methodist Church – Outreach Ministries Break in Services - Outreach programming will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 23 and will re-open Monday, January 6.
* Monona Terrace Closed December 24 – January 26

**12/29 (Sunday)** –

From: **Heidi Wegleitner** <heidimayree@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 29, 2013 at 11:48 AM
Subject: Wind-chills approaching -30 and 15 People Expected to Sleep Outside
To: "Leigha\_Weber@usc.salvationarmy.org" <Leigha\_Weber@usc.salvationarmy.org>, "Green, Lynn" <Green@countyofdane.com>, "Tubbs Sr, Charles" <Tubbs.Charles@countyofdane.com>
Cc: "schooler@tds.net" <schooler@tds.net>, "mayor@cityofmadison.com" <mayor@cityofmadison.com>, "Hendrick, John" <Hendrick@countyofdane.com>, "parisi@countyofdane.com" <parisi@countyofdane.com>, "Sargent, Melissa" <Sargent@countyofdane.com>

Good afternoon Lynn, Leigha, et al.,

Stone Soup Squad (led by Carrie Riddle), which provides warm meals to unsheltered folks at night, is aware of 15 people who will be sleeping outside tonight because they can't access shelter due to a permanent ban or won't for some other reason preventing them from sleeping inside during this extreme weather.

Obviously, the weather exception will apply to permit persons who have exceeded their annual limit to access shelter.   This also means that men temporarily (not permanently) banned are permitted access to the men's drop in shelter.  It is my understanding that our approach to dealing with extreme weather situations is to expand capacity at our existing shelter facilities, however, given existing shelter policies there are still some who can't access shelter, including, but not limited to men who are permanently banned and women and family shelter guests who have been banned (temporarily or permanently).  I submit the following questions accordingly.

1)  Will women who are banned (including those just temporarily banned) be able to access the women's and family shelter at Salvation Army?  I know this commitment has been hard for the shelter to make as a general policy because of capacity constraints, but I am hoping that during this time of record setting low temps, an exception can be made.

2) Can some motel vouchers be made available tonight, if not other public space, for persons who can't access shelter due to a permanent ban or other personal reasons?

Ms. Riddle and her crew can help us connect with the folks in need.  I understand most of them are downtown around the City-County Building.

There may be other solutions I have overlooked.  If so, please let me know.

 I look forward to a more sustainable and systematic way of dealing with these weather emergencies.  We have committed to implementing policies ensuring no one is denied access to shelter in our housing as a human right resolutions.  The importance of that effort is especially apparent during cold snaps like these.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.  I hope you are enjoying this time over the holidays.  I hope to hear from you soon.

Respectfully,

Heidi

3:26 - Email from Heidi Wegleitner to the volunteer community:

In response to my inquiry, Lynn Green, County Human Services Director, Steve Schooler, Porchlight Director, and Leigha Weber, Salvation Army Social Services Director, have confirmed that ***anyone*** **seeking shelter tonight will be able to get in**.  This includes people who are banned, temporarily or permanently.  PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

While this is far from a sustainable solution to our housing and shelter crisis, I appreciate the shelter providers opening their doors to everyone tonight.  It is way too cold to be sleeping outside.  I also recognize that there are some who are not banned who will not go into shelter for other reasons.  I believe the Stone Soup Squad is working on a solution for them as well.  Please contact me if you have any questions or know someone who is expected to sleep outside and I will try to connect them to the appropriate assistance.

5:21 pm Text from Preston to Brenda

FYI: All banned (even permanent) men will be allowed into the shelter tonight through Thursday. Spread the word it you would like.

**12/30 (Monday)** Email from Heidi Wegleitner to the volunteer community

From Steve Schooler: Please get the word out, Porchlight will be running the van service for Tuesday and Wednesday (New Year's Eve) and New Year's Day).
The service will be more limited, it will begin in the mornings at The Salvation Army and the Fairchild / West Washington corner and go to Hospitality House and Safe Haven. There may be more than one run depending on the demand. This should go generally from 7:30 through 9:30. Then, in the afternoon, we will begin at Hospitality House at 3:00 pm (or 2;30 pm) and go to Safe Haven, then downtown to The Salvation Army and Fairchild / West Washington, then back to Hospitality House and back downtown until we transport all needing transport downtown.
Let me know if there are any questions or concerns with this.

**1/4/14 (Saturday)** – Email from Preston – sent to homeless consortium 2 days later

Sorry, that should have been Wednesday 1/8 J

Brenda,

Perhaps you can get the word out that we will be adjusting the shelter closing hours in the morning for the first half this coming week to coordinate with the opening of library times. So the shelter will not close until

·         1pm on Sunday 1/5

·         9am on Monday 1/6

·         9am on Tuesday 1/7

·         Wednesday 1/7    To be announced

These times are when the library will be open on these days. The van will still be running on normal times, except the driver will be coming **inside** of the shelter to announce his departure verses having them wait on the corner.

**8:24** pm Brenda email to Preston

BK: Inquiring minds want to know if men in shelter 2 and 3 have to walk back to one at 6am

PP: Yes, Both of these shelters have to be cleaned for services other than DIS.

BK: Figured that was the answer – if someone is sleeping outside and discovers it is too cold, can someone bring them in to shelter? Will they be let in?

PP: Yes, And if for some ungodly reasons they are denied, call me.

**1/4/14**

Permanently banned person doesn’t go to shelter (unknown if he knew about the exceptions), capitol police give him a blanket and tell him to sleep on the grates and periodically check on him. Has frost bite so badly that portions of his fingers are black and peeling.

Notified informally by a library worker that they had been instructed to relax their rules during the cold weather.

**1/5** Charles Heimbecker, age 48, dies of a heart attack outside shelter 1 in -10 degree (?) temperatures.

Anoother guest who had problems with staff and left attempts suicide and ends up in the hospital

**1/7** Email to Brenda and Heidi

So, I have decided to keep the shelter open until 9am on Wednesday 1/8 also. Please spread the word… and stay warm.

**1/8** – Text from Preston to Brenda

Well, its 3, and nobody has gotten back to me and told me not to, so . . . go ahead, ring the alarm and send out the notice, one more day of extended shelter hours until 9am

**SUGGESTIONS**

**Advanced planning**

* Holidays and cold weather in Wisconsin are not a surprise to us – why is there no system in place to handle cold weather and closed services

**Better and timely information!**

* Notifications to members of the Homeless Services Consortium – share information
* Listserve to easily share information when staff are out of the office
* 2-1-1 actually list one time closings and events
* Written information that can be printed and given to people who believe they are banned
* Media updates

**Services for those who do not fit inside the box and are turned away or leave**

* Mentally ill
* Pets, service animals

**Outreach workers?**

* What is the role of paid outreach workers in this weather?

**Volunteers/Advocates at Shelter**

* What can we do?

**Re-examine what best practices are for cold weather**

* <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/winter_weather/Winter_weather_report.pdf>

**Consider mortality rates of the homeless**

* <http://www.forwardlookout.com/2014/01/homeless-mortality-rates-3-to-9-times-greater-than-housed-persons/20668>