



## Emergency Overnight Shelter

Sheltering for the Health & Safety of All

September 6, 2017

# Winter Services Update

### ***Warming Center***

We have received many questions about plans for a warming center this coming winter.

After careful consideration, Interfaith Works has decided that we will not operate a homeless warming center during Winter 2017-18.

Although we have a deep and abiding commitment to serving vulnerable persons in our community living on the streets, and are proud to have provided a warming center resource the last two winters benefiting hundreds of people, we have concluded that we cannot organize that program again this coming winter without a dedicated funding source and a clearly identified, adequate location to operate it.

We are appreciative that the City of Olympia made a significant commitment of funds for a warming center for winter 2017-18, but other local governments were not in a position to provide additional funding needed to move forward.

### ***Providence Community Care Center***

We are an active partner with Providence St. Peter Hospital and other agencies in opening the downtown Community Care Center this month. This new year-round day program represents a major step forward for our community, and we are committed to helping make it a success.

While the Center is not designed to function as a seasonal warming center, we are all working together to construct the best possible integrated system to enable access to services and in particular respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized -- those who experience the most barriers to accessing services and resources.

We will also continue to coordinate with local government, non-profits and business leaders to address basic safety-net needs this winter in downtown Olympia and beyond.

***Toward the Goal of Year-Round 24/7 Shelter***

We are working closely with Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, municipalities and local service providers to bring our community closer to the goal adopted in the county Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan to provide adequate 24/7 year-round shelter options for all populations living on our streets. This will require a community wide planning process and adequate resources to ensure a set of services -- daytime and overnight -- that address the needs of both unsheltered people and the community as a whole.

We will continue to provide nightly shelter at our Emergency Overnight Shelter located at First Christian Church. The shelter offers 42 nightly beds year-round and advocacy services for highly vulnerable adults in Thurston County.

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