
ROTATING CHURCH WINTER SHELTER

November through April

To the glory of God, we successfully completed our third year in rotating the Emergency Winter Shelter! As many of you know, the Emergency Winter Rotating Shelter program is a collaboration of faith communities and public and private agencies that are managed by the Meeting Ground to provide additional emergency shelter, meals, and showers to homeless individuals during the coldest months of the winter.



Last year we started the shelter a little later than usual, but were up and running by November 17, 2008 and provided shelter services through April 6, 2009! We operated the shelter 7 nights per week (for a total of 20 weeks) and provide an estimated 3,472 bed nights. During this time, we also served over 9,413 meals to shelter residents and provided a lot of hot showers! This was possible because of the overwhelming support we received from 25 local churches that supplied over 9,918 volunteer hours to carry the shelter operation.



Shelter guests again ate royally, received free haircuts, and were visited by Santa Claus and some other interesting characters. This year we were again blessed with the support of a case worker from the Department of Social Services and a volunteer Drug and Alcohol Counselor from the Department of Health. It is this collective support that allows us to more effectively help residence get the proper referrals, medical assistance, job training and temporary housing they need to get back on their feet.

A special thank you to Pastor Alan Bosmeny and the First Assembly of God church for again offering their church facility; Gayle Mayo who stepped in last minute to manage the shelter this year; Edna Smith and Clamon Price our dedicated van drivers that didn't miss a beat; all our wonderful intake folks at Wayfarer and Settlement House; and all you Site Supervisors that really make the program such a wonderful success! It's



because of your support that we are able to provide this outstanding service to the community and bring awareness about the complexity of homelessness into the lives of hundreds of volunteers!

