



For Immediate Release

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WINTER RELIEF NEEDED FOR HOMELESS

***Homeless providers and street outreach teams report
need for warm clothing and supplies***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) has issued an urgent request for public donations of warm clothing to help individuals experiencing homelessness to survive during the winter season.

As temperatures reach life threatening levels, Wheeler Mission Ministries expands its operation to run an overflow shelter and outreach teams from several organizations work hard to bring people out of the cold and into a shelter. Despite these efforts, there are still many people who sleep on the street; they include women and children as well as those suffering from mental illness or addictions.

“Our difficult economy is testing everyone but none more than our homeless neighbors and that is why making preparations now for the cold months ahead will save lives,” said Timothy Joyce, Executive Director of CHIP. At a time when temperatures are bitter cold people on the streets need extra layers of winter clothing and supplies to protect them.”

The public is asked to donate warm clothing. There is also a need for blankets, coats, hats, gloves, hand warmers, water and single serving, easy-to-open, nonperishable food items such as sports drinks, juice boxes, Vienna sausages, beef sticks, puddings, fruit cups, peanut butter crackers, breakfast bars, instant coffee and individual servings of chips and nuts.

Wheeler Mission Ministries will accept and store the donations and make them available to Indy Dream Center, Homeless Initiative Program, HVAF of Indiana, Inc., Horizon House, Midtown Mental Health Homeless Resource Team, Outreach Inc., and The PourHouse, Inc. from one central location.

Donations should be made at Wheeler Mission, 245 N. Delaware St and should specify the donation/contribution is for the 2009-2010 Winter Relief for the Homeless.

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The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention is a nonprofit agency created in 1996 to advocate for homeless and near-homeless people in Indianapolis and to help organizations that serve them work together more effectively. CHIP led the Blueprint to End Homelessness planning effort and now serves as the lead agency to mobilize the community to work together to implement its recommendations.