



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. You can make a donation at Wheeler Mission, 245 N. Delaware St. and specify it for the 2011-2012 Winter Relief for the Homeless. Delivery hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. or call the Guest Services Coordinator at 636-2720 to arrange delivery.

As temperatures drop in the coming months and reach life threatening levels, Wheeler Mission Ministries expands its operation to run an overflow shelter. 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.

“We’re already experiencing that drop in temperatures and it’s critical to the lives of our neighbors who are living on the streets that we come together in a tangible way by providing some extra layers,” said Timothy Joyce, Executive Director of CHIP. “These simple provisions during severe weather are a lifeline.”

The public is asked to donate warm clothing as well as the following:

- Blankets
- Coats, hats and gloves
- Hand warmers
- Water
- 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.

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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.