

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 and other supplies to help individuals experiencing homelessness survive during the winter season. You can make a donation at Wheeler Mission, 245 N. Delaware St. and specify it for the 2014-2015 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.

“Outreach teams consistently check on neighbors who are living on the streets year round, but are especially diligent during these harsh months,” said Christy Shepard, CHIP executive director. “During the holiday season, many people’s hearts and minds turn toward giving and this is a tangible and meaningful way to do so. These supplies often bring encouragement and hope to a desperate situation.”

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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CHIP mobilizes, advocates, and empowers community collaboration towards ending homelessness and fosters an effective system of homelessness prevention and intervention in the greater Indianapolis area. We believe that successful efforts towards ending homelessness require the collective talents, resources and commitment of the entire Indianapolis community. No one group or individual has the ability to address these issues alone. As an intermediary, we work to create a systemic and effective approach towards ending homelessness.