MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE
MOVING TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

NEWS RELEASE
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Salem Warming Provides Emergency Weather Shelters with Free Transportation

When freezing temperatures are predicted, Salem-area shelters will activate

SALEM, Ore. 09 Dec., 2021—People experiencing homelessness, who need shelter in freezing temperatures, will now be able to find a warm, dry place thanks to the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency's Salem Warming program.

Warming centers open between November 1 and March 31, when the temperature reaches 32 degrees or lower. Aiming to spread holiday cheer and hope to people in need, Seed of Faith will open its doors to people experiencing homelessness every night regardless of the temperature beginning December 13 for its "12 days of Activation" program in addition to the regular warming center schedule (see below). For volunteer opportunities, visit www.arches.volunteerhub.com.

Salem Warming is a collaborative network that coordinates with local organizations to provide low-barrier shelter spaces, meaning the shelters are co-ed, open to families and individuals, allow service animals and pets, and do not turn away anyone as long as there is available space.

"We are grateful to have such a strong partnership with Community Action, and the countless advocates supporting people experiencing homelessness in the Marion-Polk region that make these shelters and services available," said Janet Carlson, board administrator for the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance. "Salem Warming eliminated obstacles such as background checks or identification requirements that might otherwise keep individuals from seeking a safe and comfortable shelter."

When activated, the following shelters are open between 7 p.m. and 6:45 a.m., provide between 36 and 40 beds each, have pet crates and leashes, and offer guests snacks, as well as coffee and tea.

Salem First Presbyterian, located at 770 Chemeketa Street NE, Salem, Oregon

97301. Activates at 32 degrees.

South Salem Friends Church, located at 140 Baxter Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306. Activates at 35 degrees.

Seed of Faith Outreach Ministries, located at 853 Medical Drive Dr. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Activates at 35 degrees.

Free shuttle service to these three area shelters, provided by the ARCHES staff, begins at 6 p.m. and runs until 9:30 p.m. The shuttle will drop off people at any of the activated shelters. A hotline number, 971-304-9211, has been established for those unable to make it to a pick-up site.

The shuttle transportation pick-up schedule is as follows:

ARCHES*: 6 p.m.
ARCHES: 6:30 p.m.
Big Lots: Located on Lancaster: 7:00 p.m.
ARCHES at 7:30 p.m.
Subway: 13th and State: 8:00 p.m.
ARCHES: 8:30 p.m.
Wallace Marine Park: 9:00 p.m.
ARCHES: 9:30 p.m.
**The* ARCHES *Project is located at 15 Commercial St NE, Salem, OR 97301*

For additional information on the Salem Warming program and volunteer opportunities, visit Salem Warming at www.salemwarming.weebly.com.

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About Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance serves as the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Oregon's Marion-Polk regions, seeking to end homelessness by providing community-wide planning, resources and coordination of programs for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Through collaborative efforts of local and tribal governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations and other participating stakeholders, the CoC uses an evidence-based system of services to address homelessness, including providing stable housing solutions, designed to meet the unique and complex needs of homeless adults, youth, children and families. For more information, visit www.mwvhomelessalliance.org.