

Warming Center Community Volunteer Opportunity

While the Ulster County Warming Center is fully funded and staffed with two individuals and a security person, there are still many ways for community members to come alongside the program to support and assist in various areas.

It is our hope that individuals, groups of friends and faith communities will be willing to step up to provide volunteer support to the Warming Center throughout the months of operation.

The Warming Center will be declared open when temperatures are projected to fall below 32 degrees overnight. On such nights that the Center will be open from 7pm to 7am, and dinner and breakfast will be provided for Warming Center guests. In the past, the Warming Center has also opened during the day when the temperature is projected to remain below 32 degrees. Generally speaking and depending on temperatures, the Warming Center begins to open sometime during October and closes up sometime in April.

Opportunities for Support:

- **Sign up ahead of time to volunteer.** Volunteers are encouraged to sign up multiple times October through April. Whenever possible, it is to our advantage to have groups sign up for a consistent time slot (for example, faith community x signs up to have volunteers for each Friday evening or for the first Monday of every month). **QUESTION: should the same group be expected to provide both evening and morning volunteers or could those be staffed by different groups??**
- If the Center is open the night you are scheduled to volunteer, you are agreeing to:
 - Provide dinner for 10-15 people (in the event of extreme cold for long periods and/or a particularly cold evening, numbers might rise, and staff will need to communicate an increase in provisions)
 - Help serve, clean up and be present for the first hour (7:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Arrive by 6:30am to provide breakfast for 10-15 people, help serve the meal and then clean up.
 - If volunteering on laundry day, take used bedding, wash and return ready to go by 7pm that evening (in case the center is open). **QUESTION: How did the warming center manage bedding in the past? Did they contract with a laundering company? Is laundry day every day or just once a week? What is DOH protocol for something like this?**
 - Check in with the staff to see if there is any additional assistance that they might need.

Guidelines for meal provision:

Volunteers can choose whether to purchase, solicit donations, or make and bring breakfast and dinner. It will be important to check in with the staff to let them know what you are thinking so we don't serve pizza five days in a row.

Dinner would include: entrée, coffee, and either juice or soda.

Breakfast: entrée, coffee, milk and OJ

Ideally, 3-5 people are plenty for each shift (evening and morning). It is not expected that the volunteers stay overnight; this is the staff's job.

Google Calendar will be used to organize volunteers.