

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA)

The Salvation Army

Livingston County Churches

Severe Weather Network Steering Committee

Diane Duncan, Chairperson
(First Presbyterian Church of Brighton)

Mike Barrett, Vice Chairperson
(First United Methodist Church of Brighton)

Laura Castner, Clerk

Pastor D.J. Reed, Chilson Hills Church

Pastor Chad Gibbons, Centerpointe Church (Howell)

Major Prezza Morrison, The Salvation Army

Pastor Scott Phillips, First Presbyterian Church of
Brighton

Erin Tiano, OLHSA Associate Director for Housing

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Diane Duncan at

810-533-1475 or

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The Severe Weather Network



Supporting the Severe Weather Center



A collaborative effort amongst non-profit agencies, churches, and the community to provide emergency, overnight refuge during the winter months to adult individuals within Livingston County affected by homelessness, with the additional goal to assist them with transitioning into sustainable housing.

Homelessness in Livingston County

Homelessness is defined as

individuals living outside, in tents or cars, as well as individuals not able to maintain their housing situation and are forced to stay with friends, and/or extended family members.

In the year 2016, there were **1,003** documented occurrences of homeless individuals in Livingston County, including 51 homeless veterans, and 445 homeless students.

On any given day, there are approximately **100 homeless individuals** in Livingston County, which has no designated emergency shelter and a lack of affordable housing.

The Severe Weather Network Mission Statement

The Severe Weather Network, a collaborative effort with the Salvation Army, the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA) and local churches, partners with community organizations, agencies and faith communities in an attempt to provide emergency, overnight refuge on life threatening nights during the winter months for individuals affected by homelessness and to connect homeless individuals with community action agencies committed to providing the services necessary to assist individuals with the transition into affordable housing.



THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

2016 Severe Weather Network Statistics

21 homeless guests were provided overnight refuge during a 6-week period

11 homeless guests transitioned into stable housing

A total cost saving of **\$12,232** to Livingston County agencies

2017 Severe Weather Network Statistics

15 homeless guests provided overnight refuge during a 14-week period

3 homeless guests were transitioned into stable housing

6 homeless guests acquired housing with no assistance provided

7 homeless guests received Housing Choice Vouchers

A total cost saving of **\$14,000** to Livingston County agencies

2018 SEVERE WEATHER NETWORK OPERATION

The 2018 Severe Weather Network (SWN) operates a nightly Severe Weather Center (SWC) located at an assigned Severe Weather Network Host Church site, from January 7 through March 31. The Severe Weather Center hours of operation are 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The Severe Weather Center location changes each month. Partner churches typically provide, for a one week period of time, 7-10 nightly volunteers to operate the SWC. Volunteer duties include the following:

- **Registration/Intake Desk**
- **Meal Preparation (Prepared off-site)**
- **Meal Service**
- **Transportation**
- **Overnight Hosts – 2 Male/2 Female dependent on guest gender at facility**
- **On Call Laundry Volunteers**

Church leaders should plan on recruiting a minimum of 7 volunteers each night.



GUEST REFERRAL TO THE SEVERE WEATHER CENTER

Homeless individuals are made aware of the SWN mainly through the Salvation Army, Love INC and DLHSA. Regardless of how each individual is referred to the SWC, each potential guest is required to participate in the DLHSA Intake Process to determine their eligibility.

Potential guests are notified by DLHSA intake staff in advance of the SWC Rules and **Zero Tolerance Policy for intoxication, drugs, alcohol and weapons**. Those who are not eligible to access the SWC facility are encouraged to reach out to family or friends, other refugees, or as a last resort, may be provided a motel voucher.

Emergency Walk-In Guests are escorted to the SWC by local law enforcement in the event they are found to be in need of the immediate services offered by the SWC with the understanding they will contact DLHSA to participate in the intake process prior to returning to the SWC.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Volunteers who will be working directly with guests at the Severe Weather Center are provided, through the required Severe Weather Network Training Session, the necessary tools needed to insure the safety and comfort of all persons within the Severe Weather Center.



Supporting the Severe Weather Center

- **Become a Host Church**
- **Become a Partner Church**
- **Coordinate a SWC Supply Drive**
- **Tell your pastors, committee chairs, and company leaders about us!**
- **Refer Homeless Individuals to DLHSA**