FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SEVERE WEATHER NETWORK LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOMELESS CENTER TO KICK OFF HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH WITH TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER**

November is Homeless Awareness Month and for many local residents, they are surprised to learn that Livingston County has a homeless population. Diane Duncan, Chairperson for the Severe Weather Network Board of Directors states, “There is a significant number of homeless adult men and women in our county, many of whom are over the age of 65. You will not see these individuals sleeping on our streets, under our highway passes or in our store fronts as you may see in neighboring counties. Where you will see these individuals is in their cars at the Park n Ride lots or the parking lots of 24 hour shopping establishments. Some may camp at the local campgrounds. Some may simply wander through the day and night dodging in and out of stores or spending time in our libraries.” Livingston County does NOT HAVE a county run homeless shelter? The only means of shelter for homeless adult men and women through government and local service agencies is a motel voucher program which offers a very limited number of motel shelter nights per individual. The funding for these programs is very limited with dollars being depleted in early January each year. Five years ago the local churches and nonprofit service agencies saw the significant need of our homeless population and collaboratively formed the Severe Weather Network. Now a 501©(3) nonprofit organization, the Severe Weather Network provides a warm, safe refuge for Livingston County’s homeless men and women during the cold, winter months. Operating from a leased building site during the months of December through mid-April, the Severe Weather Center provides a nurturing environment where guests feel welcome and are treated with the utmost of dignity and respect. Complimentary transportation is provided to all guests through Severe Weather Network contracted vendors. Guests are served a hot dinner, a continental breakfast, have access to on site showering facilities and off site laundry facilities.

In addition to providing refuge, the Severe Weather Network works collaboratively with local non-profit agencies connecting each guest to those agencies that are best equipped to assist and support them in their transition to affordable housing. In many cases, the Severe Weather Network supports guests financially that are transitioning into employment and permanent housing through the payment of security deposits, gas cards, a career wardrobe etc.

The Severe Weather Network operates solely on donations and grants.  Transportation and lease payments are the greatest expenditures totaling over $23,000 per season. The homeless center is staffed by trained community volunteers under the direction of a part time Program Coordinator.

Community support is critical to the efforts of the SWN in providing a safe refuge for homeless adult men and women this upcoming winter season. The Severe Weather Network Trivia Night Fundraiser is November 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Brighton. Tickets cost $20.00 in advance or $25.00 at the door. Purchase tickets online at [www.livingstonswn.org](http://www.livingstonswn.org) or by check made payable to the Severe Weather Network and mailed to Severe Weather Network, 214 E. Brooks Street, Suite 1, Howell, MI 48843. Corporate sponsorships are also available. For more information, please contact Diane Duncan via email at [livingstonswn@gmail.com](mailto:livingstonswn@gmail.com) or by calling 810-534-7625.