



Dear SWC Volunteer Team,

Given the recommended protocols of the CDC for homeless shelters and our facility limitations given these protocols, it is with a very heavy heart that I announce the SWN Executive Board voted unanimously to close the Severe Weather Center for the season effective Tuesday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. This decision was based solely on the safety of our guests, staff and volunteers. The Board believes our guests will be safer individually sheltered in a motel rather than at the SWC.

The Board has worked collaboratively with OLHSA to insure our guests will be safely sheltered in a motel room for what we hope, given the fact we are dealing with a National Emergency, will be a number of weeks. The SWC guests have been provided personal care items, food items, laundry supplies, an Empowerment Coat (a winter coat that converts to a sleeping bag) and a bin to transport their personal belongings to the motel. In addition, we have scheduled transportation for all guests from the SWC to the motel. We have also coordinated with the Hunger Council to insure our guests are provided food throughout their motel stay.

Today has been incredibly difficult for the Board, staff and guests. The end of every SWN season is difficult having to say goodbye to our friends. Today was no exception especially given the circumstances. Please pray for the safety of our guests as they are very anxious and scared about next steps and what life will be like for them in the coming weeks and months. Please pray for God to help us to be His light in the midst of this darkness.

On behalf of the SWN Board of Directors, SWC guests and SWC staff, thank you for all you have done to support our ministry and mission. We are so grateful for your dedication to ensure the homeless men and women of our community have been cared for and embraced during this season.

With sincerest appreciation and gratitude,

Diane Duncan

Chairperson

Severe Weather Network Livingston County