

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Howell Eagle Riders, a chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagle, is partnering with the Severe Weather Network Livingston County to raise funding to cover the cost for sheltering homeless adult men and women and to promote local awareness of the barriers homeless individuals face on a consistent basis within Livingston County.

The Fraternal Order of Eagle (F.O.E) was founded in 1898 and currently has over 650,000 members. The F.O.E. with the motto, "People helping People" is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. The F.O.E. donates more than \$10 million a year to local communities through fundraisers, charities and more. As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants. A few noteworthy F.O.E. members past and present include: Theodore and Eleanor Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Gordi Rowe, Tony Stewart, Billy Ray Cyrus and Lee Greenwood.

The Howell Eagle Riders is a group inside the Howell F.O.E chartered in 2010. The Riders hold events and have activities to raise money throughout the year to support local charities and families. Some of the charities supported over the years include the Howell Nature Center, Gleaners, Crossroads Church, Bennett's Beavers, Fisher House, Foundation 14 and the Severe Weather Network Livingston County. One of the most popular fundraising events are the Howell Eagle Riders Slider Nights occurring the first Wednesday of the month where Eagle Riders members serve up amazing sandwich sliders. For more information on the Howell Eagle Riders visit the website at <https://3607.mifoe.com> and Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/howell.eagles>

The Howell Eagle Riders began supporting the efforts of the Severe Weather Network Livingston County in 2019. Most recently the organization donated \$4,000 to secure 80 nights of emergency shelter for the Severe Weather Network 2021 season. Diane Duncan, Co-chairperson for the Severe Weather Network states, "The SWN Board of Directors, staff and program guests are most grateful for the generosity, support and kindness the Eagle Riders have bestowed upon our organization. We recognize the fact both organizations play a key role in helping our fellow community members in need. We are excited to partner with the Eagle Riders on future fundraising endeavors that will ultimately, benefit men, women and families within Livingston County."

The Severe Weather Network Livingston County, a nonprofit organization, has been providing seasonal emergency sheltering services to homeless adult men and women since 2015. Currently, operating from a local hotel due to a pandemic pivot from a congregate shelter to leasing individual hotel rooms, the organization has been limited to 10 hotel rooms per night due to budget constraints. The organization has been booked to capacity for the majority of

this season having served 25 guests to date. The SWN organization is operated through grant funding and community donations. Funds donated to the program are utilized for the following: operational and administrative costs, guest laundry, guest rental security deposits, guest renters insurance, guest automotive repairs, and LETS transportation costs for guest travel to and from service agency appointments, work, and medical appointments. The Severe Weather Network Program Coordinator, Pamela Mitchell plays a key role in case management connecting guests with local human services agencies and helps to ensure each guest is taking initiatives to improve their situation and following through on all steps necessary towards securing sustainable housing. The Severe Weather Network provides sheltering from December 1 through April 30. Homeless adult men and women seeking shelter may contact the Severe Weather Network at 810-534-7625 to check availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.