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TO: WHMI NEWS

FROM: The Severe Weather Network Livingston County Homeless Shelter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVERE WEATHER NETWORK LIVINGSTON COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR/ HOMELESS SHELTER OPENS NOVEMBER 1/ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISING EVENT KICKS OFF HOMELESS AWARENESS MONTH

The Severe Weather Network Livingston County, a 501©(3) nonprofit organization providing a warm, safe refuge for Livingston County’s homeless men and women during the cold, winter months welcomes Erik Savig as the new Program Director.   Diane Duncan, Co-chairperson states, “Erik has experience as both a Pastor and Community Outreach Coordinator serving low-income families, fighting food-deserts, and creating bridges between communities of different backgrounds and incomes. The Board of Directors is confident Erik will be instrumental in the management of the Severe Weather Homeless Center, as well as the planning and implementation of the Board’s long term goal which is to offer homeless individuals a permanent, year round option for congregate sheltering in Livingston County.”

The Severe Weather Center will pivot back from a motel sheltering model to a congregate shelter operating from a leased space at the Chilson Hills Church. Doors will open November 1, one month earlier than in years passed. Strict Covid19 protocols will be in place to ensure everyone’s safety. Currently, the shelter is scheduled to be open through April 30 with the option to extend sheltering services should funding permit.

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.

Community financial support and volunteers are critical to the efforts of the Severe Weather Network. The Severe Weather Network will kick off Homeless Awareness Month with the second annual Trivia Night Fundraiser on Saturday, November 6, 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Brighton. Tickets are limited and cost is $35.00. Dinner provided by Whisk and Ivy. 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 additional information on sheltering services or to register as a volunteer, please visit the website or contact Erik Savig via email at swndirector1@gmail.com or by calling 810-534-7625.