

# Winter Freeze Shelter Ministry

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# NEWSLETTER



Volunteers from Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling make up beds at the Hazel-Atlas building ahead of the Dec. 15 opening of the Youth Services System Winter Freeze Shelter. Without volunteers, the Winter Freeze Shelter would not be possible.

## Preparations are underway at Hazel-Atlas

*By John Moses, CEO  
Youth Services System Inc.*

On Dec. 15, the Winter Freeze Shelter will welcome its guests for the first of 90 consecutive nights, including Christmas eve and New Year's eve. It is a privilege to serve them.

We feed them, listen to them, laugh with them, cry with them, suffer with them, give them a bed for the night, and point them toward hope and healing.

This is the 10th year we have offered this service in our community. We have welcomed more than 1,000 people during that time. Their needs are many; their distress palpable.

Our efforts to give comfort, to respond to needs, to provide solutions, to give hope, depend on the generosity of our neighbors in the Ohio Valley community — and they have never failed to deliver.

So many individuals, churches, schools, businesses — and best of all, youngsters — have shown their compassion through donations in the form of food, clothing, toothpaste, razors, blankets, sheets, hand warmers, coffee or a listening ear.

The one universal message I hear from our donors is “We’ve been blessed and want to give back.”

Pema Chodron, a Buddhist monk, said: “Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It’s a relationship between equals.”

Neighbors helping neighbors: It’s what we do; it’s what our donors do; it’s what we do together.

## Word Gets Around



Above left, Betsy Bethel-McFarland, YSS’ new communications manager, is interviewed by WTRF’s Taylor Long about donations the station made to the freeze shelter. Tammy Kruse, director of development, also did a WTRF interview and a Facebook live with Taylor Long to publicize the need for donations. Above, Rick Davis, Winter Freeze Shelter volunteer, talks to the Wheeling Kiwanis Club about the importance of showing our shelter guests they are valued. The Kiwanis Club held their November meeting at YSS on Thursday, Nov. 29.





If you wish to send a cash donation, you may mail it to **Youth Services System, Inc., Winter Freeze, P.O. Box 6041, Wheeling, WV 26003**. Please make checks payable to **Youth Services System, Inc.**

For questions, to arrange a drop-off, or to volunteer, contact **Holly Fox, hfox@ysswv.com, 304-218-2847**.

### Save the Date: Soup Social

A warm thank-you for our Winter Freeze Shelter volunteers and donors  
5:30 p.m. March 19, 2019  
River City Restaurant, Wheeling

# What We Need

## Volunteers

- To stay with our guests throughout the evening till morning.
- To change bedding daily

## Clothing

- T-Shirts — all sizes but especially XL, XXL, XXXL
- Sweat shirts — all sizes but especially XL, XXL, XXXL
- Long sleeve shirts — all sizes but especially XL, XXL, XXXL
- Jeans
- Sweat Pants
- Thermal underwear or long johns
- Socks
- Shoes – Work boots are best in the snow
- Toboggans
- Gloves
- Belts
- Packages of new undergarments
- Rain Parkas
- Scarves
- Hoodies
- Coats (not dress coats) — down types for warmth

## Food Supplies

- Cans of coffee
- Jelly
- Sugar
- Pull-top cans of food
- Creamer
- Beef jerky
- Sweetener
- Bottled water
- Peanut butter
- Gatorade
- Fruit juice
- Snack packs

## Money Donations

- Purchase undergarments we don't have.
- Purchase of footwear we don't have
- Prescriptions
- Bus tickets to reunite with family/friends
- Fees for birth certificates, state IDs
- Stamps/Envelopes/Writing paper
- Cell phones
- Bus passes

## Food Serving Supplies

- Styrofoam cups, plates, bowls
- Napkins
- Paper towels
- Plastic ware
- Zip Lock — Sandwich Bags  
Gallon Size  
Quart Size

## Hygiene Supplies

- Toothbrushes
- Towels
- Toothpaste
- Wash cloths
- Tissues
- Combs
- Baby wipes
- Brushes
- Shampoo
- Toilet tissue
- Soap
- Lip balm
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Floss
- Cotton swabs
- Fingernail clippers
- Foot powder
- Body lotion
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen
- Listerine (also an antiseptic)

## Other Supplies

- Aspirin/Tylenol
- Can openers
- Band-aids
- Reading glasses
- Antibacterial creams
- Backpacks
- Sleeping bags
- Religious articles
- Tents
- Sewing kits
- Laundry soap
- Flash lights
- Pillows
- Batteries
- Cheap watches
- Garbage bags
- Bug repellent
- Tarps
- Duct tape

\* There's much involved in this project. We want to provide both a safe and comforting shelter as possible. At the same time we want to have hospitality as a sign of welcome. We refer to our brothers and sisters as "guests" not homeless. The face of Christ can be found in all of us; easy to forget with those less fortunate.

**THANK YOU!**

# The Community Responds



Mary Kay and John Wensyel, representing the Wheeling Lions Club, delivered a myriad of personal hygiene and other items for the Winter Freeze Shelter on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Thank you for your help, Wheeling Lions Club!



YSS CEO John Moses, left, and board member Ed Corbitt unload an SUV full of clothing and household items for the Winter Freeze Shelter and Sophie Moses Free Store. Corbitt delivered the goods in mid-November, donated by a neighbor who was cleaning out her house. We appreciate our devoted board members!



Local musician and West Virginia Northern Community College business student Matt Van Fossen braved the elements and used his talents to draw in donations during a Concert in the Courtyard at WVNCC on Monday, Dec. 3. He brought the idea to Sara Wood, student activities director, pictured at left with Matt and some of the items donated. She arranged with the WVNCC bookstore to give away free hot chocolate and the Ideal Provisions food truck to be on hand for the lunchtime revelers. Despite the wind, cold, and rain, it was a heartwarming display!

West Liberty University Athletics teamed up with Parea Insurance Centers to hold a collection drive during the WLU women's basketball game against Shepherd on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

A flyer for a fundraiser. At the top, it says "YOUTH SERVICES SYSTEM, INC. FREEZE SHELTER FUNDRAISER". Below that, it lists a "WISH LIST OF DONATED ITEMS INCLUDE:" followed by items like gloves, socks, hats, body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, coffee, paper plates, napkins, disposable cups, and thin blankets. It also mentions that cash donations will be accepted for the women's basketball program. At the bottom, it says "WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH VS. SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY 5:30PM ASRC / WEST LIBERTY, WV." and features a photo of basketball players.

## CHRISTMAS REVUE TO BENEFIT FREEZE SHELTER

A group of local musicians called the Bridge + Tunnel Collective is staging its second annual Christmas concert at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre in Wheeling at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, with proceeds benefiting the Winter Freeze Shelter. They also will collect donations at the concert. Musicians set to perform include **Matt Heusel, Michael Iafrate, Sean Decker, Adrian Niles, Matt Smith, and Ananga Martin**, among others. Tickets are on sale through Oglebay Institute's website, [www.oionline.com](http://www.oionline.com), or at the door.





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## OUR MISSION

To create better  
futures for  
children,  
families, and our  
community.

## Thank You

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