



1247 4th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403 | willisdady.org
319-362-7555 main | 319-362-7540 fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alicia Faust, Support Services Manager 319-651-8545

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA – Donations and volunteers still are needed for the Community Winter Overflow Shelter, which opened Nov. 15.

“Thanks to an amazing outpouring from our community, we no longer need sheets and blankets, but we do need cots,” said Alicia Faust, Support Services Manager at Willis Dady Homeless Services, the agency that staffs the overflow shelter. “And there is ongoing need for basic necessities such as toilet paper, paper towels and extra-large trash bags.”

The shelter, which is a collaboration among seven agencies, needs help in the following areas:

- Portable cots that can be folded and stored away.
- New or gently used (but unstained) pillows and pillow cases.
- Housekeeping supplies such as toilet paper, paper towels and extra-large trash bags.
- Disposable coffee cups.
- Bus tickets to help clients go to and from the overflow. Because the shelter is located outside downtown, the cost of bus tickets averages \$33 per day.
- Monetary donations.
- Volunteers to work overnight shift, do laundry and perform general cleaning.

“We would love anyone who wants to help with laundry,” Faust said. “With an average of 40 clients per night, that translates into a lot of sheets and pillow cases to be washed, dried and folded.”

Volunteers interested in helping with laundry, cleaning or working overnight should call Willis Dady at 319-362-7555.

In its first month, the overflow shelter has served 187 unique individuals, with 51 people the largest number on any single night.

Now in its third year of operation, the Community Winter Overflow Shelter is a collaborative effort among the following agencies: Catholic Worker House, Catherine McAuley Center, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Linn County, Neighborhood Transportation Services, Waypoint Services and Willis Dady Homeless Services. The shelter will remain open every night until March 15, 2018.

Because the shelter is not staffed during the day, donors are asked to schedule a time to drop off their donations. To schedule a donation drop-off, or for more information, please contact Alicia Faust at 319-651-8545.

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