



604 C Street ~ Eureka, CA 95501
www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/police

Todd Jarvis
Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2023

Subject: Extreme Weather Overnight Warming Centers

The City of Eureka in collaboration with the Eureka faith-based community will be opening a low barrier, Extreme Weather Overnight Warming Center at Lifehouse Church to ensure those most vulnerable in our community have a warm place to be during inclement weather. Inclement weather can include times of high winds, significant rain, and freezing temperatures. UPLIFT Eureka, Crisis Alternative Response of Eureka (CARE), Eureka Police Department Community Safety Engagement Team (CSET), along with other community partners, will be conducting outreach within the community to directly connect individuals to the warming center. When open, the warming center will operate between 6pm to 7am, be staffed by members of the faith-based community, and supported by UPLIFT Eureka, CARE, and EPD CSET personnel.

According to Eureka City Manager Miles Slattery:

I want to thank Lifehouse Church for their tremendous compassion and generous offer of support for our community. Once solicited by Chief Jarvis for a request of assistance, it was only a matter of hours before receiving a response. I'd like to not only thank the Lifehouse Church, but all of our faith-based community as we have received offers of assistance from other churches and look forward to working with them to continue supporting those most vulnerable within our community.

Lifehouse Church Senior Pastor Willy Bowles said:

Lifehouse Church is excited to be partnering with the City of Eureka in providing an extreme weather overnight warming center. We have already had many volunteers sign up to help, and we know many more will help us in this endeavor. Thank you to Eureka Police Chief Jarvis and Commander La France for all their hard work. Also, thank you to Pastor Andy Broese Van Groenou of Harvest Church in Eureka. Your kindness and care for the community are always an inspiration. Lastly, thank you to the City of Eureka for all of their hard work as well. We have a GREAT community here in Humboldt.

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When asked if we would consider being a warming center, my answer was an immediate "yes." I had questions about logistics, volunteers, finances, and I knew I had a church board that needed to approve this before it could go forward. However, I said "yes" anyway. Part of the reason I could say "yes" was because of the men and women on our board. I know their hearts, and I know their love for people and our community. When I approached them with this request, like me, they gave an immediate "yes." Opening up our building to be a safe place for men, women, and children to come in times of severe weather is a no-brainer. Nobody should ever freeze to death in Humboldt County. That is simply not acceptable. We are excited to be able to do something practical and hands-on. Opening our doors for people to sleep in a safe, warm environment will make a difference in people's lives. If this isn't the work of Jesus, then I don't know anything that is.

For any questions or information, please contact EPD Commander La France at 707.441.4232.

Media Release Prepared by: Commander La France

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