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Agency hopes to add 2nd homeless night shelter

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Author: Shelley Widhalm Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

Churches involved with 137 Connection

All Saints Episcopal Church, Christ Church of the Rockies, First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, Grace Community Church, King of Glory Lutheran Church, Life Spring Covenant Church, New Freedom Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity United Methodist Church.

Angel House's involved churches

All Saints Episcopal Church, Beggars Gate, Berthoud United Methodist Church, Faith Evangelical Church, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Berthoud, First United Methodist Church, First United Presbyterian Church, Grace Community Church, King of Glory Lutheran Church, Lifespring Covenant Church, Namaqua Unitarian Universalist, Zion Lutheran Church.

Two agencies that serve Loveland's homeless population have a list of needs they want to meet as they approach the winter season.

The 137 Homeless Connection, a combined day center and cold-weather night shelter for homeless individuals, and the Angel House, a year-round shelter for homeless families, are preparing for an increase of individuals and families needing temporary shelter starting next month. Both are programs of the House of Neighborly Service in Loveland.

"We are gearing up for the winter season and serving homeless families and individuals," said Glorie Magrum, executive director of the House of Neighborly Service.

The 137 Connection, 137 S. Lincoln Ave., provides a night shelter for homeless individuals from November to March when temperatures fall below 20 degrees.

As many as 30 adults are transported from the day center, which offers advocacy, referrals and case management services, to 10 partner churches in Loveland that provide a place to sleep and oftentimes a meal. The van is furnished by First Baptist Church, one of the partner churches.

137 Connection

This year, the shelter is opening Sunday, Nov. 16. To be able to stay in the shelter, homeless individuals, or clients, are required to do four hours of community service a week, double the requirement from last year when the 137 Connection implemented the program.

The program addressed an increase in client numbers, when last year more than 30 clients requested sheltering 50 nights during the season, said Doug Ashbaugh, homeless program manager of the 137 Connection. The shelter experienced more than 30 clients on a given night for the first time last year, he said.

"We had to turn people away," Ashbaugh said, explaining that on many days, the day center staff and volunteers had to tell homeless individuals calling the shelter that it was full. "We're turning them away before they even come."

The night shelter could have served another 100 individuals for the 2013-14 winter season on top of the 106 individuals who stayed in the churches, Ashbaugh said. That compares with 86 individuals the year before, he said.

In calendar year 2013, the day center served 221 clients, compared with 151 in 2012. Approximately 90 percent of the clients are residents of Larimer County and 80 percent are men.

"To protect our clients, we need to do this community service. They need to give back to the community to show that they are part of this community," Ashbaugh said. "We want to serve our local clients first."

To help the night shelter operate, the 137 connection has a list of needs, including:

- Prepared and delivered meals to the partner churches; half of the churches already provide the meals but half don't.

- A storage shed to place in the back of the day shelter that will house gardening tools, building supplies and the clients' bicycles

Angel House

The Angel House, 1511 E. 11th St., Suite 200, provides shelter up to 90 days, food, family advocacy and mentoring for temporarily homeless families with children. They shelter is held in 13 local churches, which provide separated areas to sleep and meals, and can house up to four families, or 17 individuals, at one time.

The Angel House's list of needs includes:

- A replacement courtesy van that provides clients with transportation to and from the partner churches, because the current one is in ill repair. The van ideally would hold 15 passengers and have low mileage.

- Gas cards and donated maintenance and repairs when needed.

- Cribs/porta-cribs, new or in good condition.

- Inflatable mattresses that would be stored at the partner

churches, instead of the folding cots currently in use that need to be transported each week, causing wear and tear.

• Volunteers to help in the day center with front desk duties. There currently are no volunteers.

Contact Reporter-Herald Staff Writer Shelley Widhalm at 970-669-5050 or swidhalm@reporter-herald.com. Follow her at twitter.com/ShelleyWidhalm.

Photo:

Ron Cunningham, left, a client of Angel House, holds his baby, 7-month-old Malachi Cunningham, as Malachi charms caseworker Becca Joy Magrum, right, and program manager Rebecca Brace, center, on Wednesday at the Angel House Day Center at the Life Center in Loveland. Volunteers are needed for the day center.

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