

=====
Who is homeless in Loveland?

Daily Reporter-Herald, The (Loveland, CO)-December 21, 2011
Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1340L)
Author: Glorie Magrum House of Neighborly Service

Winter temperatures falling into the teens and single digits is a concern for most people whether they are headed out to work, school, running errands or simply walking the family pet. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend an extended period of time out in these frigid temperatures? Not just hours, but days, even months? This is what a homeless person must deal with, even families with children, who have found themselves without a stable roof over their heads.

While the residents of our fair city have certainly made strides in the past few years to address the varied types of homelessness, it may surprise many that there are still hundreds of people who are considered homeless. Whether it is a youth sleeping on someone's couch, or a family with children who has lost everything, an individual sleeping under a bridge or a woman who has fled an abusive situation, these are the many faces of homelessness and they need our help. As we head into the winter season, I want to give you a snapshot view of the current homeless population in Loveland.

Based on history and the trends already recorded this year here are some predictions from agencies serving homeless people for the next four winter months: Interfaith Hospitality Network, an outreach to homeless families, anticipates bringing seven new families into their program; Loveland's Habitat for Humanity anticipates serving five families through their homeowner's program. Alternatives to Violence projects they will assist 230 individuals displaced due to domestic violence; House of Neighborly Service expects to shelter 200 families, who are temporarily without housing due to crises situations such as foreclosure or eviction and over 100 individuals through the 137 Homeless Connection day center and night shelter.

All of the agencies listed above are well-established programs to help people get back on their feet and out of homelessness. They are managed by people just like you who have a heart to help and the willingness to engage, and supported through the generosity of community support. There has never been a better time for you to get involved. Please consider making a personal contribution by volunteering your time or making a financial contribution to help those in this crises situation.

Glorie Magrum is the executive director of the House of Neighborly Service.

Section: Opinion

Record Number: 19596389 Copyright (c) 2011, Daily Reporter-Herald, The (Loveland, CO), All Rights Reserved.

http://docs.newsbank.com/s/InfoWeb/agqdocs/NewsBank/14D5DCF86CB363D0/0F3A552076B8B92E?p_multi=LLRB&s_lang=en-US