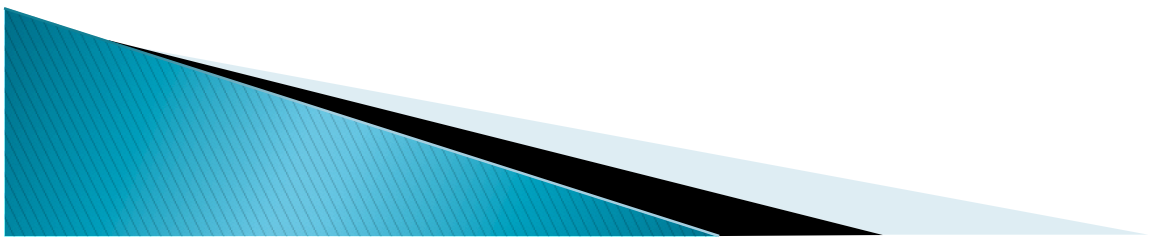
BREVARD COUNTY COLD NIGHT SHELTERS

History and Operations

History

- 1985 United Way of Brevard Planning Committee recommends a plan for coordinated services and maintain data on the homeless and hungry. (1985 Sentinel)

- 1985 Task Force on Hungry and Homeless
  - CNS Work Group: Pat Hanson, Keith Heinly, Judy Ivey, Roy McCormick, Rockledge Presbyterian Pastor, UCC Congregational Church Melbourne Pastor (1985 Sentinel)



Shelters in Brevard

- His Place Ministries
- 1842 South Harbor City Blvd
- Melbourne, FL 32901
- Tel: 321-674-9009
- Each night the temperature drops below 45 degrees, our doors open as South Brevard's only Cold Night Shelter for the homeless, and our Fellowship Hall turns into a bed and breakfast of sorts. The doors open at 8:00 P.M. where a dedicated group of *volunteers serve those in need. A hot meal is served, a warm place to sleep is provided, and God's love is extended in a variety of ways. Breakfast is served each morning, before the folks leave by 7:00, with many as early as 4:30 A.M., as they go to day labor to seek daily employment.

- Central Brevard Sharing Center
- 113 Aurora Street
- Cocoa, FL 32922
- Tel: 321-631-0306
- Shelter opens at 6:00 pm and closes the following day at 6:00 am. Meals will be served. When the temperature drops to 45 degrees or below we convert our community kitchen in to a Cold Night Shelter. Please call (321) 631-0306 Ext. 110 to see if the shelter is planning to be open. Doors open at 6:00 PM and space is limited. All are welcome.

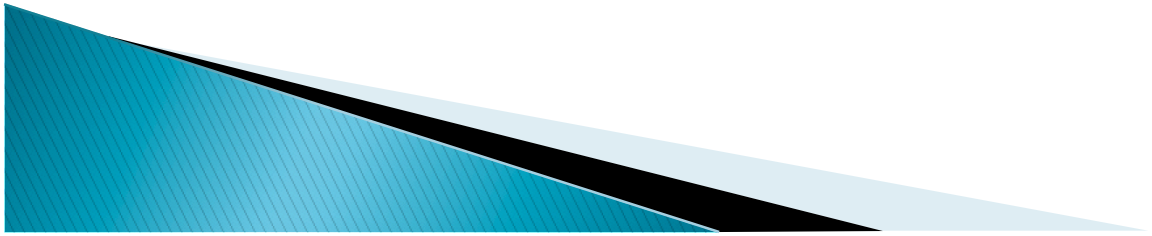
Shelters in Brevard

- Our Savior (Cold Night Ministries)
- 5301 N. Atlantic Avenue
- Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
- Tel: 321-544-1684
- Shelter opens at 5:30 pm and closes the following day at 7:00 am. Meals will be served. Cold Night Ministry opens whenever temps drop below 40° or when temps are in low 40's with wind chill or chance of rain. Cold night shelter is held in the parish center next to the gym.

- House of Hope
- 330 Magnolia Avenue
- Merritt Island, FL 32952
- Tel: 321-453-0318
- Shelter opens at 5:00 pm and closes the following day at 6:30 am. Meals will be served.

Operations

- Starting a Cold Night Shelter
  - Zoning Restrictions
  - Volunteer Insurance
  - Shelter Coordinator
  - Selective Volunteer Recruitment
    - Senior Volunteers
    - Shelter Volunteers
  - Sleeping Mats
  - Evening Meal and Morning Breakfast
  - Referral Services
  - Information Cards

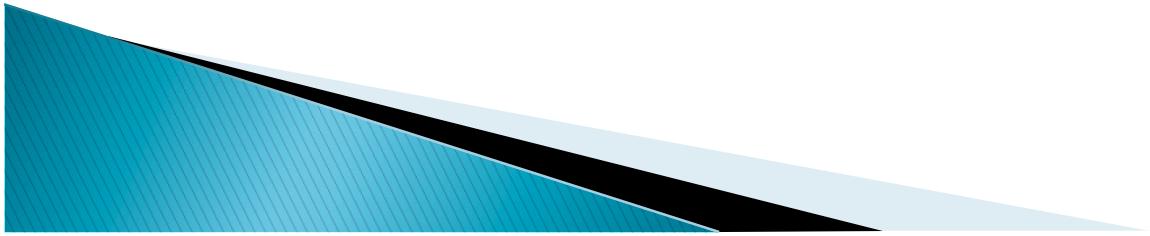


Operations

- Health and Safety
  - Responding to Crisis
  - Disaster Plan
  - Policies regarding drugs, alcohol, anti-social behaviors, weapons, departure/return, neighborhood.
- When to Open
  - Temperatures drop below ___ degrees.
  - Serious Storm?
  - Family Shelter?

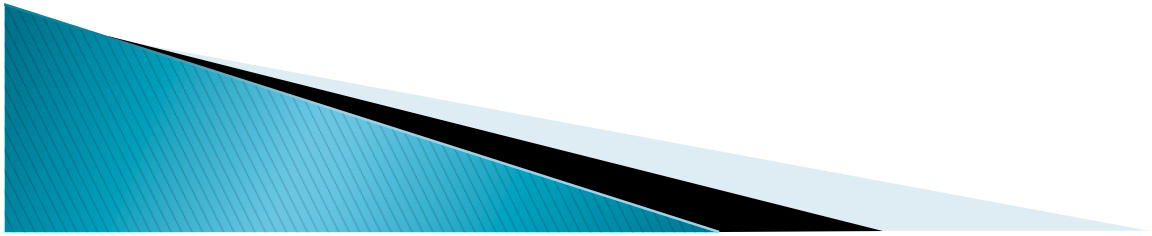
Shifts

- Evening
  - Starting times vary for each venue
  - Set up tables and chairs for meals
  - Put on urn/kettle for tea/coffee.
  - Begin meal preparation.
  - Check toilets area for cleanliness, soap, towels, etc.
  - The Coordinator will bring the whole team together to pass on any important notices and to introduce new faces. We will also make everybody aware of any incidents, problems or concerns.
  - Jobs will be allocated to volunteers, e.g. reception/serving drinks/food.
  - This is also a chance to ensure that all volunteers are aware of the rules, where the fire exits are, the names of their colleagues for the evening, and to link new volunteers with experienced volunteers.
  - Open doors, register guests and serve tea, coffee, hot chocolate.
  - Start mingling with the guests and offering companionship
  - Serve main meal
  - End of shift
  - Overnight Team come on duty and handover with Venue Coordinator
  - Doors closed
  - Lights out



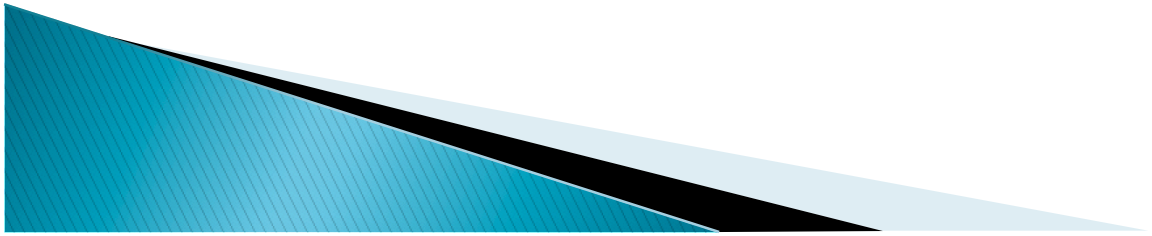
Shifts

- Overnight Shift
  - A minimum of two persons cover the overnight shift. They are vigilant through the night ensuring guests are safe. They hand over to the breakfast shift and may then leave or stay on to help with breakfast.
  - Switch the urn on
  - Wake up guests



Shifts

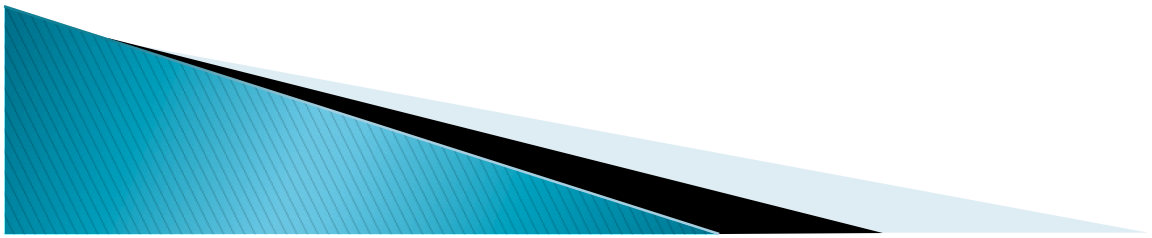
- Morning Shift
  - Arrive and begin breakfast preparation.
  - The guests are woken up, wash, etc.
  - Sleeping mats and blankets etc. folded and put away.
  - Breakfast is served.
  - Last teas & coffees served
  - Guests leave.
  - Ensure venue is left clean and tidy



Notifications

Brevard County Emergency Management

- eoc1@brevardcounty.us
- 321-637-6670



THANK YOU!

Keith Heinly
United Way of Brevard
321-635-8885