

Dear Friends of Bethlehem Emergency Shelter,

Thanks to our staff, our board, and our MANY dedicated volunteers and supporters, we at BES were able to provide safe shelter and meals for our street neighbors during the storm that was the 2020/2021 season. It was a challenging season with many ups and downs, but we learned much from the experience.

Our 2021/2022 shelter season has begun and we have made a number of changes to offer more support for our guests and more opportunities for our volunteers.

- Dinners will be offered from 5:30 to 7:30 in two shifts to eliminate the number of guests in the dining hall at each shift. Volunteers may again socialize with our guests.
- We will again offer showers to our guests.
- Guests will remain in their dorms while not attending their dinner shift or their scheduled shower shift.
- Volunteers will again help with guest registration.
- We can again offer volunteers between the ages of 16-18 an opportunity to serve in the kitchen.
- We will offer as many services as possible to help our guests stay healthy and work towards finding permanent housing.
- We now have one room that will be available to a family. We are working with other organizations to screen families and to help them find more permanent housing.
- We continue to offer a bagged lunch program on Saturdays and Sundays for anyone in the community who is experiencing food challenges.

You can help us offer these services by serving in one of the following roles:

- Registration Desk for returning guests
- Dinner Preparation
- Serving Dinner
- Breakfast Bag Preparation
- Kitchen Clean Up
- Light Cleanup of the Dining Area after all guests leave and in between dinner shifts
- Shower Monitors
- Preparing and distributing weekend lunches

Of course, Covid has not gone away and neither have our preparations to keep our guests, staff and volunteers safe. Last year, we relocated our guests to a larger and much-less crowded area. We installed disinfection systems in the hallways and vents which continue to control germs in the air. We also offered vaccinations to our guests and will continue to do so. All guests, staff and volunteers must wear masks in the shelter and all will be screened every evening upon arrival. And we continue to work closely with the City Health Department, the local hospital networks and other organizations to ensure that we are following current guidelines.

What else do we need from our volunteers and supporters? Your prayers for all who minister to the poor, hungry, and imprisoned. Your patience as we continue to refine guidelines for our guests and volunteers. And your willingness to serve an additional evening or two during the upcoming season. We still need you!

Of course, we also need your financial support to meet these challenges. Our costs for staff, cleaning

services, food and supplies increased last year and will remain at these levels for some time. Please visit our website, Facebook page or contact Bob Rapp if you would like to give.

Thank you and blessings,

Johanna Harris

Chair, BES Board of Directors