



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Warming Centers To Remain Open

Local governments and organizations continue to respond to those in need

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2019, Kalamazoo, Michigan – Local governments and organizations throughout Kalamazoo County continue to respond to help those in need during this extreme cold weather.

Three warming shelters remain open 24-hours and will remain open through at least Thursday of this week. The warming shelters are located at The Douglass Community Association at 1000 West Paterson Street and the First Baptist Church and the First Congregational Church in downtown Kalamazoo.

Approximately 120 people have been served at the three warming shelters since Tuesday. Last night officers from the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage Public Safety departments helped to staff the warming shelters.

The Portage Community Outreach Center located at 325 E. Centre will be open today from 9:00am to 5:00pm and have capacity for 50 drop ins. Contact Chris at 323-1942. Coffee will be served. The Center will be open on Thursday, January 31st from 9:00 am to 5:00pm as well.

Pets are allowed at the First Baptist Church and the First Congregational Church warming shelters, but not The Douglass Community Center. In the event someone is looking for emergency housing for their pet during the weather emergency here in Kalamazoo County, they are to contact Central Dispatch with their request **(269) 488-8911**. Central Dispatch will contact the Animal Services On-call Officer and provide their name and phone number for him/her to



call back. The officer will be able to assess the needs, number and species of animals, and explain that this is short term emergency housing. The officer will then make the arrangements to either meet them at the shelter, or pick up the animals from their location. Please note that this is short term housing and the animals will need to be picked up from Animal Services by Monday 2-4-19 at the latest.

Individuals needing transportation to a warming shelter may call (269) 501-3750 or call 2-1-1 for assistance.

Community members who wish to volunteer may stop in to any of the three warming shelters to help or contact the Red Cross.

Local government officials from throughout Kalamazoo County are continuing to work with the Red Cross, Loaves and Fishes, the Salvation Army, local churches, shelters and volunteers to ensure that everyone is safe during this extreme cold, and that no one has to sleep outside.

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