

**From:** [Brown, Vahid](#)  
**To:** [Laura Terway](#)  
**Cc:** [Swift, Richard](#); [Smith, Jill](#)  
**Subject:** Father's Heart and warming shelter  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6:15:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Laura,

Thank you for the short notice meeting this afternoon at the Father's Heart. I was not aware that coordination with Oregon City around our warming shelter planning had been inadequate and I apologize for our oversight. Looking forward, we will be seeking your guidance on the planning process to identify how we can work together to best meet the needs of unsheltered Oregon City residents seeking refuge from inclement winter weather.

With respect to the need, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on November 8<sup>th</sup> to declare an emergency with respect to houselessness in order to move expeditiously to address the needs for winter shelter (<http://www.clackamas.us/pressreleases/pr20171108a.html>). That decision was based on the following factors:

Last year, the County contracted with three warming shelter providers for a total capacity, in the event of severe winter weather, of 99 shelter beds, half of which was at the Father's Heart. Over the course of that winter, 547 people accessed our contracted shelters. The Oregon City Residential Care center offered an additional 16 beds. In coordination with Multnomah County, people seeking shelter in Clackamas County beyond our contracted capacity were transported to Portland and Gresham shelter sites; on some nights this exceeded 100 individuals. Unsheltered families seeking shelter were directed to the Human Solutions no turn-away family shelter in Portland; in a given year, that included more than 50 families. All told, we experienced an overall shelter need for nearly 1000 people.

Earlier this year, our second largest warming shelter provider, the Clackamas Service Center, experienced a fire and will not be operational this winter. Our third warming shelter, the Molalla Warming Center, has not yet secured a facility out of which to operate this year. The Human Solutions family shelter has found that it is beyond capacity and can no longer accept families from outside Multnomah County. Many of the sites we transported people to in Multnomah County last year will also not be running this year. We are thus at a serious deficit of resources for the provision of warming shelter, are expecting another bad winter, and have a County declaration of emergency to expedite our efforts to site new shelter for the coming cold nights.

When the OCRC was operating as an overflow shelter for the Father's Heart last winter, it received guests every night it was open. On other nights when it was not open, people seeking shelter at the Father's Heart beyond their capacity were transported to the Molalla Warming Center. In other words, the need in Oregon City consistently exceeded the available shelter beds at the Father's Heart on severe weather nights last winter.

On the same day that the County declared its emergency last week, a houseless woman residing in Oregon City within a few blocks of the Father's Heart died in a fire. Clackamas Fire has confirmed to me that this fire was due to warming activity – she and her partner, sleeping in a small tent, had left a candle burning to provide warmth. Clearly the cold weather, while not freezing, is already posing a life and health safety risk to Oregon City residents who lack housing.

As you and I discussed today, the County will seek to pursue a permanent solution via the planning process with your department. I have asked that a staff lead be identified for this work and will be briefing the staff tasked to this as early as tomorrow. I will seek with that staff lead to work closely with you on getting the conditional use process initiated as soon as possible. If we are able to identify other means by which we can move forward together with respect to the Father's Heart, we will of course welcome creative collaboration. Again, I am sorry that our coordination on this effort has been so late in coming, and I appreciate your help.

I look forward to discussing this further with you tomorrow.

All best,

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The Father's Heart Emergency Warming Shelter is open 6pm -7am the following morning on any night that is 32 degrees including wind chill factor. It would also be open as an Emergency Warming Shelter any day that our Day Center would not normally opened. Those days would be Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

We are located at 603 12<sup>th</sup> St., Oregon City in a Mixed-Use Corridor of Residential/Business. Our overnight maximum occupancy is 49. We are open for the warming and safety of single women, single men, women with children, families and elderly.

The Emergency Warming Shelter provides a heated shelter, a light dinner, hot beverages, a mat and blanket to sleep on. We also provide restroom facilities, television, computer access and free wifi service.

For the services we provide for our clients, Clackamas county pays a fee per person staying overnight in the Emergency Warming Shelter.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, when Clackamas County declared an emergency to provide shelter for homeless individuals due to a lack of safe and warm shelter in Clackamas County. The county of Clackamas and the Federal government contracted with The Father's Heart Street Ministry to be open 6 nights a week with no temperature required due to the lack of safe, warm shelters for the homeless in Clackamas County. Recently, a life was lost in Oregon City due to trying to keep warm outdoors and the temperature was warmer than freezing, but still considerably cold, combined with rain and wind.

In effort to save lives, Clackamas County contracted with The Father's Heart to be a Warming Shelter from November 15, 2017 through March 15, 2018. The services provided by TFH would be the same as an Emergency Warming Shelter with the only difference being the temperature as a requirement to be open. This 4 month period of warming shelter would be subsidized by county and federal funding.

All employees and volunteers must provide background check information to work or volunteer at the warming shelter. There are two shifts. One the first being 5pm to midnight and the second being midnight to 7am. The first shift will be 2 employees with 4 additional volunteers from 6pm-10pm. Lights out at 10pm. The second shift will have either 2 employees or 1 employee and one volunteer to stay awake through the night for fire watch and supervision. Through both shifts, workers will be supervising and walking through the facility every 15-20 minutes.

The Father's Heart is experienced in quality services for those experiencing homelessness and at it's core wants to provide life -saving services by providing warmth, safety, shelter, restroom facilities, mats, blankets and meal all with the compassion and dignity deserved by every race, gender identification and religion.