

NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FURTHER INFORMATION:

Friday, January 29, 2021
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OPEN DOOR MISSION ISSUES CODE BLUE REMINDER TO ROCHESTER COMMUNITY

Temperatures expected to stay at below freezing with bitter wind chill for several days

The Open Door Mission is issuing a reminder to the Rochester community to its Code Blue status alert. Code Blue signifies that temperatures are at an alarmingly low level and that the homeless community is at high risk for suffering hypothermia and frostbite.

“While the Open Door Mission operates at a continual Code Blue state from November to March, it is necessary to issue communitywide reminders when the weather will remain at bitter levels for an extended period of time” said Anna Valeria-Iseman, Executive Director of the Open Door Mission, “We encourage those who are suffering from the cold, with no place to go, to seek shelter at our Samaritan House Crisis Center at any point during the day or night.”

Samaritan House Crisis Center, located at 210 Main Street, is one of two warming centers in the City of Rochester. As a warming center, the Samaritan House will keep its doors open 24 hours a day to help those suffering from the frigid temperatures. Meals and warm clothes will be provided to those seeking assistance.

In 2020, the Samaritan House Crisis Center served a total of 14,517 beds for overnight stays. The shelter, and all Open Door Mission facilities, has followed strict safety guidelines during the COVID pandemic including: increased PPE for staff; mask guidelines for guests; regular testing; thorough sanitation and cleaning procedures; individually boxed meals; distancing of guests; and isolation measures when necessary.

Valeria-Iseman added, “We are seeing individuals who are a little bit more concerned to go into shelters due to fears of COVID, so we want people to know that we’re following all necessary safety protocols.”

The Open Door Mission is a Christian based rescue organization that has been addressing the needs of homelessness, emergency food and addiction recovery in the Rochester community since 1952. ODM provides shelter, food, guidance and a path forward to men and women when they are at their most vulnerable.

For more information on how to help the Open Door Mission and their Code Blue efforts, please visit www.opendoormission.com.