



*helping people • changing lives* .....

## **Egan Warming Center Pilot Project Winter, 2009**

### **Project Highlights**

The Egan Memorial Warming Center (EMWC) provided five nights of overflow shelter when the temperature fell below 32 degrees in February and March of 2009. The EMWC offered more than 600 bed nights to people who were homeless and needed to come out of the cold. With the help of more than 100 volunteers, including homeless guests and members of the faith and activist communities, 1200 meals were provided, resources were distributed including sleeping bags, blankets, clothing, toiletries and bus tokens. People worked together to clean the building, serve the food, fold the blankets, store the bikes and bags.

This pilot project, which used the former National Guard Armory, partnered with local service providers including ShelterCare (professional staff to lead volunteers and oversee operations) Food for Lane County (provided food) and Department of Youth Services (cooked hot breakfasts and dinners). County staff provided coordination, administration and training and orientation of volunteers.

The Warming Center reached its capacity to provide services adequately in a setting that could not safely respond to the overwhelming numbers and their complex needs. Capacity issues included lack of adequate sleeping space for men, women and children, the high need for specialty services for homeless guests with complex and chronic medical, mental health and substance abuse issues.

### **Data Highlights**

- A total of 905 shelter beds over the course of 13 nights between December 16, 2008 and March 11, 2009 were provided for homeless people when the temperature fell below 32 degrees.
- Five churches opened their doors during this period to provide 246 shelter beds as well as food and comfort.
- The Egan Warming Center located at the Armory provided five nights of shelter including 659 shelter beds and over 1200 meals.



- A subset of guests (72 individuals drawn from 659 duplicated intake forms) at the Egan Center were identified in the Human Services Commission Homeless Management Information System data base. Data extrapolated from this group provides the following information.
  - Approximately 330 unduplicated individuals were served
  - 96% were single
  - 90% were white
  - 88% had no insurance
  - 85% of guests were single males between the ages of 24-54
  - 71% had no income
  - 65% received food stamps
  - 25% were disabled
  - 18% were females

## **Egan Coalition Next Steps**

The EMWC pilot project provided a rich opportunity to both help people who are homeless and to analyze the strengths and challenges of this kind of program model. The EMWC Coalition is committed to a long term solution to ensure that homeless people have a place to go during extreme weather conditions in the future. The Egan Coalition Leadership Team is comprised of decision makers from participating homeless service provider agencies as well as faith based, social activist and homeless community members. The Team is currently developing a comprehensive strategic plan addressing resource, operational and implementation issues.