



Join the Emergency Shelter Partnership

Some ways you can participate:

- Open your house of worship to provide emergency shelter to our community's homeless this winter.
- Volunteer your time. Cook and serve a meal, or volunteer at the shelter overnight. There are many ways to be involved.
- Make a financial contribution to help sustain the Emergency Shelter Partnership.

No measure of kindness is too small to consider. Your contributions provide homeless people in our community with lifesaving shelter from the harsh winter elements. One hundred percent of your contributions go directly to ensure that all our emergency shelter sites have appropriate supervision and support. The utmost priority of the Emergency Shelter Partnership is to provide a safe and secure haven each night.

Please make all donations payable to: Mount Kisco Drug Council/Homeless. Our address is 40 Green Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

To find out more about the Emergency Shelter Partnership, or how you or your organization may join the Partnership, please contact Reverend Paul Alcorn at the Bedford Presbyterian Church, (914) 234-3672 or Mel Berger at the Mount Kisco Drug Council, (914) 666-0614.



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Working Together to Meet Community Needs

Partners

October 2006

American Red Cross
Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills
Bedford Presbyterian Church
Bet Torah Synagogue, Mount Kisco
Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester
First Congregational Church, Chappaqua
First Presbyterian Church, Katonah
Fountain of Eternal Life Church, Mount Kisco
Jewish Family Congregation, South Salem
Katonah United Methodist Church
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Mount Kisco
Mount Kisco United Methodist Church
Neighbors Link, Mount Kisco
Open Door Family Medical Center, Mount Kisco
Pound Ridge Community Church
Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
Stevens Memorial United Methodist Church, South Salem
St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco
St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem
St. John's Episcopal Church, South Salem
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Katonah
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mount Kisco
St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church, Katonah
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bedford
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Bedford
Temple Beth El, Chappaqua
Temple Israel Center, White Plains
Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford Corners
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester

Mount Kisco Drug Council/Homeless
40 Green Street
Mount Kisco, New York 10549

What is the Emergency Shelter Partnership ?

An interfaith coalition of community and religious organizations, working to find short term emergency shelter for those needing protection from the winter elements.

A Brief History

In early December 2004, a group of concerned community leaders partnered with the Mount Kisco Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Council, the Northern Westchester Interfaith Clergy Association, and the leadership of the Village of Mount Kisco, to address what it saw as a growing problem of homelessness in Northern Westchester County. Reports of homeless men suffering through severely cold winters and, in some cases, dying from exposure, mobilized the group to develop a program for a winter night emergency shelter. The core of the shelter concept consisted of a handful of churches opening their doors to offer a safe place to sleep to those in need of shelter. The emergency shelter began operation on January 24, 2005 at the Bedford Presbyterian Church in Bedford Village, providing shelter for four men. Volunteers from the organizing task force provided coverage each night of that first week. The American Red Cross provided the cots and bedding for the shelter. Once the need for a winter shelter became clear, four other local congregations agreed to participate; each provided at least two weeks of emergency shelter over the course of that winter.

By the second winter, this group effort, now called the Emergency Shelter Partnership, operated for 22 weeks, during which 15 religious organizations hosted the shelter, and many more community groups and individuals lent their support through donations of volunteers, meals, and funds. Partners are listed on the front page of this brochure.

How it Works

During the Shelter's weeks of operation, men (and occasionally women) seeking shelter assemble each evening at the Mount Kisco Police Station, from which they are transported to the host location. A bi-lingual supervisor accompanies them and stays with them throughout each night. The men are offered a meal and a place to sleep. In the morning, they awaken early, have breakfast, put away their bedding, and are escorted back to Mount Kisco. The Partnership uses the Red Cross response van quartered in Mount Kisco to support the program. The Red Cross also provides training to members on an ongoing basis.

The Shelter resides at one host location for a week at a time and, each night, requires the following: a space for the men to sleep; one or two volunteers to stay overnight; one group or family to prepare, serve and clean up dinner; provisions for breakfast; and a minimal amount of clean-up. Other area organizations contribute meals, financial support, or volunteers to spend the night at the shelter.

Our Plans and Budget for 2006-2007

The Emergency Shelter Partnership plans to operate this winter for 21 weeks during which temperatures typically fall below freezing: November 6, 2006 to April 1, 2007. To do this, we must raise a total of **\$28,000** to meet our budget, which consists primarily of our supervisors' salaries, sleep equipment and automotive fuel. Once again, we ask individuals and religious and community organizations in the greater Mount Kisco area to help us keep the Emergency Shelter open this winter season.

Over the past two winters, the emergency shelter program has been a success. Thanks to the community's dedicated efforts, homeless individuals in Mount Kisco now have safe and warm shelter during the winter season. Since the Emergency Shelter Partnership was established, there have been no reports of deaths from exposure to the winter cold.