



# Homeless In Kitsap

The voice of and for the  
homeless community in Kitsap County



October 1  
through  
November 30,  
2009

## THE SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER PLAN

This year, the severe weather shelter will be at The Coffee Oasis in downtown Bremerton, 822 Burwell St., running November 2009 through March 2010.

Just like last year, you will need to call 2-1-1 before 5 pm to see if it's open, check with your local food bank, The Salvation Army, or the shelter.

*The shelter will open if it is expected to be 32 degrees or lower for four or more hours; if one inch of snow is expected; if one inch of rain is expected between noon and 6 a.m. the next day.* The determination is made by the Dept. of Emergency Management.

If the shelter is open, you can arrive between 6 pm and 9 pm; they will not take any one in after that time. Everyone must depart at 7 am the next day. You can't leave any belongings there, even if it appears the weather will be bad another night.

Breakfast is served at The Salvation Army from 8 am to 8:45 a.m. just a couple blocks away, at 832 6th St.

When you arrive at the shelter you will need to place all your belongings in a plastic bag that will remain sealed until you leave.

Families, single men, single women, and youth will have their own areas.

Volunteers are trained by the Dept. of Emergency Management and will be awake on site all night.

No weapons, drugs or alcohol are permitted in the shelter.

### To stay dry (and maybe warm) on a winter day

Most folks visit their local library branch, find a friend that will let them visit at their house, hang out in a bus shelter, or at a laundromat or bowling alley - until they ask you to leave.

Your  
children

**CANNOT**

be taken  
away from you  
just because  
you're  
homeless  
per  
WAC 388-15-009  
(5)(a)



CALL

**2-1-1**

If you need  
help finding  
services like  
medical,  
housing and  
financial.

~

Call

**Crisis Clinic  
of the  
Peninsulas**

at (360)

**479-3033**

if you need  
emotional  
support.

~

***Necesita ayuda  
con el Ingles?  
Llame al Centro  
de Asistencia  
para  
inmigrantes al  
(360) 440-2376***

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Because you have told us that situations have occurred where you felt you were mistreated or frightened by the behavior of law enforcement officers, we (the Homeless Advisory Board) have created a way for you to report these events safely.

Should you have contact with law enforcement under those circumstances, you need to get the following information and report it to Major Jim Baker of The Salvation Army:

1. Name of officer (they all have badges with this on it).
2. Note whether it is police department (which one) or sheriff.
3. Date, time of day, and place.
4. Be as specific as possible about what made you feel mistreated or frightened.

They are obligated by law to remove you from personal or public property if a complaint is made, but they are NOT to destroy your personal belongings, or threaten or intimidate you.

Also, please let Major Baker know if they have come by and asked you to move your camp. We'd like to request the police report that goes with that, to see where and how often it happens.

**"When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on."**

Franklin D. Roosevelt

## HOW HAVE KITSAP TRANSIT FARE INCREASES AND ROUTE CHANGES AFFECTED YOU?

We're hearing from lots of folks that the increase in fare earlier this year, and the route changes, made it difficult to get to AA / NA meetings, evening meal sites, school, church, etc.

There are going to be more decreases in service coming this December, and we want to know how you made it through the first round of changes. Were you able to get friends to take you where you needed to go? Were you able to change your schedule? Have you had to do without?

Please email Sally with your info at [sally.santana@wavecable.com](mailto:sally.santana@wavecable.com) and we'll see if we can help others do what you did.

## OUR SECOND "LUNCH WITH THE ELECTEDS" IS COMING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

In August, around 15 elected officials, their representatives, or those running for office, came to The Salvation Army and had lunch with you, the homeless and low-income.

You told them of your circumstances - how it is you ended up homeless. You told them of your frustration in trying to find employment when you have few options to shower, wash clothes, find daycare. You told them of your goals, your plans for the future.

They want to know more.

Our second lunch is scheduled for **Friday, Nov. 20th, noon to 1 pm**. Please plan on being here for lunch, and let's continue to keep them informed of how they can help you improve your life..

**Q:** I am a mother with an 8 year old daughter and 12 year old son. Right now we're living in our old Toyota. I'm on the waiting list for family housing at KCR; I think we're number 127. I went to St. Vincent de Paul and they could take me and my daughter, but not my son. My God, I don't have anywhere to leave him. I don't have any family he could stay with. We need to stay together, especially now when life is so messed up. What can I do?

**A:** Unfortunately, there is no good answer for you. If you want to stay together, then being in your car or pitching a tent somewhere is all there is right now. We have a grave shortage of family housing for no / low-income folks. We're very sorry.

The "Homeless In Kitsap" newsletter is written and edited by Sally Santana ([sally.santana@wavecable.com](mailto:sally.santana@wavecable.com)) bi-monthly and is reviewed, produced and distributed by The Salvation Army and the Kitsap County Homeless Advisory Board. Send info and updates to Sally.

# On The Horizon

We are working to establish  
**DAY SHELTERS**

around the county. Several churches are considering opening their doors to you during the day, so you can get out of miserable winter weather. It's not always possible for you to spend hours every day in your local library branch.

Check The Salvation Army bulletin board and your local food bank for posted flyers. We'll get the info to them first.

This was one of the first requests coming from the  
**HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD**

*"Our greatest glory is not in never failing  
but in rising up every time we fail."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

We are hopeful to have the  
**SOUTH KITSAP  
SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER**

operational by November 1st.

The Kitsap Co. Dept. of Emergency Management was kind enough to set up a volunteer training day for us later in October. We have the site, volunteers and funding in place. We're just doing the final planning / organizing now. It will operate by the same rules and procedures as the Bremerton shelter.

Check in with

SK HELPLINE at 876-4089 or stop by at  
1151 Bay St. between 10 am and 3 pm  
Monday thru Friday.

**"NO PLACE TO LAY THEIR  
HEADS - THE HOMELESS  
THAT LIVE OUTSIDE"  
- A WORKSHOP -**

At our first "Lunch With The Electeds" in August, we gave them a document titled "Five Requests" which listed the top five items we'd heard from our Homeless Advisory Board that you wanted. One of them was this:

"Those of us that live in vehicles, tents, and buildings not meant for human habitation need your compassion and support to keep ourselves and our families alive and safe while we continue to work towards securing a home of our own. City, county and state government, please agree to meet with us before the end of 2009 in a roundtable discussion to see how our needs, and the needs of the greater community, can be met. We are hoping it could occur during our observance of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 15 to 21. "

So that is what this is.

On Nov. 17th we're bringing them to the table to not only discuss this situation but to come out with decisions, action items, and a time line of how to change things for the better. What do we hope to accomplish?

Since there is insufficient housing for everyone who wants it, we need to find ways of helping you where you are. You shouldn't be chased from place to place. You need access to, at a minimum, a portapotty. You need to feel safe and secure.

**Housing is a human right.**

NEW MEAL SITES  
E. BREMERTON  
AS OF 10/1/09

They will all distribute from the end of the Real Estate Solutions of WA bldg. nearest the closed Lowes; entrance off Riddell Rd.

All times are  
2 to 3 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
The Bartimaeus Community

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
Silverdale United Methodist Church

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month  
Bremerton Rescue Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month  
Central Kitsap Presbyterian Church

***“One Night Without a Home”***

On Friday, Nov. 20, as part of our observance of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, we’re asking the community to spend one night outside in their vehicle. They can’t stay in their driveway or that of a friend. They can’t take any money with them. We want it to be as much like how so many of you live, to help them better understand the challenges and fears you face. Granted, they know they have a warm home to return to the next day. But a lot of folks make decisions about you and for you, and they should at least walk a little bit in your shoes.

It’s not so easy.

A rule sheet with details will be coming out soon.

If there are particular situations you find yourselves in, such as trying to keep medication from freezing, let me (Sally) know so we can make this experience as realistic as possible.

**SUNDAY LUNCH in SOUTH KITSAP**

is held in the Christian Life Center parking lot (corner of Mitchell and Lincoln) from 2 to 3 pm the last two Sunday’s of the month. They (Newlife South Church) are hoping to move to a hot meal service in October.

# Spaghetti Feed

Closing our week-long observance of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week,

on Saturday, Nov. 21st

the chefs and staff from Silverdale’s **OLIVE GARDEN RESTAURANT**

will come to The Salvation Army and serve their unique and popular

**SPAGHETTI**

**with Salad and Bread Sticks.**

They are donating everything to do this for us.

**This is open to the community!**

It’s a “love offering” fundraiser for

The Salvation Army

so put a quarter or a \$20 in the kettle...

We’ll let you know what time it begins when we get closer to the day.

**THANK YOU OLIVE GARDEN!!!**

