



**WINTER FREEZE
SHELTER**

January 2020

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 • Issue 1

‘Women and Children First’

By John Moses, CEO

“Women and children first!” This motto of the sea, if you will, has been a maritime pledge responding to save the most vulnerable in the face of impending harm or disaster.

It’s a phrase that we found fitting for a situation last fall. The compassion of our community was evident once again in providing us support to respond to the decision of our local Salvation Army to shelter only men, excluding the women and children they had served for years. With help from you, we entered into a lease agreement for two fully furnished apartment units to shelter families with children, and we opened the Winter Freeze Shelter early for women.

Our partnership with Project HOPE was especially valuable because several of the women we welcomed



Pictured from left, are Ryan Ferns, John Moses and Mike Ferns Jr.

Photo courtesy of The Intelligencer

were pregnant, one delivering just weeks after we opened.

I’ve had an abiding faith in this community’s willingness to respond to our most vulnerable adults and children, and I thank God for their heart.

We especially want to thank those who made gifts of \$10,000 or more to this effort:

- **Anonymous**
- **Christian Fellowship Foundation**
- **Helen J. Prince Foundation**
- **J.B. Chambers Foundation**
- **Mike Ferns Sr./A&B Kia/Ryan Ferns Health Plex**
- **Stamp Charitable Fund**

A Family Remembers

The family and friends of Caleb Smail were inspired to collect donations for the Winter Freeze Shelter after holding a candlelight vigil in the teen’s memory on a freezing cold night last year. Their donations of coats, blankets, hygiene items and more were the positive outcome of a tragic event in their lives. The Freeze Shelter drive was the first of many projects planned for the Caleb Smail Kindness Project. Pictured from left are Susie and Art Stricklin, Jen Stricklin, Beth Ross and YSS Development Director Tammy Kruse.



'Top' Notch Team

The West Liberty Hilltoppers Women's Basketball Team and Paree Insurance Centers teamed up to collect cash and items for the Winter Freeze Shelter during a November basketball game and at Paree locations. The ladies went shopping with the cash donations and bought hygiene products, blankets, socks and much more. The team is led by head coach Kyle Cooper and assistant coach Cassie Seth. Chris Bucon bridged the efforts as the team's development coordinator and a Paree agent.



Sophie Moses Free Store at YSS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Noon-2 p.m.
Wednesdays & Fridays.
All welcome!



Donations of household goods & clothing accepted M-F
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 87 15th St., Wheeling

Monetary Donations Always Welcome

The **Winter Freeze Shelter** is a ministry supported by the community through YSS, a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization.

Your tax-deductible donation helps your neighbors in need. Send checks to:

Youth Services System, Inc.
P.O. Box 6041
Wheeling, WV 26003

Payable to Youth Services System, Inc.



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Raging Kindness

The Wheeling Rage 10U baseball team hit a home run for the Winter Freeze Shelter by collecting hundreds of items to keep our guests warm this winter. Thank you to Coach Zach Hanson and all the parents and players for your act of kindness.



121

Number of unduplicated individuals who have been guests at the Winter Freeze Shelter since Nov. 15, 2019.



Youth Services System

WINTER FREEZE SHELTER

STUFF THE TRUCK

WALMART HIGHLANDS SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH 10AM-2PM	TARGET HIGHLANDS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30TH 10AM-4PM	C3 CHURCH 250 BETHANY PIK SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST 9AM-1PM
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Thank you to C3, The Experience, Walmart at The Highlands and all who donated! on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.



Frozen for the Freeze Shelter! On Dec. 14, Generations hosted an Enchanted Winter Breakfast complete with costumed characters from Capes & Tiaras to benefit the Winter Freeze Shelter. The first-time event sold 113 tickets and raised hundreds of dollars for families in need.



Changing lives, one story at a time

Rabbi Joshua Lief, Wheeling Rotary vice president, invited YSS CEO John Moses to speak to the club on Dec. 3 about the Winter Freeze Shelter. John told a three-part factual story of redemption and forgiveness that so moved Rotarian and YSS Emeritus Board Member Rev. Darrell W. Cummings Jr. that the pastor gave up his Christmas op-ed column in the Sunday News-Register for John to retell it. To read the story, visit www.youthservicesystem.org, click on News, then click on Area News. It is titled "12.22.19 A Story of Relationships and Redemption — Sunday News-Register."

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