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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Area Providers Prepare Coordinated Plan for Unsheltered Residents  
During Cold Weather Snap**

*Homeward Details Shelter Plan for Cold Weekend Forecast*

**Richmond, VA** – Homeward, the Greater Richmond region’s planning and coordinating agency for homeless services, today released the details of a coordinated response to demand for shelter from local residents experiencing homelessness as temperatures drop well below the freezing mark.

With inclement weather forecasted to begin this evening, individuals needing shelter should do one of the following:

**Evenings from January 6-10**

The city of Richmond’s Cold Weather Overflow Shelter will be open tonight through Sunday night, January 6 – 10, as overnight temperatures are expected to remain below freezing. The city’s cold weather shelter is located at Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, 14 West Duval Street. The hours of operation are from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Residents needing overnight shelter are asked to report to Commonwealth Catholic Charities Central Intake by 3 p.m. for a comprehensive intake and referral to the appropriate shelter. Central Intake is located at the Conrad Center, 1400 Oliver Hill Way, next to Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and Richmond City Jail.

**Friday, January 7**

The Conrad Center will open from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.

The following churches will be open for lunch:

- Centenary United Methodist, 411 E. Grace Street 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Grace and Holy Trinity, 8 North Laurel Street 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, 14 W. Duval Street 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Broomfield Christian Methodist, 609 Jefferson Davis Hwy 12:00 p.m. to 12:30
- Greater Mount Moriah, 901 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 8 and Sunday, January 9**

Central Virginia Legal Aid Services located at 101 West Broad Street, Suite 101 will be open from 6 a.m. until noon.

Also, lunch will be available at Friends of the Homeless at 1006 Perry Street 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Area service providers, local social service offices and city police encourage those without shelter to follow this comprehensive plan to connect to shelter over the next several days.

“We encourage all area residents experiencing homelessness to seek warmth this weekend by connecting to one of the available resources in our community’s active cold weather plan,” said Kelly King Horne, Executive Director of Homeward.

A list of contact information for area service providers and ways the public can become involved in the crisis of homelessness can be found at [www.homewardva.org](http://www.homewardva.org) or by calling 2-1-1.

On January 21, 2010, Homeward will host the 12th Annual Point-in-Time Count to census local residents currently experiencing homelessness. The count and survey provide detailed data on the trends and state of homelessness in the Greater Richmond region.

**About Homeward**

*With more than 1,000 homeless children, single adults and families at a given point in time in Greater Richmond, Homeward is the regional catalyst to research, report and coordinate resources for people experiencing homelessness. In collaboration with regional partners in the City of Richmond and the counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, New Kent, Powhatan, Charles City and Goochland, Homeward facilitates service provider trainings, client resource fairs, and conducts twice yearly ‘point-in-time’ counts of those at-risk and who are currently in the sheltered and unsheltered population. In 2008 Homeward launched the Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Richmond Region. For more information on Homeward, visit [www.homewardva.org](http://www.homewardva.org)*

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