

Southeastern Sussex County Homeless Ministry Update May 2019

Our SESM Ministerium Homeless Shelter Steering Committee Team has been meeting monthly since January 2019, to help determine if our southeastern Sussex Church community can reestablish a Men's Homeless Shelter ministry in southeastern Sussex County. Previously SESM had used Stonehouse several years back when Eric and Cherith Snyder were the Shelter coordinators at the Disciples of Christ Bethany Beach campus facility. Collaborating with LoveINC, we anticipate needing to recruit a group of 14-24 male volunteers at our Ministerium Churches to stay overnight in our area shelter in two-man overnight teams with our male guests (12-14 Homeless men each night). Our Ministerium anticipates our Shelter becoming the 9th code purple in Sussex County, utilizing the service model already established by LoveINC here in Sussex County who has demonstrated Homeless Shelter care and management expertise, with Seaford, Laurel, Delmar, Georgetown, Bridgeville, Milford-2, and Rehoboth shelters already operating. Visit LoveINC's website: <https://codepurplesussexcounty.com/code-purple-shelters/>

Each Ministerium Church representative on the Homeless Steering Committee will begin interacting with their Church Clergy and Admin Boards, Missions and Outreach teams, as well as Men's and Women's ministries, to help build buy-in, momentum and a foundation for our Church volunteers to sign up/train to serve the most vulnerable population, our southeastern Sussex homeless community.

We understand we will need men to volunteer and train to stay overnight at our shelter this winter, with the concept of expanding our Ministry to include women and families in future years. Our Ministerium is requesting area Churches to please prayerfully consider helping with our Ministerium's efforts to reestablish our men's homeless Shelter ministry. Please pray, seek and recruit male overnight volunteers from our Churches and community to serve. Women volunteers can assist with Shelter intake and other key roles which will be communicated at the summer training meetings. Our Shelter Team representatives will be investigating contingency plans through their Clergy and Church Admin Boards, for possible alternative shelter location(s), in the event Stonehouse is not available to use as a Shelter facility for 2019-2020. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

This season's Homeless Shelter will be open from Nov 2019 – Mar 2020, so please begin praying over this call to Homeless ministry and begin signing up to train and volunteer to serve through your SESM Ministerium Church representative(s). Thank you very much for your consideration. Blessings.

SESM Ministerium Steering Committee

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