



San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

What is the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter?

Since 1988, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC), Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and the current Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) have partnered to operate the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter. Designed to augment existing shelter opportunities during the coldest months of the year (Sunday before Thanksgiving through the end of February), the Interfaith Winter Shelter provides breakfast, dinner and a safe and warm overnight rest for up to 100 homeless men each night.

Where is the Interfaith Winter Shelter?

The Interfaith Winter Shelter is hosted by four congregations – St. Boniface Catholic Church, St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and First Unitarian Universalist Society, with ECS' Canon Kip Senior Center supplementing additional dates. Each year, a large effort takes place in networking with local faith communities to open their spaces and their hearts.

How Does the Shelter Operate?

Volunteers from many faith traditions prepare and serve the meals each evening and a light breakfast is provided each morning before the host site is used for other purposes during the day. The meals are prepared and served by over 50 volunteer congregations and organizations. Up to 500 volunteers give their time to this important cause throughout the shelter's season. This effort would not be a success without the generous and faithful commitment of these volunteers.

Where Does the Money Go?

The San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter came into existence because of vast shortages of available beds and care facilities. With the continual cutting back of budgets, communities of the San Francisco Interfaith Council have fought hard to keep the shelter operating. Government and city funding continues to drastically decline. Donations for the Interfaith Winter Shelter go toward shelter services and supplies including: sterilized blankets for each person, mats to sleep on, food and cleaning supplies, as well as all-night trained attendants and counseling services. Additionally, congregations that wish to prepare meals for the Interfaith Winter Shelter but are not financially able to purchase the food may shop for ingredients at the SFIC's account at the SF-Marin Food Bank.

What Difference Does It Make?

\$5 can provide a sterilized blanket for a resident.

\$35 can provide breakfast and dinner for a resident for 1 week.

\$750 covers the entire cost for hosting 1 resident for an entire month.

\$25 can provide food and shelter for 1 resident for 1 night.

\$500 can provide 2 full meals to the entire shelter.

\$2500 covers all of the costs for all residents and allows the shelter to be open one additional night.

For resources and statistics regarding ministering to the homeless please visit:

<http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/homeless-resources>

Please join our effort in fighting homelessness on the streets of San Francisco! Thank you for your support!

Make an online donation to support the Interfaith Winter Shelter at: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/donate-sfic> or send check payable to San Francisco Interfaith Council with notation in memo line for "Shelter" and mail to address below:

For information about volunteering please contact office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org or call 415-474-1321.

All press and operations questions should be directed to Episcopal Community Services (ECS) at 415-487-3300.

San Francisco Interfaith Council

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Interfaith Winter Shelter website: <https://sites.google.com/site/shelterworkingsite/home>