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Severe Weather Shelter

The Severe Weather Shelter opened for four consecutive nights in early December and then had an extended break as weather conditions did not meet the criteria to open for the rest of December, and January. The shelter opened February 3rd and has been open every night through the rest of February. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, we have managed to fully staff every opening, but we have had limited guests, and closed at 9 PM on several nights. One of our guests was a recently homeless single woman with two (service) dogs. She was there two consecutive nights and then found housing (Yeah!) through Fishline. One mentally ill guest was arrested for drug use at the shelter, and we hope that treatment will ensue. The volunteers have been amazing to ensure that we could open every single night. **We can use \$5 McDonalds gift cards**, so when our guests leave the shelter at 6:30AM they can go there to keep warm until other places in town open.

If you are interested in helping at the SWS, please contact Michelle at mmoen@co.kitsap.wa.us.

Medical Equipment Lending

Do you have medical equipment sitting in your closet, garage or attic?

Kingston Cares is inaugurating a durable medical equipment lending service. We will catalog the names and contact information of individuals who have equipment like walkers, wheel chairs, bath chairs, crutches, raised toilet seats etc., which they are willing to loan or donate to those who need them. Kingston Cares does not have a storage site, so the idea is that those seeking equipment will contact the program coordinator who will then check the database to see if there is the requested equipment available. If there is a match, the coordinator will then notify the borrower and lender so they can then make arrangements for pick up and use of the equipment.

Equipment currently registered with the program includes: transfer chair, crutches, walker, shower chair, raised toilet seat. A complete list of the available equipment can be found on the Kingston Cares website.

Individuals in the Kingston vicinity who have equipment to share can email [Fredrick Branchflower](mailto:Fredrick.Branchflower@kingstoncares.org) with a description of the equipment and their contact information.

Those seeking to borrow equipment should email [Fredrick Branchflower](mailto:Fredrick.Branchflower@kingstoncares.org) or call Fredrick at (425) 445-9975

Next Community Meal

March, 8th

5-6:30PM

Village Green Community Center

Kingston Cares Annual Meeting

Kingston Cares bylaws require an annual meeting of membership. This meeting will be held March 15th at 9 AM at the Village Green Community Center. One important function of the annual meeting is to elect the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the board of directors of the corporation.

Community Conversation

Second annual Community Conversation will be held March 16th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Village Green Community Center. We will need volunteers to assist: setup, welcome table, food and drink organizers, and cleanup crew. Also, we are looking for issue group facilitators and recorders for each table group. Please let Stan Mack know if you are able to sign up for one of these roles.

Community Meal

The February Community Meal was canceled due to weather, but the Kingston Kiwanis Club brought a number of Westside Pizzas to the Village Green for the people who came by anyway. The March meal will be March 8th presented by Kingston North Kitsap Rotary Club. Kingston Cares will present the April meal.

We have served between 75 and 110 people at each meal. If you are interested in presenting one of the meals, please contact Carol Geissler at the Village Green Community Center.

Coffee Oasis

Do you enjoy Comedy? Please join us as we support the **Kingston Coffee Oasis Comedy for a Cause** on Saturday, March 2nd at 6pm to 8pm at the Village Green Community Center. Bridget Young will share hysterically funny, true stories about the pros and cons of selling real estate in Kitsap.

Coffee Oasis still needs to raise \$160,000 to finish the Kingston project, so come raise the paddle and help them reach this goal.

Presidents Corner

Have you registered to become a member of Kingston Cares? If not we would like to encourage you to go to our website <https://www.kingstoncares.org/membership/>. Here you will be able to select what areas you might like to work with Kingston Cares to achieve success in our mission.