



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2020

Urban Ministries of Wake County is partnering with Wake County Government to operate a White Flag Emergency Shelter for those experiencing homelessness during the winter months.

White Flag is called when the temperature or wind chill is expected to be 35 degrees or colder. COVID-19 restrictions at all local shelters in our area have them running at capacity and prohibit them from adding additional beds on “white flag” nights as they normally would. These emergency white flag beds will be available now through March 30 when the weather should warm.

The emergency shelter is located at Southeast Raleigh Table (SERT), 1950 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh. Currently, there are 80 beds available for men, women, and children. This could expand to more than 100 beds soon.

Urban Ministries of Wake County has taken over direct operation of the facility.

“This is part of our commitment to our community and the homeless population,” says Lisa Jones, Director of Crisis Programs for UMWC.

White Flag nights are called on a weekly basis and individuals or families seeking shelter should check with a homeless service provider to see if beds are available. The shelter opens at 5pm when a white flag night is called. There are restrictions in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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Urban Ministries of Wake County already operates three local shelters for single, adult women experiencing homelessness, along with a food pantry and a clinic for uninsured adults. UMCW provides essential services to more than 32,000 people a year and has experienced high demand for services since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at [urbanmin.org](http://urbanmin.org).

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