



Community Provides for Homeless Women during White Flag Urban Ministries' Helen Wright Center Responds to January's Freeze

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2018

Raleigh, NC –Urban Ministries of Wake County's Helen Wright Center housed an additional 43 homeless women throughout January due to cold weather conditions. On consecutive frigid nights, the Center opened to any woman in need of shelter, offering couches and providing sleeping mats.

The Helen Wright Center is a white flag facility, adding more sleeping areas and providing shelter during the day when weather is below 32 degrees or below 38 degrees with precipitation. Additionally, the Center provided extra meals and resources for the added guests.

"The community really helped us through the snow days, as nearly everyone was closed," said Lisa Williams, Director of Crisis Programs, who oversees the Helen Wright Center. Local churches made extra meals, companies donated blankets, and individuals brought hygiene items and other supplies.

The Helen Wright Center houses 36 women on any given night, providing 24 emergency shelter beds and 12 program beds. Women who seek emergency shelter can seek safety from the streets for up to 14 days, rotating between participating shelters in the area. Program guests stay for up to 90 days while they save funds and work toward permanent housing.

With a cold week anticipated, the Center is in need of delivery gift cards, such as Dominoes, and gift cards to Target and Walmart where women can purchase basic needs, such as socks.

For more information on Urban Ministries' programs for the hungry, homeless, and those in need of healthcare, visit www.urbanmin.org.

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About Urban Ministries of Wake County: [Urban Ministries of Wake County](http://www.urbanmin.org) engages our community to serve and advocate on behalf of those affected by poverty by providing food and nutrition, promoting health and wellness, and by laying the foundations of home. Urban Ministries applies more than 90 cents of every dollar directly to programs that serve the low income community.

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