

Tuesday, August 9, 2022



To the Manitowoc County City Council Members,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in my capacity as the Executive Director of Crusaders of Justicia to fully endorse and strongly support the efforts of those involved in establishing The Warming Shelter. The mission of the Manitowoc Warming Shelter is to provide a safe, warm, and non-judgemental facility for any adults that find themselves without safe and overnight shelter. Crusaders of Justicia's mission closely aligns with the vision of the Warming Shelter and efforts being made to close the gap in resources in our community. Covid-19 has created a food and housing crisis for many households in Wisconsin. Through a statewide collaborative effort food insecurity is being addressed in all 72 counties and 10 tribal nations. Unfortunately, this same cannot be said for housing coalition's throughout the state. At Crusaders of Justicia we have seen a surge in local community members seeking help in finding affordable and adequate housing. Through our emergency pantry we have also witnessed and provided services to families living in parking lots of our local businesses. Because of the lack of adequate services in our community we were forced to transport individuals last winter from Manitowoc to Sheboygan during the cold winter months so they could have a warm bed at night. It is with a very heavy heart that we also lost a community member last winter due to not having an emergency shelter. Her efforts to seek help were limitless and yet we as a community were not equipped to handle a situation like this. As we are seeing homelessness issues grow in our community it would be a tragedy to not make it a priority to implement a safe guard. We as a community can and should do better.

Crusaders of Justicia is not only in full support of The Warming Shelter but consider ourselves a partner. We will help to fill volunteer positions and have committed to and provided fresh new blankets and pillows for the beds. We are stronger when we stand together. This effort is that of heroes.

Kind regards,
Jennifer Estrada, Executive Director
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