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FEATURED

## Warming shelter sets up second location, new operations manager

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File Photo

The Lincoln City Warming Shelter will be settling into a second location this winter at First Baptist Church—located at 1333 NW 17th Street a few blocks west of Highway 101.

This new venue will cater specifically to families seeking refuge from the cold, said Operations Manager Amanda Cherryholmes.

Cherryholmes has been involved with the Warming Shelter program since September, when she began volunteering.

“There was a need for someone to step in,” she said. “So I filled in and have just kind of stayed on.”

Cherryholmes, who also works as an advertising representative for The News Guard, has wanted to get involved in volunteer work and the Warming Shelter presented an opportunity.

“What really motivates me to help is my background,” Cherryholmes said. “I was raised by a single mom and my dad was in and out of prison. Because of that, I feel like I have an understanding of the situations that effect these families and children. I know what it’s like to have a drug addicted parent, or a single parent. I’ve been through a lot and I understand what it’s like for them. I feel like it’s my duty to give back to the community and to try and give them a better childhood than what I had growing up.”

Cherryholmes said the north location for the Warming Shelter, the Congregational Church, will stay the same and will continue to provide shelter to individuals.

“The south location changed from the old Taft Fire Hall to the First Baptist Church due to a conflict of interests in our opening criteria,” she said. “Hypothermia can be a risk at 50 degrees and we wanted to open a shelter at 45 degrees with the addition of hazardous weather conditions. Fifty mile per hour winds and higher, very bad rain, situations like that. That is our opening criteria.”

Cherryholmes said that First Baptist stepped up to the plate on a seasonal basis, given the need for a second location.

“Our long term goal is to have a permanent family shelter,” Cherryholmes said. “Hopefully by the next school year. If we can get that accomplished then we would move the emergency family shelter to that location. But we are still working on that.”

While volunteering and other donations are appreciated, Cherryholmes said a large need for the Warming Shelter is funds.

“We are looking at the long term prospects,” she said. “We have changed up how we run things and this year, having a location specifically for families is a huge accomplishment for us. We are working closely with Lincoln City Homeless Solutions and they are a good resource.”

Cherryholmes said the organization provides shower vouchers and packs, laundry vouchers and is working toward providing bus tickets.

“Warming Shelter will focus on the locations of the shelters,” she said. “Homeless Solutions will work as the resource center—building the client list and fundraising for the permanent family shelter.”

Alerts notifying the public that the shelter is open will appear on the Warming Shelter’s Facebook page and will be sent out to local news media.

“It’s so good to see our community coming together,” Cherryholmes said. “There is a really big need out there and we want to fill that.”

Those interested in donating, volunteering or finding more information about the Warming Shelter can contact Cherryholmes at 541-264-0457 or [pookie5734@gmail.com](mailto:pookie5734@gmail.com).