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For Immediate Release

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**Much Needed Homeless Shelter Space Coming to Fayette County!
But First, The Shelter Temporarily Closes**

Effective Thursday, April 24, 2024, The Shelter in Connersville will close temporarily as its current lease expires in May and its new location is prepared for renovation.

For the past four years, The Shelter has served over 400 clients at the small six-cot facility at 308 North Eastern Avenue. As the only homeless shelter in Fayette County, additional space is desperately needed to serve more clients and increase services. The staff and Board of Directors have been looking for a larger space and recently purchased and took possession of the former Salvation Army facility at 431 West Western Avenue. This exciting opportunity quadruples the space; however, the building needs extensive renovations and will not be ready for occupancy when the current lease expires in May.

After weighing numerous options, the Board of Directors has decided to temporarily close The Shelter. Staff is working with the current clients to ensure they have appropriate accommodations in place by April 24th.

In addition, staff continue to work with clients on the current wait list to help them secure a cell phone and identification documents and to assist with referrals to rehabilitation or mental health services.

While The Shelter is closed, staff will collaborate with partner agencies to make sure people in need of services will be appropriately connected.

The Connersville community and The Shelter stakeholders will continue to be informed about the progress of the renovation and will be advised when a reopening date is determined.

In the meantime, the Board of Directors and staff invite the community to an open house at the new location, 431 West Western Avenue, on Tuesday, April 23, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to see “the before” and learn about the exciting plans.