



Commissioner Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

November 19, 2009

Dear Friends,

As we remember back to the freezing temperatures and severe weather of last winter, our concern goes out to the growing number of homeless families and individuals who do not have a safe, warm place to sleep. Although our community has an existing network of shelters, the increasing demand far outweighs the available beds.

We are writing to ask for your help. Daybreak Shelter, operated by Human Solutions, has provided shelter to homeless families and single women for the past nine years. Daybreak's innovative and cost-effective model is built upon a network of volunteer host and supportive churches that provide nightly shelter (for 15 people), meal preparation, and activities. This approach provides basic safety net services for families and women in crisis and connects them to case management and services to secure housing, employment and independence.

We ask that you consider becoming a host or supportive church this winter. Right now, Daybreak Shelter turns away at least two homeless families every day. Our goal is to assist Human Solutions in doubling the capacity of Daybreak Shelter to serve 15 additional people each night (families and single women) this winter. This is going to take the commitment of at least twelve new faith groups.

More information on Daybreak and the role of host and supportive churches is attached. Please contact Erika Silver at (503) 256-2280 or via email esilver@humansolutions.org for more information or to get involved.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and your leadership. We are grateful for all that you do throughout the year to help individuals and families in need.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kafoury
County Commissioner

Nick Fish
City Commissioner

P.S. Winter warming and Daybreak shelters are also in need of coats, blankets, and food. Please call (503) 246-2280 to learn where you can drop off donations.