

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Fresh Start Warming Center will operate on the following schedule:

Wednesday, December 23, open at 8 pm

Thursday, December 24, open at 7 pm

Friday, December 25, open at 7 pm

The warming center will remain open until at least 12 Noon the following day. Possibly, it will remain open extended hours, depending on the availability of volunteers.

Fresh Start was the first warming center open in Kootenai County, and is located at 1524 E Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene. The Fresh Start warming center has a capacity of 64 overnight guests. In the event that it's needed, we have made arrangements for an emergency overflow warming center at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 501 E Wallace Avenue. The overflow warming center has a capacity of 40 overnight guests.

The warming center offers hot food, showers, laundry facilities, clothing, rest rooms, telephone, Internet and other services. We also operate The Fresh Start Free Medical Clinic one day per month.

So far this winter, the warming center has been open 8 nights and we have hosted over 100 overnight guests. The warming center is open when the temperature is expected to be 15 degrees or less.

On Friday House to House Ministries will host a Christmas Day dinner at Fresh Start. The dinner will be held from 11 am until 1 pm.

All services and meals at Fresh Start are offered at no cost to the homeless, near homeless and mentally ill. Fresh Start, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charity, operates on donations from the community and a few small grants. Donations made by December 31 are tax-deductible for 2009.

For more information, the contact is Howard Martinson, Fresh Start Executive Director, (208) 661 1524.