

From: **Hans Erchinger-Davis** <hanse@thelighthousemission.org>
Date: Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 11:35 AM
Subject: Re: Holly Street Drop in center Opening
To: Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>
CC: Seth Fleetwood <smfleetwood@cob.org>, Tyler Schroeder <Tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us>

Greetings Executive Sidhu & Mayor Fleetwood,
I just asked Christ the King Church who is managing Base Camp's overflow shelter at our old Drop-in Center on Holly St and they got back to me with the following moments ago:

"We have 130ish volunteers representing 16 churches (yeah God!) going through Zoom orientations next Tu, W, Th, Sat, Sun. Justin is helping us get the cots all set up this week so I'm thinking we are ready to get going as of December 7th. When Bridget and I last talked, I had wondered if we could do 2-3 nights for the week to test our best-laid plans and have a bit of time to make adjustments as needed. She thought Dec 9,10,11 might be the most helpful but we left that as a very loose plan that we would firm up. We have a family coming in to decorate the DiC this weekend. Bridget, Justin and Bill and our team are doing a final walk through this coming Monday the 30th at 3:00 and then Bridget and I start our weekly Wednesday 8am phone date to choose the nights the shelter will open the following week. Our primary commitment is to be open any nights that Base Camp is or could be full...plus the tricky weather predicting piece :)."
-Pastor Wendy

Also, not that you asked, but Base Camp is operating in the range of about 80% capacity since the campout on City Hall's lawn began (see our graph below). We were much closer to 100% in the weeks prior, so there is certainly a need for more beds in the continuum as we come into winter. My gut sense is that our overflow solution will meet the need this winter, but it could be close. Our remaining guests at Base Camp are currently enjoying the peace and quiet afforded them since the more spirited folks are hanging out at City Hall due to the lack of accountability and the availability of substances. Some are there as well for the free things and social aspects and then return to Base Camp for showers, laundry and meals. One of the narratives not being expressed, in my opinion, is that the privacy that tiny homes or pallet shelters allows seems to me to be a better fit not for the "no-barrier" folks but for people that don't require the additional addiction recovery and serious mental health supports that traditional low-barrier programs offer. I would suggest the tiny home / pallet shelter solution be supported for people that are more Transitional in nature (seniors, families, workers, etc.) to free up space at Base Camp for the more low-barrier folks that need the deeper engagement. Not that I'm trying to get back the more challenging folks back into Base Camp. By all means go after the no-barrier crowd. It certainly makes the Mission's job a lot easier. I'm just thinking of the overall effectiveness of our community's continuum as a whole. It could be the case that a tent mitigation site like the one in

Olympia be a better first step for the no-barrier crowd. Base Camp, Tiny Homes, or Recovery Programs could be the next step from there. Those are just my thoughts.

For your own knowledge, at present, the program capacities that LMM has say in are as follows:

40 people additional capacity at Base Camp as of today,

39 men additional capacity at the old DIC likely starting the second week of December and referred by Base Camp

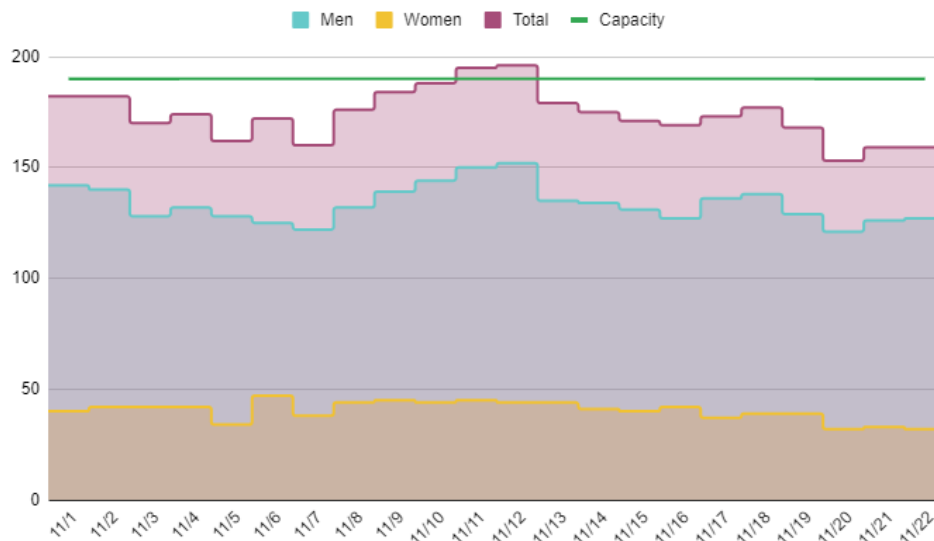
15 families or seniors at IQF referred by Base Camp, start time unknown, and managing agency unknown.

If all these solutions combined were open today that would mean 94 additional people could access safe crisis shelter. There are certainly those that have been trespassed by BPD due to violence or drug dealing, etc., but LMM makes it known that there is always a pathway back into LMM services for anyone. We also loosen those standards during severe weather events for life safety. Best of luck making these complicated decisions.

For the common good,
Hans

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Healing Homelessness with Christ's Power and Love.



Base Camp capacity trends