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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2017

Juneau Salvation Army pilots warming center this weekend

The Salvation Army is piloting a low-barrier warming center this weekend to assist tenants who've been displaced by the closure of the Bergmann Hotel. The hotel was shut down and condemned Friday afternoon after the owner failed to address outstanding fire and building code violations, putting tenants in imminent danger.

The warming center pilot program will serve displaced Bergmann tenants in need, and the general public as space allows. The City and Borough of Juneau applauds The Salvation Army's efforts as a community support partner.

"We don't want community members sleeping outside and cold. We want them to be warm and cared for," Salvation Army Lt. Dana Walters said. "A warming center is in line with other services we provide through our social services office."

The Salvation Army, located at 439 Willoughby Avenue, is working toward a future permanent opening of the warming center on days below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The goal is to eventually expand operations to below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, as staffing volunteers and resources become available. This weekend's opening will test operational aspects of the center.

"This is something that we feel is important in the community," Walters said, "but going forward, if we want this to continue, we're going to need serious help from the community."

To build and maintain the warming center, the Salvation Army needs community support. The organization plans to train volunteers and fundraise for things like sleeping pads, blankets, coffee, and other items.

To get involved in, contact Lt. Lance Walters at lance.walters@usw.salvationarmy.org or call 586-2136. To contribute monetary donations, go to <http://juneau.salvationarmy.org/>, <http://bit.ly/2mbT2rL> or text HELPJUNEAU to 51555.

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For more information, contact Lt. Lance Walters at lance.walters@usw.salvationarmy.org or call 586-2136.

Pilot weekend warming center hours of operation

Friday: 5 p.m. Doors open. Warm food available Friday night.

Saturday: 7 a.m. Wake up. 8 a.m. Warming center closes for the day.
7 p.m. Warming center to reopen with no food available.

Sunday: 6 a.m. Wake up. 7 a.m. Warming center closes for the day.
7 p.m. Warming center to reopen with no food available.

Monday: 7 a.m. Wake up. 8 a.m. Warming center closes for the day.
7 p.m. Warming center to reopen for final night with no food available.

Tuesday: 7 a.m. Wake up. 8 a.m. Final warming center closure.

Warming center doors will be closed and locked from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. daily for safety purposes. Late entry is not permitted.