

## Severe Weather Shelter Volunteer Position Description

**Position Title:** Severe Weather Shelter Volunteer

**Reports To:** Shelter Site Coordinator (Varies based on location)

**Hours:** 5-6 hour overnight shifts, as needed when severe weather shelters are asked to open. Severe weather shelters may be opened any day of the week beginning November 2019-February 2020.

### **Position Summary:**

We are seeking individuals with flexibility in their schedules to volunteer for overnight shifts at these severe weather shelters. Severe weather shelters will be opened with approximately 24 hours' notice and will operate from 5 pm-8 am. Several severe weather shelter sites serving different populations of people experiencing homelessness will need volunteers to staff these Bellingham locations.

Severe Weather shelters in Bellingham will be opened when there is no capacity at the Lighthouse Mission and overflow Winter Shelters, and the temperature threshold is met. The temperature threshold of 28°F forecasted as the overnight low will activate the opening of a severe weather shelter. Precipitation of 1" forecasted or on the ground if temperature threshold is reached is also an activation factor.

### **Responsibilities:**

Volunteer duties will vary from site to site, but individuals may be asked to do some of the following tasks: greet guests, hand out snacks and water, answer questions, coordinate by phone with other emergency shelter locations if space is at capacity, monitor front door throughout the night, observe guests who are sleeping for any concerns, wake guests in the morning, encourage guests as they prepare to leave for the day and tidy the space and prepare brief update on how the night went for staff and future volunteers.

### **Training:**

Volunteers will receive training directly from the shelter site staff at certain locations or will receive a 2-hour community course that will focus on de-escalation techniques, trauma informed care and boundary setting.

### **Trainings currently scheduled:**

Tuesday, December 3rd 5:30-7:30, 322 N Commercial Street, bottom floor

Wednesday, December 11th 1-3, 322 N Commercial Street, bottom floor

*Additional dates TBD*

### **Volunteer Requirements:**

Volunteers will be asked to complete a background check with Whatcom Volunteer Center. Volunteers must have access to reliable transportation or able to walk to shelter location in severe weather. Volunteers must be willing to understand needs of the population being served.

**Application Deadline:** Ongoing application from 10/17/19-02/15/20, throughout winter season.

**Apply online:** <https://forms.gle/qSkNuHWP2cqxBDHD7>

For questions regarding volunteering, contact:

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