

GUIDING LIGHT

For Immediate Release

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Guiding Light Encouraging Donations to Help Keep Those in Need Warm This Winter

Grand Rapids, Michigan, January 22, 2018 – Colder and wetter—that’s what meteorologists have predicted for winter 2018. In an effort to keep those in need warm and dry this season, Guiding Light is asking the public to help fill an urgent need for cold-weather necessities.

Guiding Light needs items such as coats, gloves, hats, socks and winter boots that will help men and women who may be struggling with homelessness or addiction this winter. In addition to providing these items to men enrolled in its Back to Work and Recovery programs, the nonprofit averages nearly 20 walk-in guests per day requesting these items.

Guiding Light has a particular need for:

- Coats in sizes large (women), extra-large and 2XL (men)
- Ski gloves that will stay dry in cold, wet weather

“It’s difficult to imagine not having a warm place to go during the coldest days, but unfortunately, this is the reality for many individuals in West Michigan,” said Stuart Ray, executive director at Guiding Light. “While the average person may take dry boots and warm gloves for granted, the men we serve view these items as critical and significant gifts that will improve their health, wellness and quality of life.

“Any donations that are made are greatly cherished not only by those who use them, but by our organization as a whole.”

Recently, United Bank wrapped up its Blanket the Community Project, where it gave 90 blankets to Guiding Light in an effort to ease the burden of staying warm for individuals in need during the cold winter months.

“We owe a big thanks to United Bank and appreciate the support it has offered to our community and to our organization in this effort,” Ray said. “The blankets provided were well-received and very much appreciated. The need continues to be great, and we hope that West Michigan will help us this winter.”

Items can be dropped off at Guiding Light, 255 Division Ave. South. There is free and convenient parking adjacent to the building.

About Guiding Light

Founded in 1929 as the West Fulton St. Mission, Guiding Light has grown into a robust recovery and re-engagement community designed to help those living at society’s margins fulfill their God-given potential. Through its Back to Work, Recovery and Iron House programs, Guiding

Light works with men struggling with addiction and homelessness to return back to society. Guiding Light has been awarded Platinum status for accountability and transparency by GuideStar. For more information, visit www.guidinglightworks.org.

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