

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SAN DIEGO, APRIL 17, 2023

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Link to previous story:

- [Closed during pandemic, Father Joe's reopens dining hall for Easter celebration](#)

San Diego Extends Emergency Weather Shelter Season to Assist Homeless Population

- *Father Joe's Villages ready to continue to assist homeless population at risk; so far it's activated a record number of emergency homeless shelters this season compared to previous years due to the extreme weather conditions in San Diego*
- *From November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, Father Joe's Villages provided a total of 3,708 bednights during record-breaking rain and frigid temperatures in San Diego*
- *City of San Diego has extended inclement weather season until April 30, 2023*

WHAT

As extreme weather conditions hit San Diego during the inclement weather season, Father Joe's Villages provided critical emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness. From November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 the organization had a total of 71 activations — 5 in Nov, 9 in Dec, 22 in Jan, 20 in Feb, and 15 in March — to provide temporary inclement weather shelter beds to unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Due to the record-breaking weather conditions, the City of San Diego has extended the inclement weather period to April 30, 2023.

Father Joe's Villages has been operating inclement weather shelters for decades and has 95 emergency beds available for those in need. The shelters are first activated by the San Diego Housing Commission based on the weather forecast from AccuWeather for downtown San Diego. Once activated, Father Joe's Villages prepares its emergency shelters, which help to provide a warm and dry place to sleep, as well as a meal and other basic necessities.

WHY

From rain impacting where to sleep, to frigid temperatures, it becomes more difficult to safely shelter during the winter season. The impact of the inclement weather season has been felt more than ever by the city's record number of

unsheltered homeless population. Through March of this year Father Joe's Villages has provided 3,708 bednights of shelter to people over the course of the season.

The record-breaking rain in San Diego contributed to an increased need of Father Joe's Villages to activate their inclement weather shelters. The organization worked hard to ensure that the inclement weather shelters were accessible and available to as many people as possible.

Father Joe's Villages' activation of inclement weather shelters during the months of November to March is critical for the homeless population in San Diego. With the colder and wetter weather during these months, people experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of hypothermia and other health issues.

QUOTE

"With the colder and wetter weather during these months, people experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of hypothermia and other health issues. Our goal is to provide a safe and warm place for individuals and families experiencing homelessness to stay overnight," said **Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Father Joe's Villages**. "During this record-breaking inclement weather season we were able to activate helping an average of 52 people per activation."

WHEN

The inclement weather period began on November 1, 2022 and has been extended through April 30, 2023 due to changing weather conditions

WHERE

Check in is at the Joan Kroc Center (1501 Imperial Ave. San Diego, CA 92101)
Paul Mirabile Center (299 17th St, San Diego, CA 92101)

DATA

- Total of 71 activations during the inclement weather period of November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
- Total of 3,708 bed nights provided (1 bed night = 1 body in 1 bed for 1 night)
- Average of 52 people helped during each activation
- Largest activation on March 21, 2023 servicing a total of 93 people
- 65 people came straight into the shelter from inclement weather shelters instead of exiting to the streets

ACTIVATION DETAILS:

- Activation is made by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) generally by 10:00 a.m.
- The SDHC monitors the weather at AccuWeather forecast for downtown and then contacts Father Joe's Villages if inclement weather shelters needs to be activated
- The activation criteria is as follows:
 - A low of 50 degrees celsius or less and a 40% or higher chance of rain
 - Forecast of an exceptional weather condition, including:
 - One or more inches of rain within 24 hours; or
 - One or more consecutive days of rain forecasted with a minimum of 1/2-inch of rain each day; or
 - Predicted winds of over 25 MPH; or
 - Severe Thunderstorm warning in immediate inclement weather shelter area; or
 - A severe weather condition (as defined by National Weather Services or Accuweather) which impacts the physical safety of those who are unsheltered in the immediate inclement weather shelter area.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT:

- **Organization:** Father Joe's Villages
- **Interviews available:** Bailey Hahn, bailey@gomixte.com, 619-732-0789 x 224
- **Link to use in your story:**
 - my.neighbor.org/

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About Father Joe's Villages

As San Diego's largest homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages ensures that each person can rediscover hope and leave homelessness behind. To address the complex needs of people who are homeless, the organization provides housing for as many as 3000 people each night, along with health care, substance use disorder treatment, job training, therapeutic childcare and more. This mission is made possible only through the efforts of compassionate staff, [volunteer work](#), [car donations](#), and generous public and private [charitable contributions](#). For more information, please visit: <https://my.neighbor.org/>.