



United Way
of Missoula County

December 28, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Donations of new/gently used blankets sought for Temporary Safe Outdoor Space

Missoula – Missoula’s Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (TSOS) – a safe, sanctioned, service-rich encampment for unhoused Missoulians, supported by United Way of Missoula County and staffed by Hope Rescue Mission – is in urgent need of extra blankets during the current cold snap.

New or gently used blankets (wool preferred) may be dropped off at Hope Rescue Mission’s Hope Thrift Boutique, 702 SW Higgins Ave., in Missoula this week. The boutique is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (December 28-30) from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It is closed December 31-January 3. Regular hours (10 a.m.-6 p.m.) resume January 4.

“Currently, the 20 individuals staying at the TSOS are really struggling to keep warm in their tents,” said United Way CEO Susan Hay Patrick. “We’re hoping that generous Missoulians may have blankets they’re not using that they would donate, or that folks would consider buying blankets for their unhoused neighbors. It could make a huge difference on these frigid winter nights.” Patrick said that the blankets become personal items that travel with individuals as they achieve sustainable housing.

In the first 12 months of the TSOS’s operation, 30 percent of residents – 26 individuals – moved on to stable housing after receiving services at the TSOS. Others received help obtaining identification cards and were provided with a variety of supportive services designed to help them overcome barriers to housing.

United Way of Missoula County brings people together to identify problems and craft creative, lasting solutions that change lives and build a stronger community for everyone. Visit MissoulaUnitedWay.org for more information.

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