

## **The Sheltering Tree Year End 2010 Report**

The 2010-2011 winter season started off with record breaking low temperatures. The emergency cold weather shelter opened in November and through December the shelter was open 17 nights, hosted 248 guests and served 500 meals. Hundreds of volunteers rallied to make beds, check-in guests, cook and serve meals, stay over night and do countless loads of laundry. Our volunteer teams sorted clothing donations which allowed us to provide coats, shoes, warm clothing and blankets to shelter guests and those in need in our community. We continue to coordinate clothing drives as our need continues throughout the winter.

The Sheltering Tree has been very fortunate to receive tremendous support from the community.

Thanks to The Hair Gallery and VyStar Credit Union for their coat drives. Sew and Quilt in Bunnell provided handmade quilts, pillowcases and toiletry bags for shelter guests. An anonymous donor presented us with a sandwich board "Shelter Open" sign. Cub Scout pack 402, Palm Coast Bible Church, Shepherd of the Coast Vacation Bible School, Best Western, The Club at Hammock Beach, The Public Defender's Office, Chez Jacqueline, Wheels in Motion, several ladies knitted/crocheted dozens of colorful hats and countless individuals have generously donated items from our Shelter Needs List.

Flagler Palm Coast High School, Future Problem Solvers, arranged haircuts, shampoos and showers for local homeless through the Cosmetology classes. The High School also donated coats and towels to the emergency cold weather shelter.

The Sheltering Tree also maintains a food pantry for use in preparing shelter meals and for the weekly community meals provided in partnership with The First United Methodist Church in Bunnell. Due to the current economic downturn, continued high unemployment in the County and rising prices participation in the weekly community meals has more than doubled since last year. Generous donations from individuals and food drives allow us to continue to assist our neighbors.

Weight Watchers of Palm Coast kicked off the season with a food drive that provided 424.6 pounds of food. TOPS, Craig's Eyewear, Denny's, Palm Harbor Golf Club and Perkins Restaurant as well as numerous individuals continue to support our efforts. Our goal for 2011 is to work with businesses, civic groups, churches and clubs to have at least one food drive per week to assure a consistent inventory of food that will allow us to continue to support the emergency cold weather shelter and provide weekly meals to our neighbors.

It would be impossible to operate the emergency cold weather shelter without the wonderful efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Although our volunteer ranks have expanded to 275, additional volunteers are always needed.