

Bridgeton's Code Blue Program 2016-17



Bridgeton has completed its fourth year of Code Blue, which began the week of December 9, 2016, and continued until March 22, 2017. It was an unusually warm February 2017, with only six days that Code Blue became an essential haven for those who are homeless. A “Code Blue” is called by the city when the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below, or if the 32 with precipitation. (Wind chills is not a factor in calling Code Blue.)

Every winter is a bad time to be on the streets, and can be a deadly time to be without shelter as temperatures may drop in the teens and single digits. However, this winter has proven to be unusually mild in Cumberland County.

Between December 9, 2016 and March 22, 2017, Code Blue was activated for a total of thirty-three days. Over that period, Bridgeton's Code Blue had an average of 19 guest staying per night at the various Warming Centers rotated throughout Bridgeton—Bethany Grace Community Church, Bridgeton Salvation Army, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and Parish of the Holy Cross (St. Teresa's). Two of the churches listed above were also host churches who shared their “Warming Centers”: Bethany Seventh Day Adventist used Bethany Grace, while Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist and First Nazarene Church/The Bridge used St. Andrews.

Bridgeton had an increase of 7% in the number of Code Blue activations during the 2016-17 Code Blue season, even with the unusually warm month of February.

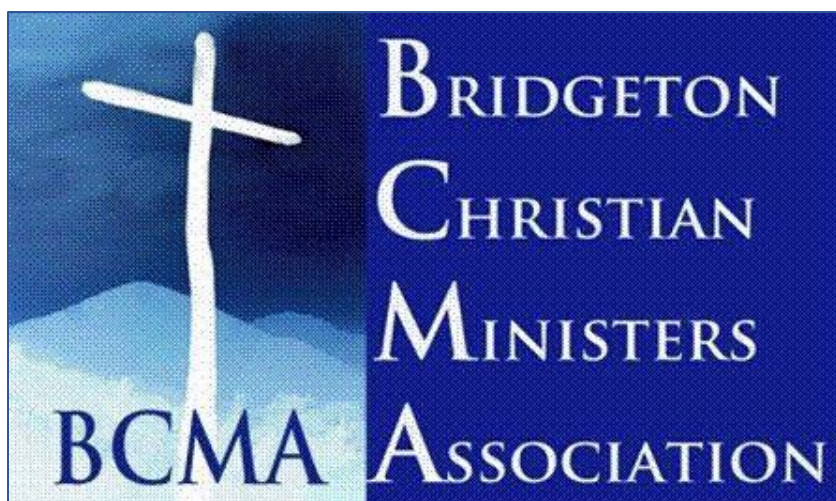
- December, there were seven CB nights with an average of 19 guest per night.
- January, there were nine CB nights with an average of 18 guest per night.
- February, there were six CB nights with an average of 20 guest.
- March, there were eleven CB nights with an average of 18 guest per night.

Over two hundred volunteers, in cooperation with host and supporting churches from the Bridgeton Christian Ministers Association (BCMA) (see attached listing): along with the Bridgeton police, sweep areas of the city most likely to be inhabited by chronically homeless people, especially those known or thought to be less than able to care for themselves. Bridgeton's Code Blue provided 116 individuals with a hot meal and a warm place to stay overnight.

The Board of Social Services were on hand to offer services to all guest who visited the Warming Centers. Each person was provided with an array of toiletries to improve hygiene, along with socks, hat, scarf, gloves and hand warmers, an assortment of clothing, and a warm coat (while supplies last), thanks to the generosity individuals, local schools, businesses, and churches. A hot shower and a variety of clothing is also available at Bethany Grace Community Church every Saturday morning.

There were few incidence in which the police had to be called to control loud verbal altercations, and/or physical altercation. Unfortunately, many of those staying at the warming centers not only deal with homelessness, but also suffer from mental illness, as well as alcohol and drug abuse.

AFFILIATED PARTNERS



BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

BETHANY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**BETHANY SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH**

BETHLEHEM REVIVAL TEMPLE

BRIDGETON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

BRIDGETON FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH

BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH

CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST

EL PODER TRANSFORMADOR

ELOHIM TEMPLE OF LOVE

FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GLORY TABERNACLE CHURCH

GOSPEL STAR CHURCH

IN HIS IMAGE CHURCH

INSPIRA HEALTH CHAPEL

**JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

LIFE IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

**NEW HOPE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

OVERCOMING VICTORY CHURCH

PARRISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

PEARL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

QUINN BROADCASTING

SALVATION ARMY CHURCH

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

**SHILOH SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST
CHURCH**

SOUTH WOODS PRISON CHAPEL

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. JOHN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

ST. PHILIPS MISSIONARY BAPTIST

TRINITY AME CHURCH

UNION BAPTIST TEMPLE CHURCH

WESLEY MEMORIAL AME ZION

CODE BLUE—Homeless Program “Warming Centers”

Providing a hot meal and bed to those in need during the cold winter months.



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