

## **Shelter Committee's March Report**

We are a little over 2/3rds of the way through the shelter season. It has been an amazing experience of collaboration and learning this season. There have been many great agencies and organizations supporting our guests. These service providers are greatly appreciated. It is exciting to see guests wrapped with meaningful supports that will make a long-term difference in their life journey.



We are also extremely happy with the amount of service and learning we have had from our volunteers, staff, and guests. The REACH Shelter has become a place where guests are able to enter and receive the services, supports, and community they want. This person-centered approach allows people to start lasting change while at the REACH Shelter. The last month and a half of shelter have traditionally been a wonderful time of growth, but also a time of fatigue. Everyone has been working hard for a long time during the long Rochester winter. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or treasure, now is a great time to do it.

As our service to others continues to evolve, so does our service to the environment. We have found many ways to be better stewards of our environment. Here are the details:

- Thanks to one of our volunteers, we have begun composting this year and are close to 800lbs of compost.
- We have always been good about not using disposable plates, cups, and silverware.
- When we move people into apartments, we are utilizing a furniture initiative that is re-distributing furniture from universities, hotels, businesses, and private citizens to our newly housed guests, instead of the landfill.
- One of our interns has been running a garden project where people begin growing a garden at the shelter and then take it with them to their new apartment.

All of this incredible work is possible because of the community that supports the REACH Shelter. We look forward to your continued support in the final stretch. Thank you!

Andy Carey, Chair