

NEWS RELEASE

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LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES AND OHIO MEANS JOBS LAKE COUNTY PARTNERING WITH SUB ZERO MISSION

The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Means Jobs Lake County are partnering with the Sub Zero Mission on Tuesday November 23rd, 2021 to collect warming items for the homeless in Lake County. A “stuff the bus” event will take place outside of the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services building located at 177 Main St. in Painesville from 11 AM – 1 PM. Individuals can stop by and drop their donations in the bus. Needed items include adult coats, boots, socks (new only), hats, gloves, sleeping bags and tents. Barra de Taco Food truck will also be onsite at Lake County Department of Job and Family Services if you’d like to purchase lunch the day of the event.

The Sub Zero Mission began during the winter of 2009 when a couple of high school buddies, who had spent time in the Marines, helped out a couple of homeless veterans by supplying sleeping bags to keep them warm during the cold northeast Ohio winter. Al Raddatz and Del Bethel thought they could do more, so they spread the word through social media about how they needed others to help. Soon they had collected 50 sleeping bags and distributed them directly to the area homeless and thus The Sub Zero Mission was born.

Since then volunteers have raised more than \$300,000 and gathered countless numbers of hats, coats, gloves, boots and sleeping bags.

The organization earned 501(C) 3 status in 2011 becoming a recognized charity. The Sub Zero Mission’s motto is “Nobody should freeze to death in America.”

The Sub Zero Mission is a completely volunteer organization with not one member of the Board of Directors receiving any compensation. This is a very passionate group of individuals that understand and recognize the need to help the area homeless and veteran homeless population during the coldest of winter months.

Sub Zero Mission’s, Tim Hickey who is the Director of Veteran Affairs, will expand upon the mission to find homeless veterans and get them in touch with programs that they have earned with their service to our nation. Until now, The Sub Zero Mission has always focused on getting the veterans off the streets. Tim will help veterans to take the next step and re-empower, re-educate, detoxify, and rejoin society.

“This was a wonderful opportunity for our agency to serve the public in another capacity – collecting warming items that homeless individuals will need to stay safe throughout the winter,” said Lake County Department of Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar. “Our staff members are committed to serving the public each day through our traditional public assistance programs, so we are grateful to partner with the Sub Zero Mission on a similar undertaking – helping those homeless individuals in need and connecting them to services in our community they might not be aware of,” said Casar.

“This is what public service is all about, serving the most vulnerable of our public in a time of need, and I want to thank our employees for doing that at a high level” said Lake County Commissioner John Plecnik.

“I want to thank our Lake County JFS and Ohio Means Jobs teams for stepping up to lead this important event for our community” said Lake County Board of Commissioner John Hamercheck.

Cory Vojack, Director of Workforce Development in Lake County noted, “We are so grateful to partner with the Sub Zero Mission for such a noble cause. We realize how important their role is to assist those in need.”

In order to help the cause, the mission has an annual item donation period from October 1 through December 1 so people can donate gently used articles to distribute on nights that get below 20 degrees. Companies can organize their own clothing drives and other fundraising events for the mission. “If you are able, please join us in donating these needed items to the Sub Zero mission to help out our community during this holiday season,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

For more information please visit www.subzeromission.org.

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