



June 24, 2021

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Re: Freedom Warming Centers of Santa Barbara County

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for your years of partnership and support for the Freedom Warming Centers. The County has always been an important partner in the work of the Warming Centers.

The Warming Centers began in 2009 as a grassroots effort with volunteer "staff", and has since blossomed into a full-fledged, countywide operation that our community relies on for the security of the most vulnerable. The Unitarian Society has been honored to serve as the fiscal agent for the Warming Centers since its beginning, and to nurture the program as it has grown.

Over the last few years, it has become evident that the Warming Centers need an organization with greater fiscal and administrative capacity to support the growth of this vital service: an organization whose core mission is to serve our houseless neighbors.

We are pleased to announce that Good Samaritan Shelter, who has been expanding their programs countywide, has stepped up to the call and will be the new fiscal agent for the Warming Centers beginning July 1.

Good Sam's capabilities, expertise in homeless services, and operational integrity will be able to serve the program as needed. The two organizations have been in partnership since inception, and will continue their partnership throughout this transition.

Good Samaritan Shelter will continue with a commitment to working closely with you, our County leadership, in keeping the Freedom Warming Centers accessible, safe, and welcoming to all who need shelter on cold and rainy winter nights.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the following contacts:

Erin Wilson, USSB Director of Administration erin@ussb.org

Julia Hamilton, USSB Lead Minister julia@ussb.org

Sylvia Barnard, Good Samaritan Executive Director sbarnard@goodsamaritanshelter.org

The Warming Centers have sheltered our county's neighbors without homes for over 12 cold weather seasons, and will continue to do so with Good Samaritan's leadership. We look forward to this new season for the Warming Center.

In Gratitude,

Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister USSB

Sylvia Barnard, Executive Director Good Samaritan Shelter