

BFN

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donated goods including food, clothes and wintertime accessories.

"This is a large collection of donations over long periods of time; we don't host an event for donations, people just donate from time to time," Judy Anderson said.

Sunday night saw several visitors by 8 p.m., and their conditions proved just how necessary the shelter can be.

Lorane Poole, a middle-aged woman, was getting settled in the women's room, comfortably sitting on her bed in a room by herself.

"This really means a lot me," Poole said. "To see a communi-

ty do this for unfortunate people to get out of the cold can make such a huge difference on people like me."

Poole's eyes showed great appreciation, and a hint of fear could be seen as well. When asked where she would be tonight if not here, she shakily replied with a simple "I don't know."

Another guest at the church was taking shelter for mere survival. Charles Morgan of Cottage Grove has lived in the shelter and in his car; however, sleeping in his car has been troublesome recently, as authorities are cracking down on people sleeping in parking lots. Even Wal-Mart recently banned RVs and people sleeping in their

vehicles at its parking lots.

On Sunday, Morgan sought shelter to save himself from the pain of frostbite. He said he was one of the first people to show up in the emergency room for frostbite this year.

"I'm still battling the pain from it. Even though it's much better, I can still feel the pain going down my shin from my knee," Morgan said. He said that he is thankful that he doesn't have to sleep in his car any longer and greatly appreciates the shelter and its volunteers.

The Andersons didn't have a full list of all the volunteers but said that there are "numerous people" who help out at the shelter. Every activation has three shifts with two volunteers per shift. Beds for Freezing Nights has been ready to activate since Nov. 15 and will continue through March 31. It activated for the first time this year last Tuesday, Nov. 24 and was open throughout a frigid holiday week.



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