

PRESS RELEASE



01/23/2026: For Immediate Release

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Hearts with Hands Opens as County Shelter and Provides Meals During Winter Storm Fern

Swannanoa, NC, January 23, 2026: 3:30 PM EST. || In response to Winter Storm Fern, Hearts with Hands is opening its warehouse (850 Warren Wilson Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778) as a county shelter to support individuals and families impacted by severe winter weather conditions.

The shelter will open 1/24/26 at 9:00 AM and will provide warm meals, a safe indoor space, and essential support services for those in need during the storm. Hearts with Hands is working closely with the Red Cross and Buncombe County to ensure the shelter operates safely and efficiently as weather conditions develop.

At this time, Hearts with Hands will not be hosting a public supply distribution. Our focus during Winter Storm Fern is on operating the shelter and providing meals while prioritizing safety for guests, staff, and volunteers amid icy and hazardous road conditions.

Due to dangerous travel conditions, Hearts with Hands is limiting volunteer movement and requesting that only on-site volunteers assist with meal preparation and shelter operations. This approach helps reduce travel risks while ensuring consistent care for those staying at the shelter. Those interested in volunteering on-site or seeking additional information may contact Alyce Sharpton at alyce@heartswithhands.org or 828-667-1912 (leave a message with the answering service team member and we will return your call as quickly as possible).

Community members in need of shelter or meals are encouraged to arrive at the Hearts with Hands warehouse when you feel it is safe to do so. Hearts with Hands remains committed to serving the community during emergencies and encourages residents to stay informed, limit travel, and prioritize safety throughout the storm.

Buncombe County Press Release:

<https://www.buncombenc.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/784>