We would like to air our concerns for our neighbors who are currently shelter-less in Coconino County. While we understand heightened nerves during this time, we would like to point out this opportunity to expand our capacity for compassion and understanding of basic human rights.

There are approximately 415 folks without shelter in Flagstaff.

We are (ON A GLOBAL SCALE) being asked to practice social distancing, physically isolate, and in some cases take shelter-in-place while being diligent in hygienic practices. But what do those without shelter do? Public Bathrooms and Port-o-Pots have been locked up, shelters are filling and failing to provide adequate preventative care and resources. Transportation has been limited to public buses, kitchens have been closed, and any hope of aid to be found in the streets has completely diminished. This city feels it is acceptable to wait on a potential purchase of Aspen INN, OR call on vacant hotels to help amend this very real public health risk. The shelter-less are more vulnerable to weather, starvation, and illness now, than ever before.

Here are a few ways to extend support to our shelter-less neighbors for your consideration:

* If there is no immediate threat of danger to you or another person, DO NOT REPORT THEIR ACTIVITY TO FLAGSTAFF PD. Many of our shelter-less community members experience cruel treatment, physical and emotional harm, and needless processing in jails. These systems are not effective as, or trained to provide, any semblance of mutual aid.
* Pressure the county to purchase Aspen Inn and incentivize vacant hotels to house our shelter-less community members. Adequate shelter and means to maintain hygiene are a human right and a benefit to all.

 Number for Coconino County: 928-679-7120 or toll free 877-679-7120

* Coordinate or contribute to already functioning outreach programs. (ie assemble bags of essentials and sack lunches, designate drop spots for others to participate or label and place in a dry spot outside your residence)
* Some possible places to connect or donate to, and volunteer with:

 Flagstaff Family Food Center: 928-526-2211

 Taala Hoogan Info shop: number unavailable, active facebook page

 Salvation Army: 928-774-1403

 www.tiny.cc/FlagMutualAid

* Construct DIY handwashing stations
* DO NOT REPORT SHELTER-LESS NEIGHBORS SEEKING SHELTER OR REPREIVE FROM THE STREET.

Our community is only as strong or as healthy as those who have the least, we stand with our shelter-less community in humility and with pride. Please join us.

Your Flagstaff Community