

—Slug:.....COMM-0854.bratt.beloved\_shelter\_folo  
—Contributor.....  
—Contributor email.....  
—For section..... Town and Village  
—Format..... News - no byline  
—Dateline..... Brattleboro  
—Article Number:..... 43143



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Beloved Shelter increases capacity as winter winds down

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2

####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 With another month left in the winter season, the  
5 Beloved Winter Shelter at 18 Town Crier Drive has successfully  
6 carried out its mission as the region’s extreme cold weather  
7 shelter.

8 The shelter’s resources were tested during the three-week  
9 cold snap of late January and early February. At one point, said  
10 shelter director Cristina Shayonye, they were “open for 26 nights

11 straight when we had been struggling to keep our doors open for  
12 just five days a week.

13 “It takes a great deal of work to shelter so few of our  
14 neighbors, but those of us who show up to do the work are  
15 providing more than shelter from the cold,” Shayoyne wrote in a  
16 news release. “What we lack in amenities we make up for in  
17 hospitality. We are giving folks who have nowhere to be a place  
18 where they can feel like they belong.”

19 She wrote that many of the shelter’s hosts “have  
20 experienced firsthand what it is like to be homeless — what it’s  
21 like when there’s not a single place in this world where their  
22 presence isn’t questioned, their every move watched, and all  
23 that’s expected to be done in the privacy of their own home must  
24 be done in public. We take for granted what comes with the roof  
25 over our head.”

26 Beloved Winter Shelter was originally authorized by the  
27 Vermont Department of Public Safety to host eight persons per  
28 night, but that has been since increased to 12. It will stay at 12  
29 for the remainder of the winter.

30 “In a Vermont winter, four additional beds make a real  
31 difference,” Shayoyne wrote. “More beds mean fewer neighbors  
32 turned away into the cold. We are deeply thankful to our town  
33 officials, community partners, hosts, and neighbors who made  
34 this expansion possible.”

35 The regularly scheduled open hours are Sunday through  
36 Thursday nights from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., with 12 beds available  
37 nightly, on first come, first served basis. Those in need are advised  
38 to call 802-332-6678 to check availability. Guests are accepted  
39 until 6 a.m.

40 Under the state’s Extreme Cold Weather Shelter Program  
41 (ECWSP), when temperatures drop to -10 degrees or below (with  
42 windchill) for four consecutive hours, the state activates the  
43 Beloved Shelter as an Extreme Cold Weather Shelter, often with  
44 just 24 hours notice.

45 During these activations, the shelter can expand to 15  
46 beds. To find out if ECWSP policies are activated, call 802-332-  
47 6678. If activation falls on a weekend when they would  
48 otherwise be closed, their voicemail will be updated to reflect  
49 that they are open.

50 Shayonye said the shelter still needs volunteer hosts to  
51 staff the shelter, particularly during overnight hours. To sign up,  
52 apply, or learn more, email your availability to  
53 [belovedwintershelter@gmail.com](mailto:belovedwintershelter@gmail.com). Folks who want to help out to  
54 provide meals should email [Lorabookarts@gmail.com](mailto:Lorabookarts@gmail.com) or call/text  
55 802-579-8181 for details.

56 Beloved Winter Shelter is a project of Vermont Village  
57 School, a Brattleboro Food Co-op Community Partner. Hosts are  
58 eligible to receive a discount at the Co-op for hours worked at the  
59 shelter.

60 Shayonye also said financial donations toward running  
61 the nonprofit shelter can be made through its fiscal sponsor  
62 Skyberry Collaborative at P.O. Box 360 Brattleboro, VT 05302. Be  
63 sure to note it is for Beloved Shelter in the memo line of the  
64 check.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

65

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

66

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

67

###END LINKS###

VIDEO:

###BEGIN VIDEO###

68

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

69

###END LOGLINE###