



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

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Mayor Mallory & Duke Energy Foundation Announce \$12,000 Grant to Fund the City's Winter Shelter Shelter opened 23 times in 2008 serving 100 per night

Cincinnati – Julie S. Janson, President of Duke Energy, presented Mayor Mark Mallory and Council Member Roxanne Qualls with a check for \$12,000 on behalf of the Duke Energy Foundation. This grant will help to fund the City's Winter Shelter Program at the Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center this winter season.

"A lot of us take for granted that we have a home and a warm bed during the extremely cold winter months. For far too many Cincinnatians, a warm bed is simply not a reality, and that is why it is so important that the City is able to operate the emergency winter shelter," Mayor Mark Mallory said. "Once again, Duke Energy is taking the lead as a great community partner."

The Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center, 1715 Republic Street, opens its doors to those seeking shelter when the temperature reaches 10 Degrees or below or there is a sustained wind chill at that temperature and the Drop-Inn Center is at capacity. The Duke Energy Foundation is providing the necessary funds to ensure that the program is fully operational this winter.

"I'm grateful that Duke Energy and other generous donors are willing to step up when times are tough," Council Member Roxanne Qualls said. "It's essential that those who are homeless or without heat when winter weather hits and shelters are overflowing have a warm place to go. It would be unacceptable to leave people to freeze on the streets of our great city."

"When we learned of this situation, we knew these winter shelters were a natural fit to receive Duke Energy Foundation dollars. We just simply could not turn our backs on some of Cincinnati's most vulnerable citizens. Keeping our community warm in the winter is what we do," said Julie Janson president Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky.

The Duke Energy Foundation contributed over \$3.5 million dollars in Greater Cincinnati during 2008. The Duke Energy Foundation provided this grant under their Community Vitality mission because it is a public safety service during the cold weather months. Last winter season, the OTR Recreation Center served as a Winter Shelter for 23 evenings and allowed an average of 99 citizens per night to get in out of the dangerously cold weather.

"It's a great day for the city and the community," said Dr. Norman Merrifield, Director of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. "Recreation has re-created what it means to be part of the community and be there when the citizens need us the most."

They were joined by representatives of the City's Department of Community Development and Health Department, the American Red Cross, and the Drop-Inn Center.