

Build a Bed Program Plan

Knights of Columbus – Michigan Jurisdiction

This program provides a clear, scalable framework for Knights of Columbus (KofC) councils, districts, and dioceses across Michigan to partner with **Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)**, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that *no child sleeps on the floor*. By addressing the growing issue of “child bedlessness,” this initiative supports the KofC principles of **charity, unity, and fraternity**, while strengthening community outreach, mobilizing volunteers, and assisting vulnerable families throughout the state.

The plan is intentionally flexible, allowing any KofC unit—large or small, urban or rural—to participate independently or collaboratively. By integrating with SHP’s established methods, councils can focus on fundraising, volunteers, and parish engagement, while ensuring all safety and operational standards are met.

Program Overview

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national, volunteer-driven organization that constructs and delivers high-quality twin and bunk beds to children ages 3–17 who lack a safe place to sleep. Their mission—“**No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!**”—is carried out through local chapters that manage requests, builds, and deliveries.

SHP has delivered over **250,000 beds nationwide**, emphasizing broad community participation. In Michigan, active chapters—including Auburn, Lansing, Western Wayne County, Monroe County, Cedar Springs, Saginaw, and Flushing—serve a wide range of regions, creating natural opportunities for Knights of Columbus councils to partner locally.

Partnering with SHP allows KofC members, families, and parish communities to take part in meaningful **bed-build events**, strengthening relationships, engaging youth, and expanding parish presence in the community.

How the Program Works

1. Identify and Partner with a Local SHP Chapter

- Use the SHP chapter locator (shpbeds.org/chapters) to find the nearest Michigan chapter.

- Contact the chapter president to express interest in coordinating a build or assisting with deliveries.
 - Many SHP chapters already partner with KofC units nationwide, making collaboration straightforward.
 - If no chapter is nearby, councils may explore starting one with SHP guidance; however, this plan assumes partnership with existing chapters.
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2. Plan and Organize a Bed-Build Event

Venue & Logistics

Secure a large workspace such as a parish hall, school gym, or warehouse. A standard build lasts **4–6 hours** and typically produces **20–50 beds**, depending on volunteers.

Volunteer Engagement

Recruit Knights, family members, parishioners, and community partners. Assign simple, repetitive tasks—sanding, drilling, staining, assembling, and branding bed components. No woodworking experience is needed; SHP provides on-site training and stations.

Materials & Tools

SHP supplies bed plans, tools (e.g., sanders, drills), and pre-cut lumber if funded. Councils may sponsor materials or utilize SHP's bulk purchasing program.

Event Flow

Events begin with a safety briefing and prayer. Volunteers work in teams to assemble bed components, which are then stored for scheduled deliveries.

3. Bed Application and Verification

- Families apply through their local SHP chapter's website or phone line.
 - Eligibility includes children ages **3–17**, appropriate space in the home, and verified contact information.
 - SHP handles all application approvals to ensure confidentiality, consistency, and fairness.
 - KofC units can support outreach by promoting applications through parishes and local service organizations.
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4. Delivery and Assembly

- Teams of 2–4 volunteers deliver and assemble beds in family homes.
- Each bed includes a **mattress, bedding set, pillow, and comforter**.
- Deliveries provide a meaningful opportunity for compassionate interaction, and councils may include KofC items such as prayer cards.

5. Follow-Up and Impact Measurement

- Track key metrics: beds constructed, beds delivered, and families served.
- Share results with the Michigan State Council for recognition and statewide reporting.
- Councils are encouraged to host recurring builds or participate in regional or diocesan efforts.

Costs

SHP operates entirely through volunteers, donations, and sponsorships. KofC councils can fundraise through parish events, community partnerships, or grants through programs such as **Leave No Neighbor Behind**.

Estimated Per-Bed Costs

Bed Type	Materials	Mattress	Bedding	Pillow & Protector	Total
Single Twin	\$100–150	\$80–100	\$50–75	\$20–25	\$250–350
Bunk (Two Beds)	\$200–300	\$160–200	\$100–150	\$40–50	\$500–700

- A 20-bed build typically requires **\$5,000–\$7,000**.
- Tools are often donated or borrowed, minimizing extra expenses.
- SHP allocates **10% of all funds raised** to national operations, covering insurance and administrative support.

Fundraising Options

- Pancake breakfasts or spaghetti dinners
 - Raffles, auctions, or parish fund drives
 - Local business sponsorships
 - Recurring donations through SHP's **Bunkhead Club** (\$20/month sponsors one bed annually)
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Liability and Insurance Requirements

SHP maintains comprehensive insurance coverage for all volunteers and events.

- **Volunteer Waivers:** All participants sign SHP's liability waiver prior to building or delivering beds.
 - **Insurance Coverage:** SHP's liability insurance covers accidents during events and deliveries; the 10% national allocation supports this.
 - **Safety Guidelines:** All procedures follow SHP protocols—protective gear, supervised tool use, and background checks when working with minors.
 - **Local Requirements:** Michigan does not require special permits for charitable builds, though councils should confirm any needs with parish or venue insurance providers.
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Implementation Steps for KofC Units

1. **Form a Committee**
Designate a program chairman and a small leadership team (3–5 Knights).
 2. **Set Realistic Goals**
Start with one or two builds per year, beginning with a manageable goal such as constructing 10 beds.
 3. **Budget and Fundraise**
Use council funds or launch specific fundraising efforts.
 4. **Promote and Execute the Event**
Use parish bulletins, social media, council newsletters, and diocesan communication channels.
 5. **Evaluate and Expand**
Gather feedback after the first build, then scale to district- or diocesan-level cooperation.
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Conclusion

This program equips Michigan Knights of Columbus councils with a clear, impactful way to address child bedlessness across the state. By partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Knights can provide immediate, tangible support to families while living out the Order's mission of service and fraternity.

For more information, visit **shpbeds.org** or contact your local SHP chapter.