COVID-19 Impact on Homelessness in Greenville County

Greenville, SC (March 18, 2020) GHA is asking for citizens of Greenville County to reach out over the next 36 hours to their Member of Congress and communicate that it’s essential to provide funds to homelessness and housing programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Go to https://endhomelessness.org/help-end-homelessness/take-action/ for more information and an online link to your representatives.

GHA also urges you to donate to the local relief fund organized by United Way of Greenville County. Go to this link to learn more and donate https://www.unitedwaygc.org/response.

Here is the latest update on organizations serving those experiencing homelessness in Greenville County.

- Emergency shelters are operating at capacity but will remain open.
- Project Host remains open providing bagged meals Sunday-Friday from 11-12.
- Place of Hope remains open.
- New Horizon Family Health Services, Inc. Health Care for the Homeless Mobile Medical Unit is continuing operations as normal so individuals with chronic diseases and acute, non-COVID related, illnesses can continue to access medical services including prescription medication.
- Medical Respite services at the Greenville Rescue Mission will also continue for now.
- United Housing Connections remains open. Call 864.241.0462 and request to speak with an intake or referral specialist.
- Triune Mercy Center will turn their Saturday, Sunday and Monday (March 21-23) meals into take-out lunch bags provided by their serving churches.

- The Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA) has set-up a Facebook group – COVID-19 Homelessness Resources Hub – for organizations to post changes in times of operation or services and any needs that the community can help meet. A current list of needs are below:
## Homeless Service Provider Needs – March 18, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Delivery Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Impressions of SC – Homeless Shelter for Single Women</strong></td>
<td>Sandra Bullock <a href="mailto:bullock1679@yahoo.com">mailto:bullock1679@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>All type of paper products. Hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, socks, and rubber gloves.</td>
<td>Call office M-F, 11-6 864-520-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miracle Hill Ministries</strong></td>
<td>Paulette Dunn <a href="mailto:paulette@projecthost.org">mailto:paulette@projecthost.org</a></td>
<td>Toilet paper, canned goods or non-perishable items, bath towels, flip flops, paper products (plates, cups, napkins.) They cannot accept any homemade food items.</td>
<td>Drop off at central warehouse in Greenville (725 Keith St.) No drop offs at shelter locations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Host</strong></td>
<td>Julie Meredith <a href="mailto:julie.meredith@safecircle.org">mailto:julie.meredith@safecircle.org</a></td>
<td>use bags, easy, healthy snack foods, Ziploc bags</td>
<td>Drop at our back loading dock. We check every few minutes. Please call first in the event that the donated items are best used elsewhere.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safe Harbor</strong></td>
<td>Julie Meredith <a href="mailto:julie.meredith@safecircle.org">mailto:julie.meredith@safecircle.org</a></td>
<td>Shelter Needs: Paper plates and cups, plastic silverware, non-perishable food and drinks, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, disposable gloves, disinfectant wipes and spray, hand sanitizer, hand soap, and over-the-counter medication.</td>
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<td><strong>The Salvation Army</strong></td>
<td>Rachel Wilkes <a href="mailto:Rachel.Wilkes@uss.salvationarmy.org">mailto:Rachel.Wilkes@uss.salvationarmy.org</a></td>
<td>Link to wish list: <a href="https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/1b8dc4b9-2fd0-44c0-a1cc-cf7e51e0f0b/view">https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/1b8dc4b9-2fd0-44c0-a1cc-cf7e51e0f0b/view</a></td>
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<td><strong>Triune Mercy Center</strong></td>
<td>Deb Richardson-Moore <a href="mailto:deb@triumercy.org">mailto:deb@triumercy.org</a></td>
<td>Gallon-sized plastic freezer &quot;pop-top&quot; bags to give out to homeless citizens: peanut butter crackers, Beenie Weenies, Vienna sausages, fruit cups, granola bars, bottled water, plastic fork -- anything that can be eaten directly out of the bag.</td>
<td>Drop off Wed. 9-11 Mon. 9-11 Sat. 9-noon Sun. 10 to noon</td>
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<td><strong>United Ministries - Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)</strong></td>
<td>Katie Preuss <a href="mailto:kpreuss@unitedministries.org">mailto:kpreuss@unitedministries.org</a></td>
<td>Gift cards for grocery stores, TP and cleaning supplies, funds to help families with bills as they are out of work is the biggest one though!</td>
<td>606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>United Ministries - Place of Hope</strong></td>
<td>Nick Bush <a href="mailto:nbush@unitedministries.org">mailto:nbush@unitedministries.org</a></td>
<td>q tips, little shampoo, paper towels, mini hand sanitizer</td>
<td>606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>United Ministries – Food Bank</strong></td>
<td>232.6463</td>
<td>Canned meats and fruit are most needed. An alternative would be to check our Amazon Wishlists at: <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.htm?ie=UTF8&amp;type=wishlist&amp;id=11D4YA6DT1JYV">https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.htm?ie=UTF8&amp;type=wishlist&amp;id=11D4YA6DT1JYV</a> and ship items directly to our offices.</td>
<td>Donations may be left at the loading dock at the rear of the facility (606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC) 8 am- Noon, Monday-Friday. Call so staff members will know to retrieve it.</td>
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At least 3,600 people experienced homelessness in Greenville County during 2018-19, and one-third were school-aged children according to data released in the Greenville Homeless Alliance’s 2019 Report on Homelessness in Greenville County. The report looked at emergency sheltered (2,285), unsheltered (242) and school-aged children (1,106) experiencing homelessness in Greenville County.

Other key findings in the report include:

- 64% of adults in emergency shelter were between the ages of 25-54.
- 39% of unsheltered adults are chronically homeless (homeless for the last 12 months or at least 4 different occasions that equal 12 months over the past 3 years)
- Only 10% of identified school-aged children qualify for homelessness services from U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), leaving 90% of these children and their families reliant on local resources for assistance
- Greenville County has very limited emergency shelter beds for families, and extremely limited beds for single fathers with children, single mothers with a son age 10 or older, or large families.
- Greenville County has 1,015 beds (emergency shelter, transitional and supportive housing) that are creating a pathway to exit homelessness. Most, however, stay full, indicating a need for an additional 850 housing options with a range of rent from $200-650/month located near Greenlink routes
  - 100 for those experiencing chronic homelessness
  - 400 for individuals in emergency shelter
  - 350 housing options for families

Data sources for the report include the Upstate Continuum of Care, United Housing Connections, City of Greenville, Greenville County, Greenville County School District, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Public Education Partnership, SC Housing, and US Census Bureau.

This report is an update to the 2015 Homelessness White Paper that challenged the Greenville community to begin addressing the issue of homelessness in a more unified manner in response to an encampment under the Pete Hollis Bridge that grew quickly to more than 10 men and women experiencing homelessness. Read all GHA reports and access a list of resources available for people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity on the GHA website: https://www.gvlhomes4all.org/.

The Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA) is a coalition of partners and individuals committed to making homelessness brief and rare in Greenville, SC. Charged with looking for sustainable solutions to homelessness, GHA works to educate, advocate, collaborate, and innovate with policymakers and the community.

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