



AHELPING



Greensboro Urban Ministry Newsletter

More Than a Meal, More Than a Bed...No Matter the Season

In this season of giving and gifting our friends and family, I am always amazed how the Greater Greensboro community is eager to come together to meet a need. Not out of dread, despair, or duty; but with optimism, hope, joy, and the privilege to be in this ministry and mission with us. This year has been no exception.

Most of my communication to you this year has been about food for those who are hungry. We continue to feed over 700 warm meals a day at our Potter's House Community Kitchen no questions asked. And we often serve nearly 200 households a day at our Client Choice



Pantry, operating like an urban grocery store in the heart of Greensboro. Yet, even with increased food costs and dwindling food supplies, we have never wavered in feeding those who are hungry. You in turn, helped us meet the challenge this fall by bringing in over 40,000 pounds of food to restock our shelves. This was our largest food drive since the pandemic changed our lives four years ago. Thank you.

Just as we feed our neighbors who are hungry every single day, we continue to shelter the homeless in our community, no matter the season. I'm proud to share how the Faith Community has urgently come together to increase our emergency shelter bed capacity this winter season. Four churches are collaborating with Greensboro Urban Ministry leadership to provide 57 additional beds from December though March. In addition to sharing their space with us, the churches are providing two warm meals a day (breakfast and dinner), dedicated volunteer support, and generous hospitality. Many other churches are binding together to support these four sites.

Greensboro Urban Ministry, in turn, is providing professional program management and coordination, Site Coordinators at each location, Night Managers, and dedicated Case Management support for every guest in these additional 57 beds. This winter emergency shelter response is an extension of our 100 bed Weaver House shelter program for single men and women, which is operating at full occupancy.



Our collaboration with the Faith Community is being supported by the City of Greensboro. The city staff and public safety officials have worked diligently with Greensboro Urban Ministry's team to expedite and safely launch this program in time for the coldest months ahead. It has been a privilege to watch this solution-oriented partnership blossom because we believe our community is strongest when nonprofits, faith communities, government, and neighbors all work together.

Friends, you are a key part of this story. Our community is demonstrating that it can take care of those in need and inspire people to make personal changes while meeting them where they are, no matter their situation if they are willing to take the step. And, we understand that hope can be the ultimate gift this holiday season.

Thank you again for continuing to help us fulfill our mission by expressing the love of God to our neighbors in need by offering food, shelter, and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,













FOR THIS VOLUNTEER, IT'S THE SMALL THINGS THAT COUNT.

Ann Sykes knows all too well what's it's like to lose what you've worked hard to have in life due to life's circumstances. Her husband experienced a medical crisis. During his illness there was a loss of his income, and then a loss of her job, which ultimately uprooted their financial stability. They struggled to make ends meet and needed assistance just to ensure they had food on their table and a place to live. There were no extra funds for comfort items that many of us look forward to having which provide a little pampering, even on sale, such as items from Bath and Body Works. Eventually, Ann landed a job that helped them regain their financial stability, Ann never forgot about their experiences, the struggles, and the feeling of not being able to afford those comfort items.



When she was able, she began purchasing fragrant bath items, perfumes, lotions and more each time they were on sale. Once she had collected quite a few items, she would bring the gifts to Partnership Village for the residents to have some of those special gifts to provide a sense of comfort. Ten years later, she is still providing these gifts to the women and men at Partnership Village and has no intent of stopping anytime soon.

Ann reminds us of the impact one person can make in the lives of others. The small things that many of us can take for granted can be something un-affordable and lavish for someone struggling to have food and shelter. Thank you, Ann, for providing these special gifts for the residents and making a positive impact in their lives.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS SAVE THE DATES!

Each year, Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM) hosts our signature events such as Serving Greensboro Together, CROP Hunger Walk, Feast of Caring, and the annual Holiday Honor Card. We also are blessed by many community partners who hold special events, such as Groove Jam, Hope Fest, and PTI's Run on the Runway. These events help raise vital funds and bring awareness for our program areas.



Saturday, April 5

For more information on our upcoming events and how you can participate, please visit our website's event page at https://www.GreensboroUrbanMinistry.org/events