

Greetings Winter Relief Partners,

It is hard to believe that the Winter Relief season is just around the corner. Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends for some rest and relaxation!

A lot will be happening during the month of September to prepare for our shelter season. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming meetings and be sure to share this information with the volunteers on your team who may be interested in participating in the training sessions.

All Site Coordinators should be contacted by your Segment Coordinators by the end of September – if for some reason you do not get contacted, please let me know and I will follow up with them. Many of our Coordinators are just getting back from vacations and busy summer schedules, so we thank you for your patience with us! We will be assigning your Segment Coordinators next week and I will send out an updated schedule with that information soon thereafter.

Reminders of Upcoming Meetings:

September 24: Winter Relief Kick-Off Meeting, 7:00pm at Severn Christian Church located at 8132 New Cut Rd, Severn, MD 21144. We will be meeting in the auditorium. We ask that ALL Site Coordinators attend the Kick-Off Meeting to obtain their *2019-20 Information Packet* and receive important information. Please send a representative from your site if you are unable to attend.

October 1: New Site Coordinator/Volunteer Training, 7:00pm (at Arundel House of Hope, Glen Burnie) . Please note that the New Site Coordinator/Volunteer Training is an overview of our program and is designed for those who are new Coordinators or Volunteers who would like to know the ins and outs of the Winter Relief Program. ***This is the same program we have offered the past two seasons, back by popular demand.***

November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10: Site Coordinator Meetings at Arundel House of Hope Community Recovery Center. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month between November and March, followed by our *End of the Season Appreciation Dinner* in April. Each month we will have guest speakers from various county organizations who provide services to those experiencing homelessness and/or substance addictions and mental health challenges. We will also be offering Narcan (naloxone) and hands only CPR training at our meetings early in the season. I will send out an agenda with each month's newsletter which is sent near the beginning of each month throughout the shelter season.

December 21 (Winter Solstice): Save the Date for **The Longest Night Memorial Service**, 4:30pm; Sponsored by Arundel House of Hope and the AA County Coalition to End Homelessness. We read the names and share in the memory of those individuals who died while homeless in Anne Arundel County in 2019 shining a light of hope and remembrance into the

longest night of the year. We request hosting sites make provisions to transport our guests to this service in memory of their friends.

March 28, 9:30am-3:00pm: 12th Annual Homeless Resource Day at Annapolis High School. Please note this has been moved from October to March this year.

Homeless Resource Day is an annual county event to help those without permanent housing access the numerous services they need to become more self-sufficient and seek permanent housing. Service that might take a homeless individual months or longer to obtain are provided for free in one location (i.e. birth certificate, SS care, state ID and other official documents necessary to apply for housing assistance or sign a rental agreement). There will be opportunities for volunteers to guide a homeless guest through the services during the Resource Event - information will be shared as it becomes available.

Who are we?

There are many services available to our Winter Relief guests at Arundel House of Hope – Winter Relief is one of many programs offered by AHOH to the underprivileged throughout our community. I have attached our 2019-2020 **Covenant Agreement** and letter to congregations. We ask that your site prayerfully consider the difference this agreement can make in the lives of our homeless community. The Covenant Agreement has gone out to your pastor or rabbi - please follow up with them to make sure it was received.

Here is a brief synopsis of what we offer:

- Our Day & Resource Center provides daytime shelter, hospitality services, sanitary services, and professional services.
- Our Community Recovery Center provides the opportunity for clients to participate in recovery and enrichment programs, as well as obtaining access to computers and laundry facilities.
- Our Medical Clinic provides assistance with hardship paperwork, finding medical insurance, and limited prescription assistance
- Our housing programs provides transitional and permanent housing to homeless and disabled individuals through our Safe Haven and Wish House Programs, and our Patriot House Program which assists homeless Veterans as they transition back to independent living. Our Bailey Family Ministry Program provides a transitional housing program for families that give adults and children the skills needed for self-sufficiency that can be used and passed on to future generations.
- Case Managers are provided as a service to our clients in all of our programs.

Please send agreements back to our Executive Director, Mario Berninzoni via mail, email or fax (addresses and numbers included in the Covenant Agreement).

Needs:

We have a few needs that we are placing on our wish list for Winter Relief – all of these donations are greatly appreciated!

- Men's underwear - BOXERS please!
- Zippered pillow covers
- Blue Jeans, T-shirts, and hoodies
- Travel-size deodorant
- Disposable razors
- Warm twin size blankets

2019-20 Schedule:

We are in need of a hosting site in Annapolis (Site 3) between **December 16 - 23** and a hosting site in Glen Burnie (Site 2 - all male site) between **March 2 -9**. Please let me know if you can accommodate this spot or if you know of any potential sites that I can contact. The latest draft of the schedule is attached to this email. We will open our season on October 14th for Sites 1 and 2 in Glen Burnie; and November 4th for Site 3 in Annapolis and run through the end of March.

We are also in need of additional transportation assistance. If you know of any faith organization that has access to a bus that may be willing to assist with transportation, please forward that information to me so that I can contact them.

Our shower trailer is still up and running! It worked well last season to shut it down and winterize when the temperature was forecast to drop below freezing. If you know of anyone interested in being a member of a team of individuals who can help sites set up the trailer and be on call during the week in the event it needs to be winterized, please let me know! Our goal is to have enough team members that each member would only be on duty once a month.

Please look at the attached schedule and confirm all information. If you need to use a Middle School facility, please let me know which county Middle School you would like to use and I will request usage. Showers at schools are always scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I arrange for showers through our county liaison, but sites **MUST** call the school a week in advance to confirm that they are ready for you and that you have the contact information for the custodial staff who will be letting you into the building. If you have any issues when you call the school, just let me know and I will talk with our liaison who will take care of us! If you are requesting the shower trailer, I will need to know which Middle School to arrange as a backup.

The attached schedule also shows site coordinators and hosting site addresses. Please reply to me with the following confirmations:

- a. Site Coordinator information accurate (name and contact information)
- b. Shower information - Middle School preference, on-site shower, or use of shower trailer
- c. Church/Synagogue information accurate

Support: Please remember that I can come out to your site during one of your organizational meetings if you feel that would benefit your volunteers and/or leadership teams. We also encourage you to invite your Segment Coordinator to one of your meetings – a great way to get acquainted with your WR point of contact, and to get any questions answered.

Thank you in advance for an amazing season full of blessings!

Attachments: Covenant Agreement & 2019-20 WR Hosting Schedule (please do not share this information as it contains private telephone numbers)

In His service,

~Pam