

July 2020

Greetings Winter Relief Partners in Ministry,

Shelter Update:

We continue to host homeless men and women, domestic violence victims, and families at the Red Roof Inn in Annapolis. This is an alternate shelter paid for with county, state and federal funds and fully staffed by Arundel House of Hope with support from the Department of Social Services, the Emergency Operations Center, and other County organizations.

As we look forward to Winter Relief, most of our hosting sites are reporting that they are not able to shelter in their facilities this fall. We completely understand their position during this unprecedented time of uncertainty, and hope that you will keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we find creative ways to care for the less fortunate.

At this point, the alternate shelter will remain open at the Red Roof Inn through the end of December 2020. Arundel House of Hope will continue to staff the hotel as well as provide on-site case management for our guests.

A challenge will be to house, in addition to our current guests, the number of guests who typically come in off of the streets during our Winter Relief sheltering months. We will max to capacity at the hotel without the capability to shelter all those in need. With that in mind, we are in the process of transitioning from an urgent/emergency shelter (in response to the Covid-19 pandemic), to a short-term emergency shelter focusing on the goals of permanent housing and client services.

We will continue to reassess our options as we approach the end of December. If we continue in our current pandemic, can we continue at the hotel? Would there be some hosting sites that would be willing to host a smaller number of "overflow" guests in January and February? So many questions without many answers. I will continue to keep you up to date each month to let you know how it is going and what direction we are taking. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us!

Day Center/ Community Recovery Center:

We are in the process of hiring additional employees so that we are able to re-open the CRC and extend our Day Center hours. This summer we have opened the Day Center M-F from 8a-2p to provide a place for those on the streets to get a bagged lunch (thanks to the food ministry at Our Lady of the Chesapeake), to charge cell phones, and receive case management. The CRC has been closed due to social distancing and support of the hotel in Annapolis. The County has had

mobile shower units available in both Glen Burnie and Annapolis. Starting next week, we will be sending our shower trailer out as well.

We are beginning to take donations again and appreciate your patience with us! We are still holding off on used clothing and shoes, but would love to receive any toiletries (hotel size soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, razors, shaving cream, deodorant), blankets, propane tanks, tarps, etc.

How you can help:

Starting next month, we will have an online SignUp Genius sheet for items needed at the hotel - cold breakfast foods (individual boxes of cereal, oatmeal, shelf sturdy milk in individual containers, etc.). Lunch and dinner will continue to be catered by the County. More to follow!

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers and all you do. I would like to share a quote from Raymond W. Copp, Command Chaplain of the Veteran Reserve Corps sent out on July 4th to the Board members:

"All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

... those words led to a nation built on world-transforming principles; fairness, justice, equality and liberty for all. Then let me ask: Is that nation free from blemishes? Certainly not. And is that nation perfect in its distribution of justice, fairness, and liberty? Certainly not that either.

However, imperfect people (as we all are) are capable of great deeds and those deeds should not be diminished because of our imperfections. Likewise, this nation, one nation, united, should not be judged solely by her impurities but instead by her unparalleled potential.

So on this Independence Day, let us not focus on what divides us but rather on what unites us. For we are unique among all the peoples of the earth. It is our potential that should inspire us. A potential paid for over these 244 years by people willing to give it all. Those people bought us the time to fix the blemishes and preserve Jefferson's mechanism for doing so at the same time. That this nation, unique among many nations, shall flourish and prosper and not perish from the face of the earth.

God's blessing to each of you. Be safe and stay well,
~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb
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