



Howard Coates

2016 WINTER Newsletter

MINISTRY IN WINTER

Winter is a busy season at Greensboro Urban Ministry. Partnership is an essential part of keeping folks safe. People come to us on bitterly cold days facing homes with no heat or nights with no shelter.

Thanks to your generosity, we are helping the poor on multiple fronts:

- We are offering financial help to men, women and families through our Emergency Assistance Program that is keeping the heat on and helping people avoid eviction. Food assistance helps fill empty shelves and stomachs.
- Each night, we shelter about 135 men and women at our Gate City Boulevard location. They stay in our year-round shelter, our onsite Weaver Extension shelter for 15 additional women, and also in our lobby. We also provide shelter to 16 families at Pathways Center.
- Our congregational partners – Grace Community, Faith Step Ministries, West Market Street UMC and Mount Zion Baptist – partner with us to shelter an additional 64 men and women.
- We partner with the IRC, YWCA and the city to give men and women who usually live outside a safe place to come inside on White Flag Emergency Nights (25 degrees or colder).

Many times, from this place of crisis comes opportunities for people to grasp a new way of life. One of those folks who found that opportunity is Howard Coates. An injury forced him out of work, and ultimately out of his home. He slept in his car, wrapped in a blanket his god-mother made for him when he was a boy. After moving to a motel and finally park benches, he came to Greensboro Urban Ministry. Here he found help, hope and healing to move out of homelessness.

We've shared his story with you, and wanted to update you. This year, Howard has joined our Board of Directors. He speaks with truth, honesty and compassion for all who are here. He volunteers in Potter's House Community Kitchen with some of the same volunteers who served him when he was our guest. As a Stephen Minister, he is supporting other men who are facing crisis to see that hope doesn't have to end with homelessness. Sometimes, it can be a beginning.

Winter for some of our guests won't be the bitterest season; it will be the start of something new. Thank you for being with us to make it happen! If you made your Annual Fund and Winter Fund gift, we thank you. If you have not had that opportunity, we hope you will share what you can to help us do this important work.

Rev. Myron Wilkins, Executive Director

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

As we settle into the new year, it's a time when we are thinking about how we can best serve folks, including you, our supporters and readers. We know you value knowing about our guests and how they are doing, and how our work together is making their lives better. You've told us you also want to stay connected so you know about ways you can help – from food drives, to volunteering and donating to supporting our events. This really hasn't changed since we started our work in 1967.

What has changed, of course, are the myriad options we have to communicate with you! And the ways you can take information we share with you and tell us what you think – and even tell your friends about it, too.

So we're moving more of
our communications with you
online in 2016.

Starting with this edition of the newsletter, we will have one page, front and back, to share the "top of the news." From here, you can go online to discover more stories about our clients and news about programs and events. We hope you will take time to explore our website, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter – some interesting conversations are happening in the two-way chat that is social media, and we want to hear from you! We also hope you will invite your friends into the conversation, too.

We believe we can share even more with you while saving money on printing and mailing costs that we can direct to helping our guests. We feel sure you will agree this is a wise direction.

2015 PROGRAM Highlights



FOOD



GUM Food Pantry

1,057,876 pounds of food received
18,106 households provided with food assistance

Potter's House

Meals served: 217,357
40,936 breakfasts
139,923 lunches
36,498 dinners



SHELTER



Weaver House

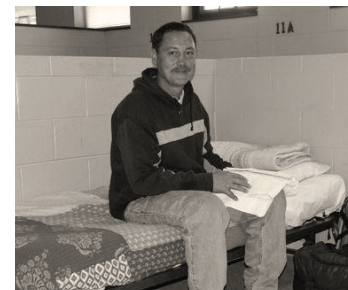
1,125 men and women sheltered

Weaver Extension (WE)

187 men and women sheltered

Pathways Center

59 families sheltered



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



\$660,618 in one-time rent or utility help
1,862 households assisted

BEYOND GUM



131 households (individual or family) found housing
107 households (individual/family) housed at Partnership Village
44 landlord partnerships
84 men and women found employment

LEARN MORE about Greensboro Urban Ministry's clients, programs and staff in our 2015 Annual Report, available online. Please visit GreensboroUrbanMinistry.org > About Us > News and Information. You can also see the agency's most recent audit and tax return online.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

In 2015, more than 2,000 men and women shared 65,000 hours of their time and talent with Greensboro Urban Ministry as volunteers. Perhaps you were one of them.

Volunteers do a range of valuable things at our three sites, including preparing and serving meals; making quilts for guests in our shelters; sorting and packing emergency food bags for hungry neighbors; tutoring children at Pathways Center and Partnership Village; working at special events; and serving on committees and our Board.



The estimated value of volunteer time is \$23.07, according to the Corporation of National and Community Service. That means GUM volunteers' time equates to a value of more than \$1,499,550! What an awesome impact on fighting poverty in our community!

If you are interested in working with us, as an individual or group, we are excited to find the connecting point for you here. You can learn a great deal about volunteering by visiting our website, www.GreensboroUrbanMinistry.org/volunteer. You can also contact Gail Gore-Lewis, director of Volunteer Services, at lewis@guministry.org. We look forward to working with you!

