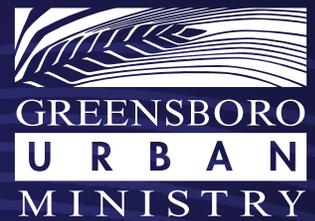


# 2017-18 WINTER SHELTER SPECIAL



*Howard Coates, a former client who now serves on the Urban Ministry Board of Directors, at the Grace Community WE site.*

## *How You Can Help*

The cost for Urban Ministry to provide the Weaver Extension (WE) program will be approximately \$77,400 this winter.

Your contributions to Urban Ministry provide funding for WE site expenses, including staff and transportation. Urban Ministry also contracts with an outside agency, Turning Point 180, to expand our case management capacity at our WE sites. This allows all the men, women and families in our care this winter to benefit from this one-on-one support, advocacy and accountability.

For only \$70, you can provide shelter and support for one WE guest for an entire week.

## *A circle of light*

It's 7 p.m. at Grace Community Church, and the Wednesday dinner for the Glenwood community is ending. Twelve of the dinner guests bypass the parking lot and head into the Weaver Extension (WE) site next door. The WE site is a shelter partnership with Greensboro Urban Ministry that provides a safe bed for 12 men from December through March.

Dana, one of the shelter managers, is waiting to greet Marcus, Lashawn, Brian, Timothy and their roommates. They are like family, coming back together after a day out of the house. Smiles, a little ribbing, even some hugs riffle around the shelter room as the men put down their things.

Four bunks, covered with bright quilts and blankets, form three straight rows. Each bed has a chair beside it, and a plastic tub at its foot. Each space, in its spareness, is neat and efficient. This room, in its warmth, is cozy. And home.

Grace's Elders come in with the WE guests. They've come to pray with the guests and maybe watch a little football together after chores are done. Brian, from the Elder Board, encourages everyone to come together. They circle up and introduce themselves. It's a blessed thing to be here, one of the WE guests chimes in.

Greensboro Urban Ministry WE sites allow more people to be fed, sheltered and safe during harsh winter weather. Urban Ministry provides shelter 365 nights a year for 86 men, 14 women, and 16 families. From December through March, Urban Ministry partners with congregations to create these additional Weaver Extension (WE) sites. Grace Community is one of five WE sites this year. Together, the sites will provide more than 70 additional beds for men and women during these coldest months of the year.

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## **GUM Weaver Extension (WE) Sites**

WE site guests are placed by referrals only through Weaver House Night Shelter. Weaver House works in partnership with other shelter providers and the IRC.

We thank the following congregational host site partners for their faithful partnership and support:

Faith Step Ministries Church  
309 W. Gate City Blvd.  
12 men

Grace Community Church  
643 W. Gate City Blvd.  
12 men

New Jerusalem Cathedral  
2505 Fairview St.  
20 women

Mount Zion Baptist Church  
1301 Alamance Church Road  
12 men

West Market Street UMC  
302 W. Market St.  
15 men



Back in the Grace circle, Brian asks for prayer concerns. Bradley, the youngest guest, prays for his mother and stepdad. Marcus prays for his family and looks at each person in the circle. This room is his family, he says. Some men pray for jobs. All pray for a home.

Everyone takes hands and for a moment, they are all standing in a circle of light. Bradley mentions that he'd really like to go to GTCC to study design. Timothy, who has just celebrated his birthday, is going to get rehoused, he says earnestly. He just needs a little help getting there.

This is where you come into this circle of light. Your support for Greensboro Urban Ministry keeps men like Timothy and Bradley fed, sheltered and safe until they find new housing. Your support also helps households at risk of losing their homes make utility payments so they can stay housed.

We are able to do this work because of your support for our Winter Fund.

*Thank you!*

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## On any given night in Greensboro, 573 men and women, and 56 families with children, experience homelessness.

Source: 2017 Point in Time Count (Partners Ending Homelessness)

### *In from the cold*

Greensboro Urban Ministry's Weaver House shelter lobby is open every night of the year and can host up to 25 men and women. These guests are in addition to the 100 men and women we shelter each night.

On dangerously cold nights this winter, the Weaver House lobby serves as Urban Ministry's white flag warming center. Urban Ministry is working with partners including the Interactive Resource Center, YWCA and the city to ensure those who are living outside have a safe place to escape the frigid temperatures.

Using the City of Greensboro Winter Emergency Response Plan as a guide, the city and agencies declare white flag emergency conditions when temperatures drop to a wind chill of 25 degrees or colder for two hours or more.

Our congregational partners, who serve breakfast daily, invite lobby guests to stay and have breakfast in Potter's House Community Kitchen before they leave in the morning.

### *More Online: Angel's Revival*

Weaver House employee Angel Baptist shares her journey back to a stable home and her future plans to be a social worker. Angel is a student at N.C. A&T State University. She is also a resident in our Partnership Village transitional housing program. Watch the video at [www.greensborourbanministry.org](http://www.greensborourbanministry.org).

