WANT TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS? ADVOCATE FOR MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is considered affordable by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development if a household spends no more than 30% of household income on housing costs (rent or mortgage plus utilities). According to the N.C. Housing Coalition, over two million North Carolinians spend more than 30% of their gross monthly household income on housing costs. This includes over 300,000 households that spend more than half of their income on housing.

To afford the average rent for a modest two-bedroom apartment in the state of North Carolina, an individual must earn $14.37 per hour or $2,300 per month. In the United States, the 2014 two-bedroom housing wage is $18.92. This national average is more than two-and-a-half times the federal minimum wage, and 52% higher than it was in 2000. In no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom rental unit at fair market rent. (2014 Out of Reach Report)

When we advocate for affordable housing, we mean well-built and well-managed/maintained housing for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes (generally 80% and below of area median income). This housing is often financed with federal, state, and City of Greensboro subsidies.

The lack of enough affordable housing in Greensboro results in many families and individuals turning to Urban Ministry for help. We help with paying rent and utilities through our Emergency Assistance Program. We provide emergency housing at Weaver House and Pathways. We provide our own affordable housing at Partnership Village. We rapidly rehouse families and individuals through our Beyond GUM program. All of this is possible because of your support! Thank you!

Rev. Mike Aiken
Executive Director
Greensboro Urban Ministry

2014 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR of EVENTS

SEP 3-4 CROP Hunger Walk Kick-Offs
SEP 20 Groove Jam at Doodad Farm
OCT 11 Gate City Chili Cook-Off
OCT 19 Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk
OCT 28 Honor Card Luncheon
NOV 20 Feast of Caring

DID YOU KNOW? FOR EVERY 100 EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS THERE ARE ONLY 30 AFFORDABLE & AVAILABLE RENTAL HOMES

Some call it a GAP. We call it UNACCEPTABLE.

PEOPLE of FAITH WORKING TOGETHER TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS
CROP HUNGER WALK

CROP - Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. In October 2013, the Greater Greensboro area responded to the occasion and was once again a leader in the fight to end hunger, holding the 2nd largest CROP Walk in the nation and raising over $214,000. Since its beginning 34 years ago, the Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk has raised over $5 million dollars toward efforts to end poverty and hunger locally and around the world.

Funds raised are helping end poverty through the efforts of Church World Services, who have provided assistance and training for people like Felipa Pascual, enabling them to better provide for their families. Felipa Pascual lives in a small community called LaMayita, in the Dominican Republic. Felipa is a mother of five and part of a CWS food security program.

Felipa says, “Before this project came to our community, I didn’t know anything about vegetables. I grow vegetables in our backyard. I received training from technicians on the project... We are healthier now because we eat a lot of vegetables. Also, I am happy because I can share what I produce with my family and neighbors. And finally, because I have enough to sell I have an income that allows me to help my family.”

Felipa is one of many success stories that we can share from the fundraising efforts of the CROP Hunger Walk. In addition to the international work the CROP Hunger Walks make possible, 25% of the funds raised are utilized here in our own community. Thanks to the generosity of the Greensboro community, more than $50,000 raised through the 2013 event remained in Greensboro to help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

This year we again gather to join in the fight to end hunger at the 34th Annual Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 19th. Won’t you consider joining in the efforts to end hunger and poverty? Our efforts are making a difference in the community and around the world and we welcome your support. For more information on how you can become involved, please visit www.greatergreensborocropwalk.org or e-mail Cheryl Ledford at ledford@guministry.org.

Kick-Offs will be held at Greensboro Urban Ministry on September 3rd from 11am-2pm and September 4th from 4-7pm.
I would never have imagined being homeless, then again who does. I had always given what I could to homeless people, in passing, on the streets and highways. I imaged in my mind it would be the worst place a person could be and always said, ‘Dear God, please don’t allow me to get down that low in life.’ I have since learned that there are many circumstances that could place someone in a homeless state and [that they] are not always preventable.” – Sabrina Pratt

As a single mother who had worked hard to support her family and to serve her country, as both a Veteran and with Homeland Security, Sabrina was not aware of the resources available for those in need. She had never had to consider such resources. However, an extended medical leave from her job due to a back injury and Stage 3 breast cancer left Sabrina with few resources, scraping to make ends meet with her workers compensation payments. While Sabrina waited for approval for surgery, the bills piled up and late fees became insurmountable. When her lease came up for renewal, her landlord refused to renew, leaving Sabrina and her son homeless.

A resilient individual, Sabrina did what many facing the same circumstances do, she moved from cheap motel, to a friend’s home for a few nights, to another cheap motel; never staying in the same place for very long, never able to save enough money for her own apartment, and lacking the stability her child needed to thrive. Finally, in desperation, Sabrina turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry in January for food assistance, not knowing how, or when, their nearly three year battle with homelessness would end. However, on that day, her life began to turn around when she was told about Greensboro Urban Ministry’s Pathways Center. “I had no idea that Pathways was here,” said Sabrina. She applied immediately for housing at Pathways Center and was able to move in within a few months. Sabrina shared that she arrived at the Center with a certain perception of family shelters in her mind, but was surprised by what she saw. “As I proceeded to see a room for just my son and I with beds, refrigerator, a table and chairs, stove, and endless support I praised God for all that he had done. I thanked him for sending such caring and responsible people my way.”

While at the Pathways Center, Sabrina worked with a case manager and a social worker to find housing, improve her credit score, create a budget, and begin overcoming the depression that comes with experiencing homelessness. As she says, she was shown that “it is possible for me to succeed.” Thanks to support from the Pathways Center staff and her hard work, Sabrina and her son now live in a nice apartment. She will continue to receive case management support for six months to help with the transition. This commitment to success through case management is what makes Pathways Center and their clients successful. Sabrina put it best when she said, “Pathways is all about helping people succeed from being homeless.” And, that is the goal of Greensboro Urban Ministry, to end homelessness. With the support of the community, we are doing just that.
This past spring, there was a great deal of media attention focused on a graduating high school senior who happened to be homeless, yet overcame the odds to graduate with honors. However, there was another graduating senior, experiencing homelessness, who didn’t receive the same notoriety. Leon Bell completed his BA in Business this spring while staying in Greensboro Urban Ministry’s Weaver House Night Shelter, completing his class work online at the Greensboro Library and the Interactive Resource Center. Says Bell, “I came this close, I wasn’t about to stop.”

As a young man, Bell had a bright future, attending A&T University after he graduated high school. A culinary arts student, Bell left his studies to take a position cooking at a restaurant, failing to complete his degree. Over the years Bell continued to work, but never completed his degree. Seeking a change from the restaurant business, he opened his own home renovation business; however, business began to slow with the downturn in the economy. With time on his hands, Bell decided to set a good example for his own college aged children and complete his degree. Hoping to learn how to expand his own company, he began pursuing an online degree in Business. Bell’s college plans were nearly interrupted again when business slowed so much that he found himself unable to pay his rent. He turned to his family for support and moved in with his brother. However, after an argument regarding his brother’s drug use, Bell found himself homeless. With three weeks of school remaining and limited options, Bell turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry’s Weaver House Night Shelter.

At the shelter, Bell met Beyond GUM Case Manager Lillie Brown. With her support, Bell not only finished his degree, but he also found permanent housing in a senior living community. Of his success, Bell states that “If you have a dream, stay focused, put yourself in the right place, and seek help” and you can accomplish your goals. With his life stabilized, Bell hopes to pursue a Masters in Psychology so that he can help others overcome their own obstacles. Speaking of his experience at Greensboro Urban Ministry, he shared “The program itself works if you work it. The program, Ms. Brown . . . Angels, angels. Without them, it would be a lot harder.”
MEMORIALS

Alice Davidson Abel
Diann Ramskey
Rev. John Akers
Marcella Bryant
Anne Hornaday
Jean & Bill Ward
Betty Willhauck
Jim Allen
Anna Clare Allen
Arville B Alston
Ruth Forrest
Eva Andrews
Helen Davidson
Mrs. Apple
Choice CCU
Carson Bain
Fanny Bain
Lucy Barber
John & Laurie Barber
Mike Bass
James & Delois Shelton
John "Jack" Belfi
Betty & Dennis Barry
Lacy & Lena Baynes
John & Chris Beaman
Marcia & William Boyle
Chester & Martha Brown
Richard & Amy Chenery
John & Robbie Coker
Cone Health
Warren & Betty Corgan
Lorraine Dodd
Bill & Susan Fraser
Gombar Family Foundation
Greensboro Investment Club, LLC
Todd & Lindy Herman
Lake Jeanette Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry
Paul & Jean Larson
Calvin Lockwood
David & Jane Martin
Jane & David Marks
Jan Meadors
Jim & Susan Melvin
Robert & Pamela Neill
Kelly & Brian Rightsell
Dale & Kathy Whitfield
Wayne Brannon
Ronnie Brannon
Roy Bresler
Nancy Gladdwell
Rev. Sam Brooks
Vera Brooks
Weasley Brooks
Ruth & Nestle Fulp
Joseph Brown
Linda Calhoun
Sallie Miller Canipe
Fanny Miller
Deb Carter
Vic & Sandra Bundgaard
Margaret Carver
Kay Roue
Sandee Sumner
Betty & Kelly Umstead
Bettie Chandridge
Leonard & Eva Kaplan
Darrell Chestnut
Carolyn & Bob Parrish
Frank Cloak
Maura Barber
Margaret Cockman
Marie Staley
David Coggins
Anonymous
Joe Coniam
Barbara Liebtag-Hayes & John Hayes
Wilma Cordaro
Lynn & Scott Brogan
Greg Corgan
Royce & Jane Reynolds
Mary Scarborough Craver
Linda Apperson
Florence & Daniel Arent
Irv & Fio Everett
Helen & Jim Farson
Mary Frances & Neil Goddard
Carol & Jimmy Hall
Patricia & Mark Hawley
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Katherine Lauterkitch
Nathan Lauterkitch
Glenn & Susan Ranson
Janet & Craig Sheppard
Cynthia & Jim Spillers
James & Margaret Turner
Jolanda & Roland VanBree
Marcie Williams
Mattice Crawford
Katherine Paschal
Fernand & Walkiria Cruz
Luis Cruz
Jim Cudworth
Virginia Cudworth
Daniel Culp
Don & Searian Culp
Muriel Dahlgard
Evelyn Lukeman
Lewis Davis
Leonard & Eva Kaplan
Mimi Ann DeVenney
Jane & Artie Nollls
Ann Llewellyn Ditto
Teressa & Jim Bowell Barmwell
Chester & Martha Brown
Trip & Nancy Brown
Neil & Jocelyn Brown
Frank Calebuth
Marjorie Gorfoth
Susan & Robert Lattimer
Round Table Study Club
Beverly & Robert Smith
Mark & Jane Trexler
Rosemary Trexler
Well-Spring Retirement
Comity
Elizabeth Wright
William Francis "Bill" Doran
Christopher & Suzanne Addington
Ralph & Tirzah Bowden
Penny & Glenn Bowles
Columbia Forest Products
Friendship Center of NC
Diane & Ed Gaines
Rick & Jennie Ginger
GNATHODONTICS, LTD
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Jaime & Edward Hendricks
Lee Family Trust Fund
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Shirley & Gary Nixon
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Gary & Diane Upham
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Frances Endlish
Primal Hints
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Jim Ennis
Brooks Ferrell
Frank & Laura Wagoner
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Joe Fostek
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Paula Pierce
Laur Fournier
Bryan Fournier
Dargan Frierson
William Black
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George & Joyce Brumbuck
Eleanor Ballard
Charles & Nancy Entrekine
Diane Levy
Mallard & Mallard, CPAs,
LLC
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Donna Garton
Mary Lou Merrell
Christine Giachetta
Paul & JoAnn Buck
Louis Giachetta
Paul & JoAnn Buck
Virgil Gonan
Jerome "Jerry" Gottman
Rodina & David Hewrutz
Mike & Gayle Peake
Beulah L. Graeber
Margaret Girton Graves
Jay and Shirley Adams
Anonymous
William & Wilma Bates
Alan & Sally Cone
Anya Eller
Meredith Garlingham
Barbara & Bruce Haldeman
Harvey & Emily Herman
Jack & Morgan Horner
Marion Hubbard
Sue & Jack Jozek
Katherine Lauterkitch
Lynn Laws
Lynn Laws
Bryan & Lorraine Malphurs
James McClintock
Alice & Daniel
Carolyn Mac
Marlene Pratto
Richard Rho
Cassandra & Leslie Ricketts
Deborah L. Schandler
Norman & Carolyn Smith
Sue & Frederick Starr
Mary Toes
Well-Spring Retirement
Community
Ernest Hansen
Doris Hansen
Charles Redding Harris
Kroghie & Ross Andresehn
Margaret Adams Harris
Kroghie & Ross Andresehn
Bill & Jane Coley
Julie & Gene Griggs
Charles Powers
Marcie & Torrance Shealy
State Employees Association
of NC
Kay Stern
Charles Lee Hawley, II
Lee & Janice Hawley
Raymond & Eva Herbin
William Herbin
Bennett Herbin
Barbara Herbin
Henry Moore Hester
Starling & Ann Owens
Lewis Hicks
Anonymous
Jeanann Holmes
Patsy Holmes
Harold P Hornaday
Anonymous
Thurman Horney
Peggy Horney
Louis Hudson
Kathy & Lowell Rauch
Rick Jackson
Anonymous
Janet Johnson
Nina Stout
Rita Jones
Charles Jones
Obie C Kallam
Alma Kallam
Theodore & Ruth Kapnek
Joanne Bluthenthal
Edward L Kay
Kay & Long
Ronald & Karlee Kluuthwey
Ann Marvin
John & Marjorie Marvin
Owen Kite
Leslie & William Chestnut
Mary Kubler
A & B Partners
Jessica "Jessie" Landsperger
Nancy Landsperger
Paul & JoAnn Buck
John and Lois Layel
Keith Layel
William A Leonard, Sr
Ronda & David Hurdwitz
William Lines
Hilda Davis
Joseph & Phoebe Lofurno
Anonymous
Bob Martineau
Judy Martineau
Mary Kathryn Forbes Mathis
Anonymous
Sue Southerland McClean
Sue & LD Cooper
Frank Miller
Anonymous
Martha Anne Milikan
Frank Milikan & Friederike Velasquez
Mac & Louise Moore
David & Kathryn Crowe
J Lloyd & Lucretia Moore
Dana & Hildy Moore
Dara Strickland Morgan
Rachel & Karl Price
Charles E Mortimer
Anonymous
Arthur Biek
Ruth W Morton
Anonymous
Edward & Mildred Motley
Marian Motley
Edmund Murray
Anonymous
Gwen Murray
Toni Whauck
Robert Nutt, Jr
Jane Nutt
Tubosun Olude
Olealek Adewale
Catherine Shott O'Rourke
Choice CCU
Donna Gannett
Joe & Karen Grady
John & Marie Higginbotham
Joyce & Ronnie Mobley
Beth & Dan Pritchard
Emily Slade
Vance & Mary Smathers
Rebecca & Daniel
The Arc of Greensboro
Herman Overcash
Foundation
Sarah Pearlman
Vickie's Pampered Pet
Joe Robinson
Pat Robinson
Jerald I Rosen
Vivian Rosen
Fran Routh
Rusellene Angel
Robert Earl Rutherford
Jennifer & Wesley Coffman
Luke J Schambourger
Livingstoung Foundation
Evelyn F Sechrest
Glade & Barbara Hutcherson
Vernell Sheppard
Malvena & Tracy Sheppard
Charles Shinn
Peggy Shinn
Dr. Wm. Sherryd Smith, Jr.
Richard Smith & Libby Bailey
Kramer Singleton
Bill & Lib Smith
Irene Smith
Helena Bryant
Elizabeth Clay Smith
Mary & Jack Coker
John & James Hawkins
Selben Snow
Arista & David Shelton
Bill & Betty Spieth
David Spieth
Naomi Stanley
Sisterly Tucker
Victor Jason Steinbacher
Victoria Lundy
Jane G Stout
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Community
Connie Sugg
Mary Benton
Becky Marquardale
Charles L Taylor
Eleanor Kennedy
Louise Thompson
Cos Cob
Emmett Tucker
Ouida Tucker
Nathaniel A. Villines
Lizzie Villines
Newman Way
Barbara & Bruce Haldeman
Curt Youngblood
Allen L Webber
Nancy Terbeck
Dick White
Jaye & Merrit White
Dr. & Mrs. WC Widhensue
Carolyn Stone
Tom Wilkerson
Lisa & William Meyerhoffer
Muriel Register Wilson
Ann Vaden
Ray Chandler Wilson
Elizabeth Ashworth
Mary Marjorie Garvey
Mary Barrett Worland
Lloyd & Janet Peterson
Alexander Worth
Howard & Sally Mars
Debs Young
Donald & Janice Young
Kay Youngblood
Sarah Youngblood
We compile the lists in this report carefully.
Any errors or omissions are inadvertent.
If you find that your name has been omitted, please accept our apology. We
would be grateful if you would notify us of any corrections.
Hunger is a persistent problem for many in our community, particularly during the summer months when food pantry shelves are often bare. Help Greensboro Urban Ministry ensure that everyone is free from hunger this summer by participating in the Freedom from Hunger Community Food Drive.

Sponsored by Greensboro Urban Ministry, Greensboro Chamber, the City of Greensboro, Christ UMC, First Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian, Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, Grace Church United Methodist, New Garden Friends Meeting, Starmount Presbyterian, VF Corporation, and West Market Street UMC, the drive seeks to provide freedom from hunger by “Feeding the 5,000” and collecting 90,000 lbs. of food. The drive began on July 1st and will conclude on Sunday, August 3rd, when many congregations will be reading Matthew 14:13-21, regarding the feeding of the five thousand, during their worship service.

Donations can be made at Greensboro Urban Ministry, or at a sponsoring location:

• City of Greensboro Offices
• Christ UMC, 410 N Holden Road, Greensboro
• First Lutheran Church, 3600 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro
• First Presbyterian, 617 N Elm Street, Greensboro
• Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, 4800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro
• Grace Church United Methodist, 438 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro
• Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, 342 N Elm St, Greensboro
• New Garden Friends Meeting, 801 New Garden Road, Greensboro
• Starmount Presbyterian, 3501 W Market Street, Greensboro
• VF Corporation
• West Market Street UMC, 302 W Market St, Greensboro

Or, start a Freedom from Hunger Food Drive at your place of work or faith community! For details on starting your own food drive, please contact Val Marshall, Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank Office Manager, 336.553.2672, or marshall@guministry.org.