Stepping In

I feel a sense of relief when the harshest nights of winter give way to longer days of spring. Not just because I can unbutton my jacket and enjoy flowers blooming – but because I know that our homeless neighbors will not freeze outside. And those who aren’t making ends meet won’t have to heat their homes with an oven or unsafe space heater. Small, yet critical, mercies in the lives of those in crisis.

These are the people who turn to Greensboro Urban Ministry. We exist to help as many people as we can with the resources you provide. It’s so important to remember the trials too many men, women and children face because of the scourge of poverty. Can you imagine leaving your oven on with the door open while your kids are asleep? Or tucking them into bed in the backseat of your car?

We need to remember the thin line between ourselves and this reality – many people are but one paycheck away from a similar fate. And we must surely know of the hope and solutions we can provide through Greensboro Urban Ministry when we step in and get involved.

This newsletter is full of opportunities to do just that. Whether you support our #FeedGSO food drive or our 50th anniversary Blue Jean Ball, you are helping to bring hope to those who need us most. You’re helping someone like Larry Strader (page 2) step in from the cold to find safety and fellowship, and perhaps even a fresh start.

We’ll celebrate National Volunteer Week April 15-21 and feel great thanksgiving for the 1,625 volunteers who come to Greensboro Urban Ministry each year and step in to our food pantry, emergency assistance, Potter’s House, Weaver House and Pathways shelter, Partnership Village and our Stephen Ministry program. We could not do the work we do each day without these dedicated and faithful partners in service.

So, stay with us on the front lines of help and hope this spring! Each one of us brings our own gifts when we step in – and together, we create solutions that have the power to change lives. This is hope worth holding on to and sharing with others!
How We Help

Weaver Extension (WE) Shelters: Larry Strader

Larry, 64, worked in construction for many years. Then, he developed heart disease that required surgery about a year ago. His health problems grew, as both a knee and hip became issues. Continuing a physically demanding construction job became impossible. He lived off what savings he had, renting a room until his money ran out. He became homeless. After a time of sleeping out in the woods, he turned to Greensboro Urban Ministry last fall for help.

Weaver House Shelter Director Michael Pearson worked with Larry, finding him a spot in the Weaver Extension (WE) site hosted by Grace Community Church. WE sites partner with Greensboro Urban Ministry to expand services – and hospitality – to more men and women. Grace shelters 12 men from December through March.

There, thanks to your support, Larry was safe during the coldest months of the year.

“They showed a lot of love and caring here, and it makes you feel like somebody,” Larry said. “I mean, I was camping out in the bushes. But when I came to the Urban Ministry, I felt like I could be myself. I get here and everyone is so nice, and they take the time to listen to you.”

“I don’t have any family. It’s just me. And when you have someone who listens to you and understands where you’re at in life that makes a major difference. They give you food and a place to go. But it’s also a lot of pride. They gave me my dignity back.”

Guests in our WE sites may also choose to work with a case manager during their shelter stay. To learn more about our five WE sites, other shelter programs and the rehousing assistance that Greensboro Urban Ministry offers, please visit our website, www.greensborourbanministry.org/services/housing-assistance/

Help GUM #FeedGSO on April 13 and 14

Local grocery stores, News 2 Food 2 Families, Well-Spring Retirement Community and three dozen congregations are teaming up with Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM) for the spring #FeedGSO Community Food Drive on April 13 and 14, 2018. Shoppers can easily contribute nonperishable food items to GUM’s food pantry on those days by adding a few items to their cart and dropping them off with volunteers outside participating grocery stores:

- Food Lion Stores – Saturday only
- Harris Teeter Stores – Friday and Saturday
- Lowes Food Stores – Friday and Saturday
- Walmart Neighborhood Market Stores (W. Friendly Ave., W. Gate City Blvd. and Alamance Church Rd.) – Friday and Saturday
- Whole Foods – Friday and Saturday

If you can’t participate but want to support this critical event, you can make a gift to Greensboro Urban Ministry’s food pantry online. Visit our website donation page and designate your gift for our food ministry.

GUM’s food pantry is the community’s largest resource for men, women and families who do not have adequate access to food during the month. The spring and fall #FeedGSO Community Food Drives are the agency’s largest regularly scheduled drives and are a critical source of pantry food – most of which is donated by the community.

Last year, GUM’s food pantry distributed 1,343,899 pounds of food to households in need in the greater Greensboro area.

EXPRESSING THE LOVE of GOD TO PEOPLE IN NEED THROUGH PRACTICAL ACTION
The Mother’s Day Challenge is on for 2018, and we’ve got exciting news: Thanks to your support last year, you’ve inspired more donors to sweeten this year’s pot.

In May 2017, we asked you if you could double a $10,000 anonymous challenge gift – and you answered with about $11,600 in donations! This caught the attention of not only our anonymous donor, but of three brothers from Greensboro who wanted to create a special way to remember their mom, who was a longtime supporter of Urban Ministry and a member of Grace United Methodist Church.

So, we’re starting this year where you left off – and raising the bar twice as high. Our anonymous donor and the family of Sara Ann Taylor Alston are each donating a challenge gift of $11,000. Can you meet their challenge and raise an additional $22,000? Our odds are on you!

Here’s how it works: During the months of April and May, you make a gift in honor or memory of special women in your life – moms, grandmothers, aunts, wives, sisters ... your choice! Thanks to the challenge, your gift is doubled, giving you even more power to fight hunger and poverty in our community.

Doesn’t this sound exactly like the sort of good deed the mom-types in your life would be happy to know you’re doing?

For your donation, you receive special cards (above), created by children in Partnership Village’s after-school tutoring club. Share these cards with your special women on Mother’s Day – we’re sure we’ve got you covered with something they will truly appreciate.

New this year: Tell us a little about these special women. Share 50 to 75 words with us about how they have inspired you to build a better community. Email your 50-75 word story and a .jpg format digital photo to Jennifer Reavis at jreavis@guministry.org.

Share your memories and make a gift online today on our website at www.greensborourbanministry.org/mothersday.
RETURNING RESTAURANTS

- Arigato Japanese Steakhouse
- Benders Tavern
- Bill’s Pizza Pub (Oak Ridge & Randleman)
- Blue Agave Mexican Bar & Grill
- Brown-Gardiner Soda Fountain
- Burger King (all Greensboro locations)
- Captain Bill’s Seafood Restaurant
- Center Grove Grill & Soda Shop
- Cherry Pit Café & Pie Shop
- Ciao Pizza Italian Restaurant
- Cincy’s Downtown
- Country Kitchen
- Crafted, the Art of the Taco
- Elizabeth’s Pizza (N. Battleground Ave.)
- Elizabeth’s Pizza (Lawndale Ave.)
- Fishbones
- Fishers Grille
- Ghassan’s (Battleground Ave.)
- Ghassan’s (Cornwallis Ave.)
- Ghassan’s (Gate City Blvd.)
- Ghassan’s (LeBauer Pk.)
- Gia – Drink, Eat, Listen
- Herbie’s Place
- Jack’s Corner Mediterranean
- Jams Deli (both locations)
- Juice Shop Smoothies (both locations)
- Kabuto Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar
- Koshary Southern Mediterranean Eatery
- Leblon Brazilian Steak House
- Lox, Stock, and Bagel
- Mad Hatter Bar & Shuck It Oyster Bar
- M’Coul’s Pub
- Marisol
- Mayflower Seafood Restaurant (Randleman Rd.)
- Melt Kitchen & Bar (both locations)
- Mexico Restaurant (both locations)
- MIDori Japanese Restaurant
- Mythos Grill (both locations)
- Maxie B’s
- Nostra Pizza Italian Restaurant
- Oakcrest Family Restaurant
- Papa Murphy’s Pizza
- Pastabilities
- Pavilion Restaurant
- Positano Italian Restaurant
- Reel Seafood Grill
- Salvino Cucina Italiana
- Sarah’s Kabob Shop
- Spring Garden Bakery & Coffee House
- Stamey’s Barbecue (both locations)
- Sticks and Stones
- The Porterhouse Burger Company
- Yum Yum Better Ice Cream

WELCOME TO THESE NEW RESTAURANTS!

- Acapulco Supermarket Restaurant
- Bella Luna Ristorante & Bar
- Freeman’s Grub & Pub
- *Maria’s Gourmet Catering
- *Taste of Thai
- Vaquero’s Diner Mexican Grill
- WineStyles @Friendly Center

* These restaurants came back after a few years

Keep checking our website and social media for updates on restaurants – we’re adding more to the list every day!

http://greensborourbanministry.org/events/serving-greensboro-together/

Please like our Facebook page and find us on Twitter and Instagram (@gsourbanmin) to get the latest updates on the work that you make possible through your support of GUM.