Dear Friends,

It was not very long ago that I had no idea what a Coronavirus was. But today those words are part of my everyday conversation. It seems like most every aspect of my life is somehow impacted by the Coronavirus, better known as COVID-19.

At GUM, we have remained on the front lines of service throughout the pandemic. Our staff and volunteers have continued to provide shelter, meals, groceries and financial assistance to our neighbors in need during these difficult and uncertain times. While we have had to make adjustments in how we serve in order to remain both safe and impactful, we have not waivered in our commitment to provide food, shelter and solutions for all who come to us in their time of crisis.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many in our community have lost their jobs. Many for the first time find themselves in need of help.

I want you to do me a favor.

If you happen to encounter someone who is in need of food, shelter or help with their rent or mortgage due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please send them our way.

Because of your support, we stand ready to serve.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership.

Be blessed and be well,

Myra

Greensboro Urban Ministry Remains Committed to Serving the Most Vulnerable Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic

Greensboro Urban Ministry has continued to operate all food, shelter & case management services without ceasing since the health crisis began. We’ve taken a number of steps to keep guests safe during this crisis.

- More frequent cleaning
- Additional sanitization stations installed
- Adjusted service delivery to ensure social distancing
- Masks provided to shelter residents, volunteers & staff
- Signs installed to educate guest about the virus & encourage hand washing or the use of hand sanitizer

Potter’s House Community Kitchen newly installed window allows for safe distribution of to-go meals.
GUM FOOD PANTRY BUILDS CAPACITY TO SERVE MORE!

The Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM) Food Pantry has been collecting, storing and distributing food free of charge to low-income families and individuals in Greensboro for over fifty years. As GUM has grown and evolved, so has the Food Pantry.

Over the past few years, the growth seen by the Food Pantry has been the growth in demand by our community residents. The steady increase in the number of people requesting groceries required staff and volunteers to identify ways to build capacity to house and distribute more food, while also decreasing the amount of time recipients may have to wait to receive their groceries.

With the support of the community, a great deal has been accomplished in the Food Pantry over the past 12 months in the transition to operational improvements. New systems have been installed, equipment has been updated, and policies and processes have been improved upon with exciting results for the Food Pantry! Some of the significant actions that made it possible for GUM to improve the Food Pantry operations over the past year were:

- A&T University students conducted a space analysis of the Food Pantry that identified the challenges that hinder efficiency, and guided GUM on ways to maximize the use of what little space we have.
- A grant from the Weaver Foundation transitioned the GUM Food Pantry to a paperless system which communicates the details of food orders by computer across the building, resulting in reduced wait times and consistency in how specifics of recipients’ food needs are conveyed.
- Guilford College United Methodist Church took up a special offering in 2019 and 2020 that provided funding for the GUM Food Pantry to purchase & install an industrial refrigerator and freezer.
- Time and motion-saving enhancements for transporting grocery orders to recipients have been utilized as well. The A&T analysis included reconfiguring the space within the Food Pantry so that the distance volunteers walk to transport orders to recipients is greatly reduced. Considering the number of orders which are processed daily, the individual order processing time is reduced, allowing time for even more orders to be processed per day.
- A newly installed food order delivery door allows for social distancing to keep our staff and recipients safe.

While there is much to celebrate, this is not the end of GUM’s vision of Food Pantry service and innovation. With the support of the community, we look forward to managing additional improvements in this vital food distribution program.

The Food Pantry relies on volunteers every week to help sort and organize donations of food, and prepare bags of food for distribution.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Gail Gore-Lewis, GUM’s Director of Volunteer Services, at 336.271.5959 ext. 305 or email lewis@guministry.org.

SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, OVER 2,000 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE USED THE GUM FOOD PANTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
SALUTE TO SERVICE!

GUM will be bidding farewell to five AmeriCorps national service volunteers this summer as they come to the end of their one-year commitment.

These dedicated individuals are returning home, going to school, or applying what they’ve learned to the next phase in their lives. AmeriCorps is a network of service programs that focus on improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Nonprofit organizations, like GUM, are able to grow the number of people working to carry out important programs without facing the challenge of funding additional salaries. Upon completion of service, participants receive an education award to help pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training. GUM salutes the 2019/2020 Class of AmeriCorps volunteers who generously contributed hours of hard work in GUM’s Food pantry and Emergency Assistance Program! BEST WISHES and THANK YOU Mary Hannah, Verna, Hayden, Penny and Peaches!

Interested in serving as an AmeriCorps? Applications are being accepted now for the class of 2020/2021. For more information go to: www.theservantcenter.org/americorps

We are incredibly grateful for all who have been helping during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of supporters like you, we are able to continue our services to the most vulnerable in our community! Thank you
GUM SPECIAL EVENTS

**Groove Jam**
*In partnership with Groove Jam founder, Rich Lerner*
**Saturday, September 26th**
2:00pm-11:00pm
Doodad Farm, 4701 Land Rd.

**40th Anniversary CROP Hunger Walk**
**Sunday, October 4th**
Registration/Entertainment:
1:30pm, Walk: 2:30pm
Greensboro Coliseum Complex, 1921 W. Gate City Blvd.

**#FeedGSO Fall Food Drive**
**Friday, October 16th & Saturday, October 17th**
at participating local grocery stores.

**33rd Annual Holiday Honor Card**
"You’re Gonna be OK"
by Artist William Mangum
Available online in late October and in retail stores in early November.

**29th Annual Feast of Caring**
**Thursday, November 19th**
Lunch-time Event: 11:30am-1:30pm
Dinner-time Event: 5:00pm-7:00pm
First Baptist Church, 1000 W. Friendly Ave.

A special message concerning our upcoming events
Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, event plans will be modified and subject to change as necessary. We are following the rules and guidelines from the CDC and government in our planning to ensure the health and safety of our attendees, volunteers, and staff. For more information and the latest updates, visit https://greensborourbanministry.org/events/.