

November 6, 2019

Greetings Winter Relief Partners,
What a great start to the season! Thanks to those congregations who have hosted, as well as site and segment coordinators who served in October.

Bid for Hope:

Arundel House of Hope cordially invites you to our 14th annual Bid for Hope Live and Silent Auction to be held at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie on February 9 between 2-6pm. All proceeds will benefit Arundel House of Hope programs. Mark your calendars now for what promises to be a fun afternoon! Additional information will be available on our website soon!

Needs:

We continue to have needs for male and female underwear (boxers for men, and large sizes for women), as well as twin size blankets, disposable razors, and travel size deodorant. Charles Robinson, the case manager at our veteran's Patriot House, is teaching healthy cooking skills to the residents and would appreciate a 6-8 quart crock pot! We greatly appreciate all donations and share supplies between our various programs.

2019-20 Schedule:

We are in desperate need of a hosting site in Annapolis (Site 3) between December 16 - 23. In addition, we need a physical space for Site 1 - St. Philip Neri can provide all of the volunteers for the week, they just need the physical space. Please let me know if you can accommodate these needs!

Showers: We have a little glitch this season which we are actively working out. Anne Arundel County Schools informed us that we can no longer use their shower facilities. Our liaison with the AACPS retired and we are currently trying to find a way to get back on their radar screen. I will be in touch with November hosting sites wishing to use AACPS shower facilities to keep them up to date on what is happening. I hope to have this resolved soon. Meanwhile our guests are allowed and encouraged to use our shower at the Day Centers and LHS.

U-Haul in Glen Burnie: Your site should be getting a discount this season (around \$45 plus gasoline). Please let me know if you do not receive this discount and be sure to thank the manager for looking out for AHOH hosting sites! Site 3 hosting sites need to arrange truck rentals through either U-Haul or Penske in Annapolis - there are several locations that rent trucks, but no dealership available in Annapolis.

"Mod Squad" Program: As previously sent to our Site Coordinators, we have a new program as described below:

As Winter Relief begins, I know we're all focused on Our Week -- when we will be caring for our homeless neighbors. We're concerned for them, and we're also concerned about meeting their needs for food and transportation, showers and clothes washing, and even supervision. We're counting on all of

our team members, but we also know that a team member may need to step aside, due to illness, or family or work concerns.

The Arundel House of Hope has a new program that will provide volunteers who can backstop teams when the need arises. These are experienced Winter Relief volunteers we can reach out to, knowing that they will be ready, willing, and able to help us. The program is called "the Mod Squad." For years there have been individuals who were available on short notice, but it's now time to expand (and formalize) this small group of volunteers.

The Mod Squad can work for our team only if all Winter Relief sites ask their teams for volunteers who can be available to fill in at the other sites. And so, I'm asking you – can we put you on the list of volunteers who may be able to fill in at other Winter Relief sites on short notice? We need you!

Please sign up by emailing Pam Biddlecomb at pbiddlecomb@arundelhoh.org. Let Pam know your name, affiliation, and how to get in touch with you, by phone, text, and/or email. Please also tell her which tasks you have helped out with – meal prep, transportation, etc. And put MOD SQUAD in the subject line. I know that having the Mod Squad up and running will bring a great sense of relief to all of us, knowing that "they have our back."

Thank you to those who have already responded and placed their name on our list! Please email me if you can help in this way - we occasionally need help with transportation as well. If you can assist with driving guests to the site (you can use our van), we would love to add you to our list!

Reminders of Upcoming Meetings:

November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10: Site Coordinator Meetings at Arundel House of Hope Community Recovery Center. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month between November and March, followed by our *End of the Season Appreciation Dinner* in April. Each month we will have guest speakers from various county organizations who provide services to those experiencing homelessness and/or drug addictions and mental health challenges. On November 12 we will be offering Narcan (naloxone) training. Kits will be distributed for those who attend. I am hopeful to also have a guest speaker talk to us about medical marijuana.

December 21 (Winter Solstice): Save the Date for **The Longest Night Memorial Service**, 4:30pm; Sponsored by Arundel House of Hope and the AA County Coalition to End Homelessness. Location: Lawyer's Mall; Annapolis - We read the names and share in the memory of those individuals who died while homeless in Anne Arundel County in 2019 shining a light of hope and remembrance into the longest night of the year. Sunset at 4:47pm. We request hosting sites make provisions to transport our guests to this service in memory of their friends.

March 28, 9:30am-3:00pm: 12th Annual Homeless Resource Day at Annapolis High School. Please note this has been moved from October to March this year.

Homeless Resource Day is an annual county event to help those without permanent housing access the numerous services they need to become more self-sufficient and seek permanent housing. Service that might take a homeless individual months or longer to obtain are provided for free in one location (i.e. birth certificate, SS care, state ID and other official documents necessary to apply for housing assistance or sign a rental agreement). There will be opportunities for volunteers to guide a homeless guest through the services during the Resource Event - information will be shared as it becomes available.

Welcome to new staff members:

We welcome two new staff members to our team! Lauren Shirlen comes to us from Bay Area Community Church and will be working at our Annapolis center as our Intake Coordinator (Niki O'Herlihy will remain with us on Tuesdays!). Herman Ford comes to us from Severn Christian Church and will be working between the Day Center, CRC, and Annapolis center. We are thrilled to have both of these individuals on board!

In His service,
~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb
Director, Day Center & Winter Relief Program
Arundel House of Hope