

August Greetings!

Emergency Shelter News:

Arundel House of Hope continues to provide 24/7 staffing of the Red Roof Inn in Annapolis where we currently have 60 guests being sheltered. We have transitioned into a temporary emergency shelter focusing on case management and transition to permanent housing. The hotel shelter is not intended to be a long-term shelter option. With that goal in mind, we welcome Erik Schmidt as our full time case manager at the hotel. He has already begun to work with guests to develop individualized case-plans to develop specific objectives, goals and actions. Once a guest has their plan in place, the length of stay is not guaranteed to be more than 30 days. If a guest is showing progress toward finding a safe, appropriate place to live they can apply for an extension. We will continue to network with other county organizations to seek housing opportunities for our guests.

I have heard from so many of our Winter Relief sheltering sites expressing their disappointment in not being able to host this season. It warms the heart to know how much you care and want to continue to support the less fortunate within our community. We will be staying at the hotel at least until December 31st and will re-assess how Winter Relief will look continuing forward as we approach the end of the year. I will keep you in the loop with monthly newsletters. In the meantime....

We are launching a new program called the Micah 6 Project. This will be under the direction of Niki O'Herlihy (many of you know Niki from Site 3's Intake Center in Annapolis as one of our Intake Coordinators). I invite you to become involved in this worthwhile project. We hope to achieve our goal of transitioning folks to permanent housing as quickly as possible and to prevent their return to homelessness.

A word from Niki regarding the **Micah 6 Project**:

Arundel House of Hope is introducing the Micah 6 Project, an initiative that pairs a person transitioning from homelessness to being housed, with a volunteer mentor to walk along side the client for the first 6-12 months of being housed.

We know from our work with unhoused people that while we celebrate with them when they finally get housing because it is definitely something to cheer about, it is also a time of huge transition. It can be lonely, often folks are moving away from a community where they've lived for years to another neighborhood many miles away. They have to figure out a new life, in an unfamiliar area often without a support system. We aim to provide just a bit of practical support and lots of encouragement to help make sure the transition is successful and smooth.

Ideally the volunteer(s) (could be something for a married couple or a pair of friends to do together as well) will meet with the client several times a month to help them navigate in their new world. This time commitment would likely taper off as the months continue.

As most of us who have worked with the homeless community know, there are always blessings in return when we come alongside another person and help shoulder their burden for just a little while.

I would love to be able to set up an informational meeting for anyone interested and can do it via Zoom if that is preferable.

Those interested and who want to know more can reach out to Niki at noherlihy@arundelhoh.org.

The county has been aggressively seeking out people who need shelter and pointing them toward the Emergency Shelter. We are meeting many new individuals who have not been in the Winter Relief program.

We continue to have unanswered questions as to what the traditional Winter Relief season will bring. Will there continue to be new faces appearing based on the ongoing pandemic and its economic consequences? What will the pandemic look like as we approach the end of the year? How close are we to a vaccination?

Wish List Items:

Last month I promised an on-line signup list of items needed - but the shelter grant includes catering of meals and laundry services, and the hotel provides toiletry supplies to us. We can always use small propane tanks, tarps, disposable razors, and cell phone battery chargers for our outdoor friends.

Thanks for your continued thoughts and prayers for the less fortunate among us. We appreciate your partnership with us!
Be safe and stay well,
~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb
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Arundel House of Hope