

## September/October Greetings!

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the normal start of our Winter Relief Season two weeks from now. Such strange, unpredictable times...

I know you have all been waiting for the word on Winter Relief - are we going to have the program at all this year? Well, after 28 years, we will not be asking you to host Winter Relief this season. The risks continue to be too high and not much has changed in the last few months with COVID-19 infection rates and potential vaccinations.

We will continue the Emergency Shelter at the Red Roof Inn until the end of December, and determine what will happen after the first of the year between now and then. Some potential alternatives:

- Continue at the Red Roof Inn. The hotel, staffing, food, laundry, transportation is now being covered by federal funds through the CARES Act (**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act**). If funds are extended past the end of the year, perhaps staying at the Red Roof until April would be an option.
- Perhaps other grants would enable us to stay at the Red Roof Inn or other physical location (gymnasium, vacated mall, community center, etc.) and we could call on our Winter Relief supporters to provide meals while Arundel House of Hope continues to provide 24/7 staffing. We are always open for suggestions/assistance at finding potential locations moving forward.
- Alternately, some hosting sites may be willing to let us use their physical facilities if AHOH continues to provide 24/7 staffing.

It is with a great deal of pride that I share that we are known throughout the Homeless Coalition (which consists of over 50 County and City of Annapolis agencies, concerned citizens, nonprofit homeless service providers, private nonprofit organizations, as well as others with interests and roles in ending homelessness in the County) as an organization that answers the call when needs arise. It is you, our partners in ministry, that makes this a reality. For that we are truly grateful.

We know that this season will be unlike any we have experienced as we move into uncharted territory. We are asking for your continued support in different and unique ways...

- Several hosting sites have re-directed their budgeted Winter Relief funds typically spent during their hosting week to AHOH for Covid Relief. These funds will be used to support additional staffing needs at the hotel as well as the ongoing needs of our clients during this difficult time. We always appreciate monetary donations to support our programs which have continued throughout this pandemic.
- Continue to answer the call to provide resources, and provisions once we determine how we will care for our homeless population after January 1st.
- Utilize your gifts and talents through our Micah 6 Project by offering support to those transitioning from homelessness to housing.

Thank you all so much for your continued support. It is heartwarming to know that you are there for our less fortunate friends even in such a time as this. We hold steady at about 55 - 60 guests at the hotel, and can hold up to approximately 80 at full capacity. We have bi-weekly Covid testing for staff and guests and are happy to report so far so good!

Be safe and stay well!  
~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb  
Director, Day Center & Emergency Hotel Shelter  
Arundel House of Hope