HOUSE of HOPE
OF THE PEE DEE

HOPE IN ACTION

The House of Hope's Newsletter

1020 W. Darlington Street, Florence, SC 29501 www.hofh.org Spring 2020

We Are Counting Our Blessings

The House of Hope hasn't closed or reduced it's services to the homeless of Florence and the Pee Dee during the COVID-19 crisis. We have added lots of new precautionary measures to protect our staff and residents, and we are so blessed to have a dedicated staff that loves the homeless. We are blessed to serve a God who makes us better when times are tough and He leads us and informs every decision we make.

What are the Questions we are Hearing?

Q: How do you know what to do to keep the homeless safe?

A: We don't! That's why we brought in Hope Health and MUSC to lend us a hand in proper protocol. We are just doing what they recommended and are doing!

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Pray for us. For the virus to stay away, and for our staff to stay strong, as many are working long hours. Pray for the financial health of the House of Hope as we, like so many small businesses and non-profits, are struggling. If you come across cleaning products, think of us and pick up an extra and drop it off at our Darlington Street offices.

"Thank you for giving us a safe place to stay and food to eat. I appreciate the conversations I've had. I leave here with joy in my heart because of you all."

- A Shelter Guest

How do the Homeless "Shelter In Place?"

This is a real problem, not only during this COVID-19 crisis, but during all kinds of emergencies. Hurricanes, extreme heat or cold, thunderstorms, or anytime we need to stay at home. This is why the House of Hope never closes. When everyone is staying at home, the House of Hope is opening it's doors to be "home" for the homeless.

During the crisis we are offering showers to anyone who needs it!

In This Issue

- Letter from Bryan
- Information about the Mission Marts.
- Graduates Stories!
- Kirk Cameron Wrap Up
- New Web Page!
- Breaking Ground!

Mitchell King

David Coleman

Spring 2020 Graduation

Like most graduates in the Spring of 2020, our graduates didn't have the usual pomp and circumstance, but that doesn't take away from their accomplishments. It actually enhances it, because they should have graduated back in March! They have stayed extra long, through this virus, and finally reached the start of their new lives, in Christ, employed, and ready to live independently.

Mitchell King

I was left outside and homeless, but now I have a job, savings and people that care about me.

David Coleman

I won't go back. I am thriving thanks to Jesus Christ and godly leadership.

Kirk Cameron and Anthony Evans at the Evening of Hope!

Every year we think the Evening of Hope can't get any better, and every year it does! Anthony came out and led us in worship that was truly God honoring! Then Kirk came and shared from his life and God's word. God was truly present in the Florence Center on March 9th! At the end of the evening we announced next year's speaker…..
Tim Tebow! (I can't wait!)

Hope Village About to Break Ground

If you have been past our property on Darlington Street you probably have seen a lot of activity! The property has been cleared and we are about to start building the infrastructure. We can't wait to have 24 tiny houses to give hope to families in need! Even a pandemic can't stop God's plan!

Another New Addition!

After a year of planning, and months of hard work, we are finally ready to have you see our new web page! We hope that you find it easy to navigate, full of useful information and quick to load!

www.hohf.org

Remember, we are all in the same storm, but we're not in the same boat.

Help us care for the homeless. Please send in a donation in the enclosed envelope or go online!

What are we Going to Do Today?

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Proverbs 27:1

Who else is guilty of living a life of tomorrows? Whether it's looking forward to the next event, an upcoming vacation, a birthday or celebration; we can all find ourselves looking past our daily lives and focusing on days to come. We build expectations of happiness, relaxation or fun tomorrows so that we can get through the daily struggles and routines of today. Recently my wife, Tracey and I were talking about the effects of the "Stay at Home" orders to address the spread of the COVID 19 virus. We discussed some of the inconveniences of these limits and restrictions we were facing, but our conversation soon led to our real struggle and looming questions. When is this going to be over? When are we going to be able to go out to eat or go on a trip? When will these children be back in school? We quickly realized that what we are struggling with the most is not having anything to look forward to in the near future. Everything that we took for granted, church, trips, school, shopping, (everything) changed in just a few days. A thought quickly popped in my mind, this is exactly how the homeless feel EVERYDAY.

The homeless wake up each and every day with no real or perceived certainty about their tomorrow. You don't think about future trips or celebrations when you are trying to find your next meal. They don't have an end date for their plight. There is no mental reprieve for their todays and no certain expectations for their tomorrows. They live in the struggles of today while their hopes of tomorrow slowly fade. Many became homeless in a few short weeks or days. The homeless have a true understanding of the verse in Proverbs 27:1 to "...not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day may bring." Now, ALL of us have felt the truth of this Bible verse. Please take a moment and consider how you have felt about your fears and uncertainties over these past few weeks. Consider the "what ifs" that have grabbed your thoughts. Gain this understanding so that you can have empathy for that homeless person on the street corner. Acknowledge them, say hello, and search your heart as to how you can help them, and then God can use you to be the true hope, love and blessing that a day may bring.

Blessings, Bryan Braddock

Mixed Blessings at the Mission Mart

The Good News….

The Irby Street Mission Mart is OPEN! Our shelves are stocked, because everyone is cleaning out their closets and the pickens have never been better! We are not doing home pick ups yet (probably not until June) but you can drop off. Our current hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10am-7pm.

The Bad News…….

This long COVID closing was more than we could manage with two stores and we will be forced to close the Palmetto Street Mission Mart. There will be a "***Going out of Business Sale***" starting on May 1st and running two weeks. Please come and help us clear out the store and pick up some great deals!

Visit the Irby Mission Mart today!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or with any questions.

843-667-9000

Men's Home:
1020 W. Darlington Street
Florence, SC 29501

Community Shelter:
535 S. Church Street
Florence, SC 29501

Mission Mart
953 S. Irby Street
Florence, SC 29505

Visit us on the web at
www.hofh.org

Or on Facebook
House of Hope of the
Pee Dee

House of Hope of the Pee Dee
1020 W. Darlington Street
Florence, SC 29501

PLACE
STAMP
HERE