

Dear Members and Volunteers of the CarePoint Network,

I've been speaking with Rick Fitzgerald about the CarePoint sites current needs in serving the homeless population. Many of us have probably not considered the impact of social distancing on men's and women's shelters and other community services to the destitute. This need for separation and limited size of group gatherings has significantly reduced the number of beds available in shelters and the number that may sit down inside for a meal. As a result more people are sleeping outside and forced to be out in the elements on extremely hot, sunny days without shelter from the sun and the rain!

Stay healthy everyone!!

Kathy Flaherty

CarePoint Steering Committee

According to Rick's assessment, the critical needs right now are:

- Sturdy BACKPACKS
- Men's jeans all sizes [full leg and shorts]
- Socks [men's and women's]
- Camping gear -
 1. Tents
 2. Sleeping bags
 3. blankets
- Canned Food and Non-perishable food
- Mosquito Repellent and Sunscreen
- Masks and Hand sanitizer [pocket size]

These items can be dropped off at the following locations:

1. First Presbyterian Church [Mon. 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Fri. 10:00 am to noon]
112 S. Salisbury Rd., Raleigh 27601
2. Smithfield Rescue Mission - accepting donations for Johnson County CarePoints
523 Glenn St., Smithfield 27577 [Call for hours - 919-934-9257]
3. Clayton Area Ministries
780 Durham St., Clayton 27520 [Call for hours - 919-553-5654]

Due to extreme shortages at the area Food Banks, there is a need for Food Drives to support the CarePoint Network. If you are willing to support this effort contact Rick Fitzgerald for arrangements to drop off the donations: info@carepointtriangle.org or 919-632-3242

For additional information see the Covid-19 Response information sheet on the CarePoint Triangle website's home page at <http://carepointtriangle.org>.

Previous Detail

Site managers and their hosts are taking necessary precautions to keep our community safe – the whole community.

- 1) We must remember that homelessness and hunger are not paused because of pandemics. In fact, the problems, disruptions and shortages increase the danger and complications for those we serve.
- 2) We need gloves and masks yesterday. Many of those being served are the most vulnerable in our community.

Many we serve have been sleeping outside or in unsafe environment. Many may have compromised immune systems and breathing problems.

They need to be kept safe from servers who may be sick but not showing symptoms or may be carrying the virus but think they are experiencing familiar allergy symptoms.

The servers need masks and gloves to protect the people they are serving.

- 3) Those serving need gloves and masks to be kept safe from those being served who may be sick and are untested.

The CarePoint Network is asking everyone reading this to contact their dentist or dental offices in your area to invite them to please donate 2 boxes of gloves and masks to our cause of protecting EVERYONE in our community – those most likely to be falling through or jumping through the cracks in our community wide healthcare systems. Thank you. It will make a difference.

- 4) Currently, Public Health Departments are instructing people who may be concerned over symptoms to see their private health care providers for testing and go home. Think about it. The people we serve have neither. We'll keep you posted on this possibility going forward.

I've been looking into the possibility that some CarePoint sites may be willing to serve as testing sites. The people carrying the virus need to be identified and helped into safe environments for themselves and for the safety of the entire community. We'll be keeping you posted on any developments about this possibility.

Please note the current changes to services within the CarePoint Network:

- 1) New Bern House CarePoint is continuing to serve the community through take-out meals. People wanting to donate food can reach out to Sylvia at Helping Hands Mission
- 2) First Presby CP is seeing an increase in attenders – chairs at the tables inside were decreased to ensure social distancing and tents and tables were put outside in groups of 10 to try to comply with density concerns. Tables are unused inside.

- 3) Garner United Methodist Church has temporarily suspended all activities including the use of the church for the Hope Ministries CarePoint.

Tom LaMotta of Hope Ministries says that word will be coming soon as to when the site will be reopened and he is encouraging their volunteers to check out other CarePoint sites for potential opportunities to serve during the interim until they reopen.

- 4) The Soup Kitchen (Church of the Good Shepherd) continues to provide lunch on a take-out basis. You may contact them to ask them about their needs.

Recently, almost 90 men were SEEN sleeping outside of the Oak City Cares building at night by a CarePoint site manager passing by. Because of the pandemic, it has been reported that local shelters needing to protect their clients and staff have limited access in or out of their facilities for clients and for some, even volunteers. All existing services are stretched but doing all they can.

The CarePoint Network is requesting that people reading this will encourage the increase of donations of time, talent and treasure to your charities of choice during this critical time in the lives of our community, state and nation. It is a time to step up rather than back or down.

Thanks
Steering Team