Montgomery Crisis Center Enters Its Second Year

The City of Montgomery Community Development Division reopened the Montgomery Crisis Center located at 624 Augusta Avenue in March of 2021, providing isolation and quarantine space to those who needed it due to COVID-19. The Center was made possible by grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Center accepts referrals from area shelters and other community organizations of persons needing to quarantine or isolate. Residents are allowed to remain until they test COVID-free for twenty-four consecutive hours. The facility provides general case management, three meals per day, snacks, refreshments, scrubs (clothing), and hygiene kits at no cost. The Center, which is open 24/7 year-round, will remain operational until funding is exhausted. The City plans to use the facility in the future when natural disasters, i.e., tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. occur and there is a need for shelter. For more information, contact Sherri Lusby (Manager) at 334.452.1971. Anyone needing Crisis Center services should dial 2-1-1 for information.

Virtual Resource Hour Furthers a Mission to Coordinate Services

MACH volunteers conceived and organized an avenue for conversations with and among service providers and the public called “Resource Hour.” On March 16, MACH and a committee of advisors offered an hour-long opportunity to learn about shelter resources in Montgomery. Over 40 people attended the Resource Hour on Shelters and deepened their understanding of service provision from Family Promise, Family Sunshine Center and Friendship Mission. Our next virtual Resource Hour on Mental Health has been planned for Wednesday, May 18, from 3:00-4:00 pm CST. On this day, providers of mental health and crisis prevention services will be available and open for your questions. Save the date and plan to join in! And plan to join us on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months for information on various topics.

Translation and Language Services

Community organizations needing to connect non-English speaking clients to their services are able to access translation and interpretation assistance. Several local organizations serving people experiencing homelessness have taken the step to bridge language barriers through third parties that offer language services. Among those are Family Sunshine Center (FSC), a shelter providing services to people fleeing domestic violence and One Place Justice Center (One Place), an agency providing safety planning, legal assistance and other services for victims of abuse and violence. FSC creates a three-way conversation with Cyracom when callers need translation services. Once a client enters their programs, FSC uses a virtual interpretation device that allows the client and service provider to see a Language Line Solutions translator (pictured right). One Place also employs these tools, but they use M&N Language Services, LLC, to connect with translation services. Funding for these vital services has been supported by grants. Those persons who speak English as a second language or are on their way to doing so are provided interpreters by the U. S. Court system if legal services are needed.
Save the Date for River Region Connects: Thursday, August 4, 2022

River Region Connects is a resource fair which serves as a one-day, one-stop shop of services for those experiencing homelessness or those in need in securing resources to prevent homelessness. Representatives from government and community agencies bring their services under one roof to assist individuals and families with finding shelter, employment, education, healthcare, legal assistance and other support, while also providing several on-site services. The event is outcome-oriented; it is a day for people to have immediate access to essential services. Put the date on your calendars and register with HandsOn River Region in order to be alerted of volunteer opportunities associated with this and other MACH events.

Coordinated Entry System: Dial 211

How can all members of our society have access to adequate shelter? It takes collaboration among institutions and communities that are engaged in providing services. Each entity must have a commitment to help meet basic needs and simplify access to programs so their benefits can be ensured for all who need them. The operation of a Coordinated Entry System to equitably connect those experiencing housing instability and homelessness to available local resources is a step in this direction. Dialing 2-1-1 allows for an initial screening of needs and referral to housing services, along with all types of other community resources. The 2-1-1 information and referral network is operated by HandsOn River Region.

MACH General Membership Meeting
(online and open to the public)
Thursday, April 28, 2022
3pm - 4pm

MACH brings people around one table to deliberate and act on the realities of homelessness and poverty in Montgomery, Autauga, Bullock, Elmore and Lowndes Counties. Consider adding your voice and collaborative energy to the effort. Subscribe to join the MACH mailing list at www.midalhomeless.org or call 334-261-6182 for information on how to join.

Support Our Work! Become a Feed-the-Meter Sponsor!

MACH and the City of Montgomery have teamed up to develop resources to help end homelessness. When you feed a green meter in Montgomery, your donation supports local community service programs that help those in need obtain and maintain housing and become self-supporting members of our community. A one-year meter sponsorship is $2,000.00. Sponsors receive:

− Placard bearing your name / organization’s name on the meter
− Your name or logo on the website, feedthemetermgm.org
− Acknowledgment in all Feed the Meter publicity
− The satisfaction of knowing you play an essential part in addressing a significant issue that calls for community-wide support

Get information or become a sponsor online at feedthemetermgm.org, or mail your payment to 101 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36109. Questions? Call or email MACH at 334-261-6182 or Lydia@midalhomeless.org.

2022 Point-in-Time Count

HUD requires all Continuum of Care (CoC) programs to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count (homeless enumeration) at least once every two years during the last ten days of January. The purpose is to give a snapshot of homelessness (sheltered and unsheltered) in communities all across the country “at any given point in time.” This year, due to COVID concerns, HUD allowed CoCs to delay their PIT counts by up to a month. MACH conducted its count on February 22, thanks to the help of several partner agencies and volunteers. Once HUD verifies our data, we will share it with the community.