HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS AT FUMC

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 16-24, is sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless. During the month of November, FUMC is working to raise awareness about the pressing problem of hunger and homelessness with educational and service opportunities.

NOVEMBER 9, SATURDAY
Service Day at Community First! Village
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 9301 Hog Eye Road
Community First! Village provides affordable, sustainable housing, and a supportive community for the disabled, chronically homeless in Central Texas. A typical service day could entail harvesting the gardens, laying pathways, tending the chicken coop or goats, dry landscaping yards for micro-homes, beautifying the property, etc. Register at fumcaustin.org/serviceday.

NOVEMBER 10, SUNDAY
Lunch & Learn: Homelessness and Front Steps
12:15 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall
Natalie Freeburg is the Community Relations and Volunteer Coordinator for Front Steps, one of the largest providers of services for those experiencing homelessness and manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless in downtown Austin. Natalie’s presentation will focus on how to interact with compassion with those in our community who are experiencing homelessness, while keeping boundaries and learning the best ways to help someone on a longer-term basis instead of offering them a quick fix. A sandwich lunch (suggested donation of $10) will be provided only with registration. Register at fumcaustin.org/lunchandlearn. Childcare is available by emailing childcare@fumcaustin.org. Reservations are not guaranteed until confirmed.

NOVEMBER 17, SUNDAY
Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday
4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. SAN MLF Kitchen
MLF serves daily, but this day is for those who want to try face-to-face service working with experienced volunteers. Join the Make-Ready Team from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (preparing food and loading truck) and/or the Truck Team from 5:00-6:30 p.m. (delivering food around Austin). Sign up at fumcaustin.org/fumc-mlf.

Manna Bag Sale
9:30-11:00 a.m. Sidewalk
Our 4th and 5th graders show the love of Christ to those in need through the making and selling of Manna Bags. These bags are filled with a nutritious meal, a new pair of socks, and a note asking for God’s blessing on the recipient. You may purchase a bag for $5, with proceeds going to purchase more supplies.

At the Well Ministry
10:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
Inspired by God’s Spirit, At the Well welcomes Austin-area women experiencing homelessness by providing hospitality, supportive services, and some of life’s basic necessities in a caring, safe, and accepting environment that affirms self-worth and dignity. This new ministry is blessing everyone involved. It is growing and our greatest need is for additional volunteers! Come hear stories of love, acceptance, and transformation from our dedicated volunteers. To learn more about volunteering, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

NOVEMBER 26, TUESDAY
Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast
4:45-7:00 a.m. FLC Great Hall
We need more volunteers! Come help serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors. Preparing, cooking, and setting up begins at 4:45 a.m.; serving begins by 6:00 a.m.; and clean-up is finished by 7:00 a.m. You may arrive and leave to meet your schedule. On-the-job training is available.

NOW-NOVEMBER 24
Items Needed for Caritas of Austin
Help those in need by bringing canned goods and full-size toiletries to church. All contributions will be donated to Caritas of Austin, a local nonprofit working toward preventing and ending homelessness in Austin.

With your help, the Caritas Pantry provides take-home groceries to families as people are transitioning out of homelessness. Together with their other services, assistance with basic necessities builds a strong foundation as people work toward their life goals. When you are struggling to make ends meet, weekly groceries bring great relief to families. We are collecting some of their most needed items:

- 5 ounce salmon cans
- 5 ounce sardines cans
- 10 ounce cooking oil
- Any kind of pasta in a bag
- Hamburger Helper
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Salt
- Body wash
- Conditioner
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper

Donations may be left in the collection bins located in the Sanctuary foyer, Family Life Center lobby, and church office.

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WHEN NEEDED
Cold Weather Shelter for Women

During the winter months, FUMC provides shelter for up to 25 women on Tuesday nights when the predicted overnight low is expected to be 35 degrees and wet or 32 degrees and dry. We have shifts to welcome and greet guests, provide/serve dinner, and act as overnight hosts. Sign up at fumcaustin.org/shelter.

NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS
Christmas Eve Breakfast for the Homeless

For 21 years, FUMC has sponsored a Christmas Breakfast in the Family Life Center. Each year, we provide a hot breakfast served restaurant style with hosts and a smiling waitstaff. After breakfast, guests receive hats, gloves, socks, lip balm, a one-day bus pass, and homemade cookies.

Many thanks to the over 100 volunteers who help make this breakfast an event that provides our neighbors who are homeless or the working poor with a vivid reminder that they are loved. Your generous donations ensure that enough food, drinks, hats, gloves, and other toiletry items can be purchased.

You are encouraged to give what you can at the communion rail and any time during the month of November to help support and prepare for this year’s breakfast. Please send or bring your donations, marked “Christmas Eve Breakfast,” to the church office.

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS AROUND AUSTIN

NOVEMBER 13, WEDNESDAY
The Hidden Homeless in Austin: Children & Families
LBJ Presidential Library

Join the LBJ Future Forum as we learn about the solutions for families and children who are homeless in our community, what is still needed, and what we can do as a community to help. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the conversation is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and a reception follows. Free parking is available in the LBJ Library visitors’ lot located at 2313 Red River Street. This program is sponsored by the Downtown Austin Alliance. For more information, visit 20207.thankyou4caring.org/pages/future-forum.

NOVEMBER 17, SUNDAY
26th Annual Homeless Memorial Sunrise Service
Homeless Memorial, 9307 Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail

Caritas of Austin is hosting this service to recognize the men, women, and children who have lived and died in Austin while homeless and living in poverty. Service will start at sunrise (around 6:58 a.m.), naming of all who have died in 2019.

NOVEMBER 28, THURSDAY
ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot
The Long Center for the Performing Arts

Join ThunderCloud Subs and thousands of participants for Austin’s favorite Thanksgiving tradition. The ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot features a five-mile run, one-mile walk, and a Kids K. One hundred percent of the proceeds are donated to Caritas of Austin. Sign up to participate or volunteer at caritasofaustin.org/events/turkey-trot.

JANUARY 25, SATURDAY
Point in Time Count

Each year, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) plans and leads the Point in Time Count, an annual census of people experiencing homelessness. Early in the morning, hundreds of volunteers will head out across Austin/Travis County to count every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers will count people sleeping in cars, tents, parks, under bridges, and on the streets. The information from this count is used to guide public policy and is vital for securing resources to help end homelessness in our community.

ECHO is a coalition of stakeholders that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. Let’s join ECHO in this critical activity for understanding and planning homeless services in Austin and Travis County. Together, we can end homelessness in our community! Learn more and register at austinecho.org/pit. For more information, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

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