



# WORD ON THE STREET

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE NEWSLETTER



## A LETTER FROM PASTOR JIM HOOD

Welcome to the new “Word on the Street.” Considering that we are in a “shutdown” mode, a lot is happening at Opportunity House. First of all, I want to introduce and welcome Kimani Varner, a new staff member here. Kimani will be responsible for communications with the community and our supporters. You can read more about him elsewhere in this newsletter, but everyone here is excited to have Kimani onboard.

## WHAT'S NEW?

---

WELCOME KIMANI!

---

ADJUSTING DURING  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

---

OPPORTUNITY ON  
THE HORIZON

---

The other news worth sharing is that we are open. Opportunity House is playing a critical public health role during the COVID-19 pandemic. To put it simply, a “stay-at-home” order is problematic for those who do not have a home. That’s where we come in. We provide the basic necessities for our guests who do not have a residence. We are still providing 2 meals/day, showers, and laundry, as well as a safe, secure place to stay during the day. We are limiting our intake to those that are truly homeless, however.

We have implemented extensive and strict protocols to keep everyone safe, and we are limiting the hours of our staff and volunteers. We are coordinating with public health officials to insure that our guests have a documented process for their care in the case that any symptoms are observed.

Finally, we are providing additional meals and food pantry items for our neighbors who do have a home, but are struggling financially.

The times that we face are uncertain and stressful, but we believe that God is firmly in control, and I am proud of our staff, volunteers, supporters, and guests who are all working together to make our community a safer place during this difficult time.

Peace,

Jim Hood, Pastor



Donations from He's Alive Church



Donations from He's Alive Church

*To put it simply, a “stay-at-home” order is problematic for those who do not have a home.*

## WELCOME KIMANI!

BY KIMANI VARNER

Kimani will lead the communications, community outreach, and donor relations functions for our dynamic organization. As our newest team member he comes with over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit industry with a focus on grant management, volunteer management, and donor relations.

As a young child he dreamed of someday becoming a minister, like his grandfather, to help neighbors in need. Although that didn't materialize, he gravitated toward a field where he could become directly involved in helping provide opportunities for families in poverty.

In addition to his passion for the community, Kimani is an avid movie buff and enjoys a wide range of music. He is originally from Selma, Alabama and a proud graduate from Tuskegee University.



SPRING 2020

## ADJUSTING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BY LAURA TOLBERT, NURSE

Opportunity House is open for business! We have made some significant changes in how we operate in order to keep ourselves and our guests as safe as possible. We now check temperatures and have everyone wash hands when they enter, we maintain social distancing, and we limit the coming and going in the house.

*"Opportunity House  
is open for business!"*

We are continuing our services: showers, laundry, computers, meals, devotions. I am also here three days a week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, for assisting with medical and community resource referral. I am also available by phone on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thankfully, we have not had anyone become symptomatic, but should it happen, we do have a protocol in place to assure appropriate care.

We are working closely with Atrium Health and Cabarrus Health Alliance to be certain we are doing all we can to provide a safe environment for us all.

PAGE | 03

# OPPORTUNITY ON THE HORIZON

BY THAD BROWN, DIRECTOR

**A big thank you to the City of Concord for their grant support for Opportunity House.**



This grant is greatly appreciated during these challenging times. Our mission remains to serve the homeless of Cabarrus County, but the how has had to change due to the Covid-19 crisis. This grant will help us to complete our mission.

A couple of areas where you, the individual or small group, might be able to help us.

- If you find that your family or church is overstocked in non-perishable foods, bath tissue, paper towels we would be grateful for any donation.
- Tents - As spring has sprung, the homeless need tents and we currently have none. We recommend the Magellan Outdoors Tellico 3 Dome tent for \$29.99 at Academy Sports. It's compact, light and affordable.

Finally, while we strive to receive grant funding, it never is enough. We need help from you the individual. Whether its \$10 a month or \$100, these types of donations help to balance out our cash flow.

We ask that you tithe your church first, then consider us. Just know that whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Everything that we do here at Opportunity House is for the glory of God.

**THANK YOU**  
*for your support!*

There are many people in Cabarrus County facing poverty, joblessness, and homelessness that have been affected further by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the generous donations from **Elevation Church** (food and cleaning supplies), **Pack 704 of the Cubs Scouts** (900 lbs of canned goods), and **He's Alive Church** (over 100 loaves of bread and Easter snacks) for our neighbors in need.



Thank you to our partners for helping to provide support for guests in need.



## MEET DARON

Daron moved to Cabarrus county with his daughters in 2018. After battling an addiction to drugs and alcohol for over 40 years, he became a resident of Serenity House in Concord. While staying there, he learned of the many opportunities available for people in need at Opportunity House. After receiving support and seeing the needs of many others, Daron decided to stay and volunteer as the Sous-chef at Opportunity House. He's been sober and preparing & providing meals for guests for over two years.



## GET INVOLVED

Donations are currently being accepted and the greatest needs are: canned goods (with pop tops), other non-perishables, and toiletries.

*Continue to help us serve individuals and families in our community.*

*Thank You!*

Because of your support, our neighbors in need are provided the opportunity to access daily chef prepared meals, a safe space to shower and wash clothing, vital access to healthcare, and resources needed to find jobs.

Your generosity also helps to provide clothing and canned goods for individuals and families who've been put out of work due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to you, **Opportunity House** is able to meet the needs of several members in Cabarrus County, providing hope of a better tomorrow and the assurance that there are people in this community who care.

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

72 Corban Ave., SW Concord, NC 28025

PH: 704-786-4020

[www.opphouse.net](http://www.opphouse.net)

