

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN CHARLOTTE
ONE CAUSE
AT A TIME



January 6, 2016

Have an Itch to Give Back This Year? A Message from the Community Matters Steering Committee

Community Matters was formed to provide the companies and professionals in our industry with a way to give back and make a difference in Charlotte, both individually and collectively. Since we started our organization, we have been overwhelmed by what **you**, our members, have done -- both in terms of volunteering with our charity partners and raising funds for the causes we've supported.

Over the past four years, you have collectively donated more than 40,000 hours to helping Charlotte fight domestic violence and family homelessness. You have won awards from each of our current charity partners for having the most impact on their causes in 2015! You have participated in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities -- from sorting clothes and moving people into their new homes to serving at the shelter or mentoring young people. And, on top of all that, you have contributed more than \$750,000 to the work of our partner agencies.

It is amazing to see the photos of our Community Matters members reaching out to our neighbors in need. Many of you have volunteered as part of company or industry teams, or with your families and friends. And once you've volunteered, most of you come back again and again because of how fulfilling the service is.

We post volunteer opportunities on our website and highlight needs in our newsletters as well as issue special requests for urgent needs that come from our charity partners from time to time. If you would like more information and want to get more involved individually or as a group in 2016, please contact:

- Crisis Assistance Ministry: Laurie Schwartz, volunteer@crisisassistance.org
- Charlotte Family Housing: Tammy Medlock, tmedlock@charlottefamilyhousing.org
- Community Matters: Karen Wilder, karen.wilder@aig.com, or Michelle Bissinger, MBissinger@thezenith.com

On behalf of Community Matters, we can't thank you enough for what you have done to help Charlotte's families in need, and we look forward to making an even more meaningful difference in 2016.

Volunteer Needs for January

Crisis Assistance Ministry

- **Relocation Assistance** (teams of 5-10 to load, transport and unload donated furniture for families moving out of homeless shelters and into stable housing): January 21 or 22 from 1-4 p.m.
- **Free Store Assistance** (up to 30 volunteers to sort and inspect donations, stock the Free Store and assist as needed): January 12 from 2:30-4:30 p.m., January 21 from 9-11 a.m., January 29 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

- **Breakfast or Lunch Ministry** (2-15 volunteers to provide food and beverage for customers in line for services): January 20 for lunch and January 29 for breakfast.
- **Donations:** Current most-needed items are men's clothing, maternity and plus-size women's clothing, work boots, linens, and pots and pans.

Charlotte Family Housing

The week of **January 24-28** at Hawthorne Place, 300 Hawthorne Lane near Presbyterian Hospital Main

- **Meal for 20 people:** Sunday, January 24, dropped off at any time during the day (and stay and dine with the families if you'd like); January 26 and 28, dropped off at 6 p.m.
- **Overnight hosts** (with own room for sleeping): January 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.
- **Answer the door and phone** during Resident Advisors Meeting, January 25, 5:45-8:30 p.m.

If you are able to fulfill an opportunity, please contact the partner directly with a copy to karen.wilder@aig.com.

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Hope Team Information Sessions To Be Held January 12 and 14

Charlotte Family Housing will host two 45-minute information sessions exclusively for Community Matters members about its unique volunteer opportunity -- Hope Teams -- on Tuesday, January 12, and Thursday, January 14 at 5:30 p.m. The sessions are intended to provide information only; attendees will not be asked to make a commitment.

A Hope Team is a group of 3-6 individuals who provide longer-term support for families moving from shelter to housing. It provides a really great way to go a little deeper in relationship with a family getting back on its feet. To learn more about Hope Teams, visit <http://charlottefamilyhousing.org/i-want-to-help/volunteer/hope-team>. If you are interested in attending, please email Katie Vodra at kvodra@charlottefamilyhousing.org.