

November, 2022

The Scope

Bigger Vision Of Athens Monthly Newsletter



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Bigger Vision Highlights:

Giving Thanks and Giving Back to our Community!

The holiday season is upon us, and Bigger Vision is more thankful than ever for our amazing supporters! We have had a busy month and are excited to share some updates with you all. The temperatures are dropping rapidly at night, and we are continuing to build our supply of blankets, coats, scarves, gloves, hats, hand warmers, and other winter weather necessities. We also upgraded our laundry facilities thanks to a generous donation from a local church, allowing us to increase the capacity of our daytime laundry service program. Using this funding, we are also preparing to replace our refrigerator, freezer, and dishwasher in the coming weeks. These facility improvements will allow us to continue providing our full range of services well into the future!

Bigger Vision has had some major successes this month! Since the start of the year, we have sheltered 413 unique individuals for 10,184 shelter stays and provided over 20,000 meals. We could not do this without our network of supporters and volunteers who fund our programs, provide meals to our guests, and fill our volunteer shifts! We have a few Meal Provider slots open in November and many Evening Volunteer slots available. Please check out our [Givepulse](#) page, or give us a call or email if you are interested in volunteering! We will also have at least one opening for a Master of Public Administration student intern in the spring semester, so don't hesitate to contact us if you are interested in learning more.

The fall and winter seasons are Bigger Vision's busiest and most important seasons for service, and we need your support now more than ever to keep people experiencing homelessness safe, comfortable, and on the path to sustainable housing! We have many available involvement opportunities and multiple exciting events as we finish this busy year. Thank you again for staying connected with us and helping us work towards our vision of an Athens where everyone has a safe and affordable place to rest their head!

Donor Spotlight of the Month: Advance Auto Parts

Athens's local Advance Auto Parts team came together with Bigger Vision to hold a massive blanket and winter clothing drive! Local and Regional management coordinated all Advance Auto Parts locations in Athens to offer a 10% discount for every customer who brought in a blanket for their Heat for the Homeless event, and the community response was astounding! Supporters brought hundreds of items, including blankets, scarves, gloves, hats, and other winter necessities. The Advance Auto Parts team also collected backpacks with hygiene kits, clothing, and other critical supplies for people in need. Bigger Vision is so grateful for all that Advance Auto Parts has done to keep people experiencing homelessness safe and warm this winter!



The first of many deliveries!



Backpacks, blankets, jackets, and more!



Bigger Vision would like to give a special thanks to Chad Chesser and Tim Siewert for reaching out to organize this amazing event in support of the Athens-Clarke County community! Working with local businesses and other community partners in support of those we serve is crucial to our mission, and we're so grateful for everyone who contributed towards this success.

Bigger Vision Thanks Advance Auto Parts!



Huffer Foundation Grant Awarded:

The **James E. and Betty J. Huffer Foundation** recently awarded Bigger Vision a \$10,000 grant to help fund our Emergency Shelter Program! This grant will cover the costs associated with supporting two beds in our Emergency Shelter Program, providing 609 shelter stays, 1,217 meals, and countless supplies to people experiencing homelessness in Athens. Private foundation support is a critical piece of the funding we need to keep our 35-bed shelter operating at full capacity throughout the year. On behalf of those we serve, Bigger Vision thanks the Huffer Foundation for helping make Athens-Clarke County a better place and investing in our community!



Bigger Vision Thanks the Wallace Family!

Bigger Vision would like to give a special thanks to Bob and Mary Wallace for repairing our freezer! Community members like the Wallace Family help keep Bigger Vision fully operational so we may continue achieving our mission! Thank you, Bob and Mary!

Upcoming Internship Opportunities:

Bigger Vision currently has three UGA Master of Public Administration interns and two UGA Master of Social Work interns working with us throughout the fall semester. In the spring, we will have at least one opening for a new MPA intern. The position will be unpaid, and interns will have the opportunity to learn fundraising, nonprofit development, and administration skills. For more information, [please view this position description](#).

Volunteer Opportunities:

Serve a meal! Meal Providers can now choose between coming inside to serve our guests directly or dropping the meal off to be served by staff and Evening Volunteers as we have done during the past two years. We understand that everyone's schedules are different, and we feel that providing this choice will allow more of our supporters to provide dinner for our guests. Meal Providers will be asked to wear masks while present inside the facility and interacting with staff, guests, and other volunteers. Sign up to become a:

Meal Provider Volunteer

- In a group or individually, plan and prepare, or purchase a meal for a minimum of 40 guests.
- Deliver & drop off the meal at Bigger Vision between 5:00-5:30 pm **OR**
- Arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 to set up the meal and serve dinner between 6:00 and 6:15.

OPEN NOVEMBER DATES FOR MEAL PROVIDER VOLUNTEER

November 2nd

November 23rd

November 25th

Evening Volunteer

- Assisting staff with guest check-ins
- Assisting guests with minor issues
- Help facilitate a smooth dinner process
- Build relationships with guests through conversations and games
- Provide encouragement and offer advice when requested

Evening Sessions

- Provide an enriching experience for up to ten individuals that can cover any number of topics including, but not limited to:
 - Financial Literacy
 - Health/Wellness
 - Coping Strategies

- Religious Groups
- Local Services
- Recreation/Hobbies
- Education/Skill Building
-

To sign up for an evening session, please reach out to thebiggervisionshelter@gmail.com.

Visit our Givepulse

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance! We are always available to help with the volunteer sign-up process. To contact us via email, please send your questions to thebiggervisionshelter@gmail.com. To reach us by phone, dial the shelter number at 706-340-6062 and hit extension 3.

Learn More

Opportunities for Financial Donations:

Bed Sponsorship Program: While any donation is greatly appreciated, we have a goal of raising enough money to sponsor all of the beds for the guests of our overnight stay program. One night's stay includes two meals, a shower/laundry, and any basic necessities a guest may need. Please email Director@BiggerVisionOfAthens.org or go to our website if you are interested in donating to one of our three commitment tiers:



Bronze Bed Sponsorship:
\$20/Monthly Commitment
 Contributions are recognized with:
 Standard magnet with chosen name on bed & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

1 bed for 1 night each month



Silver Bed Sponsorship:
\$250/Monthly Commitment
 Contributions are recognized with:
 Custom magnet with chosen name, a photo op with you/your group, & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

1 bed for 182 nights each year



Gold Bed Sponsorship:
\$500/Monthly Commitment
 Contributions are recognized with:
 Stand-alone custom magnet with chosen name & logo on bed, a photo-op with you/your group, & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

Givebutter – Using Givebutter, you will be able to contribute as a one-time donation or as a monthly contribution to the Bed Sponsorship program through the portal on our [website](#) or by scanning the QR code provided.



Check – If your check represents a Bed Sponsorship, please indicate so in the memo line. Either drop them off in-person M-F between 9am-4pm, or mail it to:

The Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc.,
P.O. Box 8022, Athens, GA 30603

Other Opportunities: If the bed sponsorship program isn't right for you, we appreciate one-time donations as well through the avenues listed above. In addition, we provide the option for you to donate while also shopping online or for your groceries:

Amazon Smile – When using [Smile.Amazon.com](#) (instead of Amazon.com), a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to Bigger Vision of Athens if you select our organization.

Kroger Plus – Activate [Kroger Community Rewards](#) to donate a percentage of every purchase you make using your Kroger Plus card to BVOA if you select our organization.

Creative Ways to Donate: Here are some fun ways to get your network involved in your support of Bigger Vision!



Start a Instagram Story Fundraiser!
Collect money through an Instagram story "bingo board" fundraiser and donate the funds to Bigger Vision! If you shoot us an email, we can send you a pre-made template!



Knit Scarves and Hats!
Are you crafty? Pick up some spare yarn and knit or crochet some scarves and hats! When you're done, drop them off at Bigger Vision and we will give them to people in need!



Thanksgiving Dinner Fundraiser!
Hosting a Thanksgiving dinner party? Ask everyone you invite to bring \$10 to donate! Help support our mission while having a great time with your family and friends!

Opportunities for Item Donations:

Amazon Donation List: Our supply of items fluctuates, so we keep a list of items we're currently most in need of on [Amazon](#).

Walmart Registry for Good – Visit our [Walmart](#) registry to see more items the shelter is in need of, including gift cards that can be used for future purchases!

This month's **greatest** needs:

- **BLANKETS**
- **EMERGENCY BLANKETS**
- **NEW/GENTLY USED WINTER APPAREL**
- **MEN'S UNDERWEAR**
- **EARPLUGS**
- **RAZORS**
- **DEODORANT**
- Assorted Snacks
- Disposable Water Bottles

COVID-19 Shelter Updates:

In an effort to continue placing the health and safety of guests, volunteers, and staff as a top priority, the board has determined that some existing precautions **will continue to remain in place**. These precautions include:

- Guests are asked to provide proof of at least one COVID-19 vaccination.
- Guests are having their temperature checked, are asked to sanitize their hands & are required to wear a mask.
- Volunteers are asked to wear a mask while inside the facility and interacting with guests.
- In the case of an outbreak, we will close the shelter until we deem it safe to return.

Free Upcoming Events

Street Love
November 13th
11:00 – 1:00

Hearts for the Homeless
Blood Pressure Screening
1:00 – 3:00



FAQ:

What is the best time to drop off donations?

- The best time to drop off donations to the shelter is between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. We know this doesn't work for everyone, so if you need to come outside of these hours, just give us a call, and we will make sure to keep an eye out for you!

Will there be any service changes during Thanksgiving week?

- No way! Bigger Vision will continue normal operations during the entire holiday season.

What are the most important emergency items during the fall and winter months?

- Now that the cold weather has officially arrived, the most important items our guests are in need of include winter apparel, hand warmers, blankets, backpacks, and non-perishable food items. These items help keep our guests warm during the day, as well as provide comfort to those who are unable to seek proper shelter during the evening.

Connect with us

Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc. | 706-340-6062 | [Volunteer](#) | [Website](#)



The Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc. | 95 North Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

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