



## LAZARUS HOUSE COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

Updated March 24, 2020

We are currently focusing our energy on the care of Guests in our Shelter, Food Pantry, and Soup Kitchen. These services are recognized by the State as Essential and are not likely to be ordered to close.

Our leadership team understands the fluid situation and is daily monitoring government decrees and adjusting our plans for serving the most vulnerable in our community. **For the protection of all, we have taken the following action:**

- Suspended the use of our (excellent!) volunteers until further notice
- Closed our Thrift Stores
- Closed our Sparkle Cleaning services
- Postponed our sewing and culinary classes
- Asked our administrative staff to work from home
- Adopted social distancing across the ministry
- Asked employees from closed areas to help, as able, with essential services

In addition to serving our Guests, Lazarus House is also committed to our employees. We will continue to pay all our employees through this crisis because a non-paid furlough would be catastrophic for their families and futures.

Lazarus House is well-positioned to serve the most vulnerable in Lawrence. I ask for your generous financial support now, so that we can deliver vital services without interruption. If you are able, please “link arms ... from a distance” with Lazarus House by donating ([lazarushouse.org/donate/](https://lazarushouse.org/donate/)) to meet the needs of our cherished Guests in the months to come.

A few weeks ago, we selected Jeremiah 29:11 as the theme of our meditations for Lent within Lazarus House; we had no idea how much we would need these words of hope:

**I know the plans I have for you, “declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*Jeff*

Rev. Jeff Hassel  
Executive Director

## **ABOUT LAZARUS HOUSE:**

Lazarus House helps courageous women, men, and children living in poverty restore their dignity and self-respect. We offer life-saving services in the areas of food, shelter, clothing and education.

### **We provide:**

**Nourishment**, through served meals and weekly groceries.

**Stability**, through emergency shelter and transitional housing.

**Comfort**, through advocacy and case management and highly affordable clothing, housewares, and furniture at our thrift store locations. When guests face a dire need, we provide vouchers for free items, about 400 per year. We also distribute holiday gifts and food boxes for 700+ families through our Project Bethlehem and Giving Tree programs.

**Dignity**, through preparation to earn a living wage in our vocational training in sewing and culinary arts (with paid internships and ServSafe Certificate program)

Lazarus House serves at least 25,000 households annually.

**Lazarus House Ministries 412 Hampshire Street P.O. Box 408 Lawrence MA 01842**