



Coronavirus Update April 4, 2020

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW about how COVID-19 is affecting our people, our programs, our methods of delivering basic services like food and shelter ***and how you can help us continue to serve our Guests.*** We continue to focus our energy on the care of Guests in our Shelter, Food Pantry, and Soup Kitchen through modified programs and collaborating with The City of Lawrence and many other non-profits.

TEMPORARY PROGRAM CHANGES

- Thrift Stores will be closed until this health crisis is under control
- Sewing and Culinary Arts classes have been suspended until further notice
- Soup Kitchen has been converted to a “meals to go” kitchen Monday to Friday for breakfast and lunch
- Food Pantry continues to fulfill emergency food orders and has converted our weekly distribution of groceries to 800 families to a “groceries to go” format
- The Shelter continues to operate using CDC health guidelines, where possible, and we are actively trying to hire staff to fill the required shifts and roles normally filled by volunteers
- We have offered the use of one of our buildings to the City of Lawrence during this crisis to use as needed
- Our robust and crucial Volunteer Program (over 5000 annually) has been suspended

A MESSAGE FROM JEFF HASSEL – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAZARUS HOUSE MINISTRIES April 4, 2020

Every day this week, Lazarus House leaders shared our expertise as members of *community working groups* in the areas of “Homelessness and Shelter” and “Food Access.” We are coordinating efforts with the City of Lawrence, Lawrence General Hospital, Greater Lawrence Family Health, Groundwork Lawrence, Bread and Roses, and *many* other nonprofit organizations. We know that working together in a spirit of cooperation in a time of crisis is best for the people of our city. We are making progress, yet there is much to do and little time before the virus takes hold in Lawrence.

The focus inside Lazarus House continues to be service to our Guests – right now through the Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Shelter, and Transitional Housing programs. Our leadership teams meet four times a week to discuss and evaluate our program and staffing needs in the face of this emergency. In the past two weeks, a good portion of our staff have gotten sick or made the heart-wrenching choice to stay home, so they don’t inadvertently carry the virus to multiple generations of their family who live under one roof. To better understand their hearts, consider that Lazarus House front line staff work in the congested space of the Shelter; pass bag lunches to 70 people every day in the Soup Kitchen, and distribute 800 bags of groceries to people every Wednesday at the Food Pantry. I can understand and support why the families of our workers are frightened that the virus could, in the blink of an eye, and now likely through conversation and breathing, come home. The leaders at Lazarus House are doing their best to meet the needs of our Guests and our staff in this unprecedented crisis.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JH", is located below the text "May the Lord bless you and keep you." The signature is stylized and cursive.

Reverend Jeff Hassel
Executive Director

NOTE: The Lazarus House Ministries' Coronavirus Task Force continues to make necessary changes, as recommended by the CDC, to the way we serve, sanitize, and operate. We are keeping safety for all at the forefront of our minds and actions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR GUESTS

- PRAY for our staff, our Guests, and the Lawrence Community
- [DONATE](#)

and Jesus said:

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.”

- John 14:1 NLT

LAZARUS HOUSE – A Beacon of Hope in the darkness of poverty and homelessness.

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.