



BE THE BRIDGE . . .

HELP THE HOMELESS

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Miracle Hill
MINISTRIES

Miracle Hill Ministries invites community to “Be the Bridge” for those in need

By Rebecca Howerton
Contributing writer

Every day, Upstate neighbors face the obstacles of addiction, homelessness, and family instability. For 77 years, Miracle Hill has worked to provide a bridge back to a safe, productive life, with the help of churches and individuals. The ministry provides safe, warm shelter for an average 560 homeless and hurting men, women and children each day—and even more during cold weather—and thousands of free meals to those living in its shelters and in the communities it serves.

Whether by volunteering at one of its adult or youth shelters, becoming a foster family, or donating to its programs or thrift stores, Miracle Hill invites the community to “Be the Bridge” that leads to hope.

About 70 percent of the clients Miracle Hill serves are adults, according to Bill Slocum, vice president of adult services. The ministry offers four emergency shelters—Shepherd’s Gate and three rescue missions—and one facility which includes five apartments for homeless families.

For people facing life-dominating addictions, Miracle Hill leads two residential recovery programs, Overcomers for men and Renewal for women, where trained staff provide case management, personal and group counseling, daily devotions and educational opportunities. Miracle Hill provides transitional housing for participants upon graduation, and surrounds them with a supportive community.

“These seven-month programs are provided free to our clients, funded by donors who want to help. Similar programs that last only 30 days can cost as much as \$3,000–\$4,000,” he said. “When they graduate, they usually have a job or are looking for employment. They have a home church, and a mentor from that church that is trained by Miracle Hill. They attend Celebrate Recovery every week, as well as house meetings with other residents of transitional housing.”

Slocum said Miracle Hill’s clients benefit from the generosity of churches, families, and individuals who donate food and other needed items like paper products or their time and professional services.

“Volunteers are a lifeline at all six of our adult shelters,” he said. “We have people who prepare food and eat a meal with our clients, partners in every health field, like chiropractors and audiologists, attorneys, and others who work in our computer labs helping clients prepare for their GED to qualify for employment.”

In addition to its adult ministries, Miracle Hill’s children’s ministry operates two shelters for at-risk boys and young men—Miracle Hill Boys’ Shelter and Homes for Life—a children’s home, a foster care program for children, and a new, family-support program to provide family strengthening.

“When children come into the child welfare system, they are pulled out of everything they know,” said Lori Bailey, vice president of children’s

ministries, “We provide a bridge back to stability in a caring environment, either in a group home or a foster family. For families that are working toward reunification, we provide support to the family as they work toward the necessary stability to bring the children back home. For children who cannot be reunified with their biological family, we try to be a bridge to prepare them for adoption into a loving, permanent home.”

In addition to volunteering or becoming a foster family, community members can support ministry programs by donating to one of Miracle Hill’s eight thrift stores, where donations and purchases equal shelter, food and hope for the homeless.

“We are a non-profit, Christian agency that operates entirely through donations from the private sector, with no public funding,” Slocum said. “Miracle Hill and its clients continue to be blessed by the generosity of our donors.”

Emergency Shelters • Addiction Recovery • Children’s Shelters & Foster Care • Family Support Services • Thrift Stores

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