

**Miracle Hill**
MINISTRIES**FURMAN UNIVERSITY GRANT TO MIRACLE HILL MINISTRIES
HELPS NONPROFIT REDUCE ENERGY COSTS**

Furman provides funding to install LED lighting in homeless shelter and thrift stores

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Furman University has made a \$39,000 grant to Miracle Hill Ministries to install energy efficient lighting at the nonprofit’s Greenville Rescue Mission and selected thrift stores.

“Miracle Hill was looking to lower our energy costs by upgrading the original lighting in the Greenville Rescue Mission,” said Tony McJunkin, Director of Facilities for Miracle Hill. “We expect to save \$24,000 a year with the new, energy-efficient LED lights recently installed at the Mission and three of our thrift stores, allowing us to spend more dollars on direct care for our guests instead of utilities.” The Rescue Mission houses, feeds and provides life-restoring support for more than 130 homeless men in the community.

Miracle Hill was one of three organizations chosen to receive a portion of an anonymous donation given in spring 2015 to Furman with the directive that it be used to help make several nonprofit organizations in Greenville more energy efficient. A staunch advocate of energy conservation, the donor chose Furman because of the University’s reputation for environmental and community involvement.

“We are so grateful for Furman’s partnership with us as we seek to become better stewards of our resources and continue our mission of serving some of the most vulnerable people in our community,” said McJunkin.

Dr. Weston Dripps, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Furman and Executive Director of the Shi Center for Sustainability, spearheaded the project and enlisted

MORE

students in his Engaged Living Environmental Community of Students (ECOS) program to review data and determine which projects would be funded.

“Non-profits typically run on very tight budgets,” said Dr. Dripps. “Finding ways to help them save money in the long run by cutting energy costs while also helping reduce their environmental footprints, and then having funds to help these savings be realized, was extremely rewarding.”

This fall, Dr. Dripps will reconvene the students to see the results of their efforts. At the end of the 2017 academic year, the students will review the data provided to the university by each NGO in order to assess how much money each organization is saving and how that money is being spent.

Going forward, Miracle Hill hopes to install LED lighting in all of their nine shelters and nine thrift stores. Through other funding sources, the organization is currently in the process of installing solar panels at four shelters.

About Miracle Hill Ministries

Miracle Hill helps hurting people become whole. Services across the Upstate include rescue shelters for the homeless, addiction recovery programs, shelters for children, family support services, and foster care. Miracle Hill’s nine thrift stores provide employment opportunities for guests in their programs and the community at large while offering savvy shoppers a way to spend and give at the same time. For more information on Miracle Hill, please visit www.MiracleHill.org or call 864.268.4357.

About Furman University

Furman is a private, undergraduate liberal arts college of 2,700 students in Greenville, S.C. The school is noted for its rigorous academic program and strong faculty, and its 750-acre campus is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful in the nation. The university has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and ranks among the nation’s top producers of U.S. Fulbright Scholars.

Media Contacts:

Sandy Furnell, Media Coordinator, Miracle Hill Ministries, 864.631.0158 (office), 864.420.7292 (cell), sfurnell@miraclehill.org

Vince Moore, Director of News and Media Relations, Furman University, 864.294.3107 (office), 864.423.4860 (cell), Vince.Moore@furnan.edu

Caption information for attached photos:

Photo #1: Greenville Rescue Mission located at 575 W. Washington Street.

Photo #2: Tony McJunkin (left), Director of Facilities for Miracle Hill Ministries with Dr. Weston Dripps, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Furman University and Executive Director of the Shi Center for Sustainability.

###