

Miracle Hill Ministries Expands Transitional Housing in Upstate New Spartanburg Home Helps Men Exit Homelessness

SPARTANBURG, SC (October 17, 2019) – In an effort to provide housing and a stable environment for homeless men exiting the Spartanburg Rescue Mission, Miracle Hill Ministries has opened a 13-bed transition home called Miracle Hill at Copper Line, a hybrid between transitional and single room occupancy (SRO) housing.

"What we have learned through our decades of serving the homeless is that an emergency shelter is not a long-term solution. The Upstate doesn't need more shelter beds. We need more shelter exits, places where people can continue to stabilize, grow in their job skills, save money and take steps toward independence," said Ryan Duerk, VP of Adult Ministries.



Before becoming a transition home for adult men, Miracle Hill at Copper Line (formerly known as Miracle Hill Homes for Life) was a group home for male foster youth aging out of the South Carolina Department of Social Services system. It had become increasingly difficult for the ministry to staff and fund the facility. The redesign of the space will allow for better stewardship of resources and provide a much-needed transition program for the Spartanburg community.

Miracle Hill at Copper Line will house men of all ages but will place a special emphasis on serving young adult men ages 18 – 21 whenever possible. The policies

governing the operation of the home will be similar to the policies Miracle Hill employs for its addiction recovery transition homes. Men who enter the home will make a six-month commitment and can re-apply one or two additional times as needed.

Kevin Avrett, Case Manager, will oversee the day-to-day operations of the home as well as the personal development progress being made by each guest. Avrett will work under the leadership of Calvin Vinson, Director of the Spartanburg Rescue Mission.

"At the Mission we regularly serve more than 60 men experiencing homelessness, but we haven't been able to offer a next step. This transition home fills a huge gap in the system," said Vinson. In this <u>video</u>, Avrett explains the opportunity for men to grow and develop at the transition home:





Miracle Hill at Copper Line living room (left) and dining area (right)

About Miracle Hill Ministries

Miracle Hill Ministries is the Upstate's largest, most comprehensive provider of services to homeless children and adults. Serving the Upstate since 1937, Miracle Hill's programs include rescue shelters for the homeless, residential addiction recovery, transitional housing, shelters for children, and foster care. Miracle Hill's eight thrift stores provide employment opportunities for the community as well as former Miracle Hill guests. Miracle Hill has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence as a Certified Mission by <u>City Gate Network</u>, a distinction given to fewer than 30 missions nationwide. Additionally, Miracle Hill's foster care program and group homes for children have been accredited by <u>CARF International</u>. For more information about Miracle Hill, please visit <u>www.MiracleHill.org</u> or call 864.268.4357. Find us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.