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## Miracle Hill Launches Homelessness Curriculum for Kids

*Backyard Missions provides hands-on learning and virtual field trips*

GREENVILLE, SC (August 20, 2020) – In an effort to equip parents and educators with information, tools and activities to teach children about homelessness, Miracle Hill Ministries has released [Backyard Missions](https://www.miraclehill.org/backyardmissions), an online curriculum that features hands-on learning and virtual field trips of Miracle Hill's shelters.

"We regularly receive calls from parents who want to serve with their children at our homeless shelters, but we don't often have opportunities that work well for young children," said Anne Hill, Volunteer Coordinator for Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate and creator of Backyard Missions. "Having a curriculum that provides age-appropriate education about homelessness will go a long way in teaching the next generation to have compassion for the vulnerable in our community."

Although Miracle Hill began work on the curriculum a year ago, the COVID-19 shutdown and stay-at-home order in spring 2020 gave staff the time and space to put additional effort into completing the project. Backyard Missions can be accessed at [www.miraclehill.org/backyardmissions](https://www.miraclehill.org/backyardmissions) and includes three sections:

- **Learning** – learn about the causes of homelessness and the challenges that a person experiencing homelessness might face.
- **Experiencing** – walk through a few activities to experience what it might feel like to go without the basic necessities we so often take for granted.
- **Serving** – once a basic understanding of homelessness is gained, complete a service project (projects completed at home, not at shelters).

The curriculum also includes a shelter scavenger hunt and two devotionals. Students are challenged to memorize Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"We hope this curriculum will become a valuable resource for families, schools and churches in our community who want to teach children what it means to love their neighbors," said Jacob Edmisten, VP of Development at Miracle Hill.



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### 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, 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 [City Gate Network](#), a distinction given to fewer than 30 missions nationwide. Additionally, Miracle Hill's foster care program has been accredited by [CARF International](#). For more information about Miracle Hill, please visit [www.MiracleHill.org](http://www.MiracleHill.org) or call 864.268.4357. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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