



Neighbors Helping Neighbors | Vulnerable Populations in HUD's Region IV Receive Support from Community Partners #Inthistgether

As communities combat the coronavirus outbreak, HUD is highlighting stories of communities coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Selma, Alabama – Amid the coronavirus outbreak, three local organizations teamed up to host a 4th of July BBQ for veterans facing homelessness in the community. Restoring Veterans' Hope Organization, CyberSignal Technologies and A Clean Selma worked together to host the event at The Good Samaritan Hospital. *"The reason I'm doing this is because I'm a veteran myself,"* Weaver said. *"We have over 300 homeless veterans in Dallas County. This is my way of giving back to both the homeless veterans and homeless people in Dallas County."* Volunteers from the three organizations spent the holiday giving out hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, drinks, assorted chips and deserts. They also gave out gift bags that contained items such as hand sanitizer and masks. [Read the full story Selma Times-Journal](#)



[Courtesy of Selma Times-Journal](#)

Opelika, Alabama – Because so many activities like school and worship services have been moved online due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Opelika Housing Authority wanted to find a way to help its residents without WiFi access. *“I see some of these folks come around here and try asking for WiFi, and they need it,”* said resident Cadarius Whatley. *“I feel like it will help on bills, instead of paying that bill and then having a lot more bills ahead of that.”* The free internet service will be provided to all 10 housing authority properties. [Read the full story from WTVM-TV ABC 9](#)



[Courtesy of WTVM TV ABC 9](#)

Tampa, Florida --To maintain health guidelines during the coronavirus outbreak, many activities have been moved to a virtual platform online. However, for families without internet access, this became a major challenge. PBX-Change, a Tampa Bay area tech firm, saw a way they could help. [PBX-Change](#) is now embarking on a \$30,000-plus project installing ultra-high-speed internet for hundreds of residents there – all free of charge. *“We really feel like we found the right place,”* says PBX-Change’s Rebekah Nault about the donation. Now residents of the Tempo at ENCORE, a mix-income development run by the Tampa Housing Authority, can continue to do their work or school virtually via the new internet service. Resident Karen “Chef Coco” Linton is a budding entrepreneur who is teaching cooking classes online via her website “A Dash of Coco.” [Read the full story from ABC News](#)



[Courtesy of WFVS](#)

Rome, Georgia - During the pandemic, the Department of Public Health and the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority's EnVision Center teamed up to provide a popup COVID-19 testing site for the community. The testing site was set up at the John Graham Homes facility which is a housing authority property. This is the third time in recent months that public health officials have partnered with the EnVision Center to set up a testing site. [Read the full story from Rome News-Tribune](#)



[Courtesy of Rome News Tribune](#)

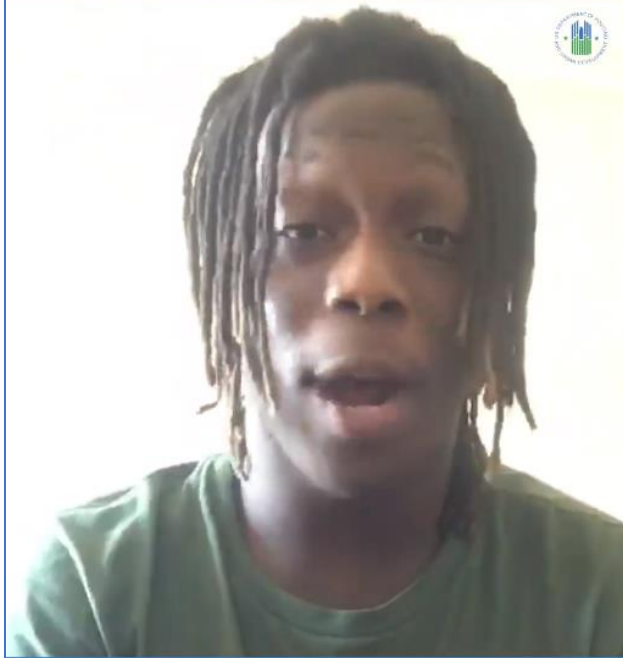
Covington, Georgia - In Georgia, the Newton County Boys & Girls Club teamed up with the local Sheriff's office to distribute essential supplies to families in need throughout the community. Clothing, cleaning supplies and children's toys were among the items provided to local families. *"I considered it a blessing to be able to assist the families of Newton County,"* said Nakita Williams, Newton County Boys & Girls Club Director. *"Basic necessities will go a long way in meeting household needs during these challenging times."* [Read the full story from The Covington News](#)



[Courtesy of The Covington News](#)

Lexington, Kentucky – Even amid the coronavirus, the Lexington Housing Authority is working to help vulnerable youth in the community. *“The Lexington Housing Authority, Commonwealth of Kentucky and City of Lexington and their partners are to be congratulated as their exemplary work during these extraordinarily challenging times is helping young people aging out of foster care have a place to call home and an opportunity to become self-sufficient,”* said HUD Southeast Regional Administrator Denise Cleveland-Leggett. The agencies recently received \$170,000 in total [HUD Foster Youth Initiative](#) grants that is being used to help 12 local foster youth aging out of foster care with housing options with the ultimate goal of helping a total of 23 foster youth obtain housing. [Read the full story from WTVQ ABC36](#)

FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE



and I'm going to talk
about FYI

[Video featured on social media](#)

Barbourville, Kentucky – Jessi Montgomery, a graduate of the University of the Cumberlands, has been able to coordinate a meaningful donation from her alma mater to a local non-profit that she works at serving homeless youth. When the homeless youth at the facility were asked what they wanted most, board games seemed to be a surprising answer. *“These young adults have nothing, yet their only request was something to share with each other,”* Montgomery said. *“I was floored. I was expecting a long list of building repairs, vehicles, and other expensive items, but all they wanted was something to share. That evening, when I was logging into my Cumberlands MBA classes, I saw a Pats Serve article. I realized Cumberlands’ commitment to the community and reached out.”* The University sponsored a drive and provided 20 games for the youth to enjoy. [Read the full story from KYForward](#)



[Courtesy of KY Forward](#)

Louisville, Kentucky – Like so many other organizations, the Family Scholar House is having to adjust the way they support those they serve amid the coronavirus outbreak. *"This year, of course, we cannot do anything at the facility,"* said Antje Riemer, one of the graduates, *"but they still find their ways."* The Family Scholar House supports single moms and young people coming out of foster care with material resources and supportive services like counseling, tutoring services, and technology assistance. *"We do not want the absence of being able to join together to take away from this huge occasion that they worked so hard for,"* said Kate Brackett of Family Scholar House. Each year, the Family Scholar House helps 4,000 families throughout Jefferson County. [Read the full story from WAVE 3 News](#)



[Courtesy WAVE 3 News](#)

Meridian, Mississippi – The coronavirus outbreak has had an economic impact upon families throughout the country. In Mississippi, Meridian Community College is now offering free classes this fall to any workers across the state who were furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19. This offer is empowering families who are looking for new opportunities. *“As long as you meet the prerequisites for the course, general education and career and technical programs offered in the Fall 2020 semester are available,”* said Joseph Knight, vice president of workforce solutions. [Read the full story from the Meridian Star](#)



[Courtesy of MCC](#)

Ponce, Puerto Rico - On May 20th, employees and volunteers from the Puerto Rico EnVision Center, *Centros Sor Isolina Ferré*, began the delivery of 7,500 boxes full of vegetables, cheese, fruit, eggs, milk, chicken and pork to families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effort, via drive-through or by foot to homes in remote locations, benefited a total of 22,000 people living in public housing. The EnVision Center also partnered with Caribbean Produce Exchange, Inc., a local entity that received a grant from USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box Program. *"Our staff identified a significant number of families, older adults living alone, single mothers and homeless individuals facing hunger. It is disheartening to see this situation occurring on our island,"* said Luis Ortiz, CEO of *Centros Sor Isolina Ferré*. *"We mobilized much of our staff, as well as volunteers and community leaders to bring these provisions to the table of our brothers and sisters in need."* [Read the full story from Primera Hora](#)



[Courtesy of Centros Sor Isolina Ferré](#)

Spartanburg, South Carolina— Various agencies have pulled together in Spartanburg, South Carolina to provide members of the community help with bills, rent, nutrition and more. For citizens in the area at risk of homelessness, Compass of Carolina Consumer Credit Counseling, a HUD approved housing counseling service, offers free foreclosure counseling to explore alternatives to a foreclosure filing. Additionally, The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Assistance Program is working to provide up to 18 months of short or long-term rental assistance to keep people in their homes. The grants can also be used help pay security and utility deposits, electric bills, and even for temporary hotel costs. [Read the full story from Go Upstate](#)



[Courtesy of Compass of Carolina](#)

To find HUD resources related to the coronavirus, visit www.hud.gov/coronavirus.

*Read more stories of [#NeighborsHelpingNeighbors](#) by following [@HUDgov](#)
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