

The Scope

Bigger Vision Of Athens Monthly Newsletter



In This Issue:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bigger Vision Highlights• Donor Spotlight of the Month• Volunteer Opportunities• Opportunities for Item Donation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 Shelter Updates• Upcoming Events• FAQ• Social Media |
|---|---|

Bigger Vision Highlights:

Meet Our New Executive Director Ryan Hersh!

Bigger Vision recently welcomed a new executive director, our former development manager Ryan Hersh! Ryan has been a crucial part of the Bigger Vision team for the past two years, and many of our supporters and volunteers already know him from volunteering and donating to Bigger Vision. Ryan will continue working on deepening our connections with our wonderful community and expanding Bigger Vision's impact on homelessness in Athens!



Shelter Reopens after COVID-19 Outbreak

Bigger Vision Welcomes Our Guests and Supporters Back Inside!

Recently, we had to temporarily suspend all operations from 7/31-8/4 due to an outbreak of COVID-19 among our staff and guests. We reopened Friday, August 5th, and we are now fully operational. We have faced several shutdowns throughout the pandemic as case levels have fluctuated.

We appreciate our guest's and supporters' patience as we work through this COVID-19 wave!

Donor Spotlight of the Month: Robins Financial Credit Union

We are excited to announce that we recently received a \$3,000 grant from Robins Financial Credit Union (RFCU)! RFCU operates out of Warner-Robins, Georgia, and has a local branch in Athens. RFCU supports nonprofits throughout their membership areas through charitable giving. Bigger Vision was thrilled to welcome Athens branch manager Joe Wyrick into the shelter to celebrate RFCU's sponsorship. This grant will support one shelter bed and all associated costs for half of the year, providing 182 nights of safe shelter, meals, and essential supplies for a person experiencing homelessness in Athens, Georgia. Bigger Vision of Athens is deeply grateful for Robins Financial Credit Union's support!



Check out RFCU's Website!

RFCU will also be featured on our social media and our website. Please read more about our sponsorships to learn about how your group or business can be recognized for your support!

[RFCU Website Sponsorships](#)

Volunteer Opportunities:

Bigger Vision is back to having volunteers serve meals to our guests indoors! Meal Providers can now choose between coming inside to serve our guests directly, or dropping the meal off to be served by staff and Evening Volunteers as we have done during the past two years. We understand that everyone's schedules are different, and we feel that providing this choice will give more of our supporters an opportunity to provide dinner for our guests. Meal Providers will be asked to wear masks while present inside of the facility and interacting with staff, guests, and other volunteers. Sign up to become a:

Meal Provider Volunteer

- In a group or individually, plan & prepare, or purchase a meal for a minimum of 40 guests.
- Deliver & drop off the meal at Bigger Vision between 5:00-5:30 pm **OR**
- Arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 to set up the meal and begin serving dinner between 6:00 and 6:15.

OPEN AUGUST DATES FOR MEAL PROVIDER VOLUNTEER

August 16th

August 19th

August 24th

August 26th

August 29th

Evening Volunteer

- Assisting staff with guest check-ins
- Assisting guests with minor issues
- Help facilitate a smooth dinner process
- Build relationships with guests through conversations and games
- Provide encouragement and offer advice when requested

Evening Sessions

- Provide an enriching experience for up to ten individuals that can cover any number of topics including, but not limited to:
 - Financial Literacy
 - Health/Wellness
 - Coping Strategies
 - Religious Groups
 - Local Services
 - Recreation/Hobbies
 - Education/Skill Building

To sign up for an evening session, please reach out to our director, Ryan Hersh, at director@biggervisionofathens.org.

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance! We are always available to help with the volunteer sign-up process. To contact us via email, please send your questions to thebiggervisionshelter@gmail.com. To reach us by phone, dial the shelter number at 706-340-6062 and hit extension 3.

Learn More

Opportunities for Financial Donations:

Bed Sponsorship Program: While any donation is greatly appreciated, we have a goal of raising enough money to sponsor all of the beds for the guests of our overnight stay program. One night's stay includes two meals, a shower/laundry, and any basic necessities a guest may need. Please email Director@BiggerVisionOfAthens.org or go to our website if you are interested in donating to one of our three commitment tiers:

BRONZE LEVEL



**Bronze Bed Sponsorship:
\$20/Monthly
Commitment**

Contributions are recognized with:
Standard magnet with chosen name on bed & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

1 bed for 1 night each month

SILVER LEVEL



**Silver Bed Sponsorship:
\$250/Monthly
Commitment**

Contributions are recognized with:
Custom magnet with chosen name, a photo op with you/your group, & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

1 bed for 182 nights each year

GOLD LEVEL



**Gold Bed Sponsorship:
\$500/Monthly
Commitment**

Contributions are recognized with:
Stand-alone custom magnet with chosen name & logo on bed, a photo-op with you/your group, & recognition on the Bigger Vision of Athens website & social media

1 bed for 365 nights each year

Givebuttr — Using Givebuttr, you will be able to contribute as a one time donation, or as a monthly contribution to the Bed Sponsorship program through the portal on our [website](#) or by scanning the QR code provided.



Check — If your check represents a Bed Sponsorship, please indicate so in the memo line. Either drop them off in-person M-F between 9am-4pm, or mail it to:

The Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc.,
P.O. Box 8022, Athens, GA 30603

Other Opportunities: If the bed sponsorship program isn't right for you, we appreciate one-time donations as well through the avenues listed above. In addition, we provide the option for you to donate while also shopping

online or for your groceries:

Amazon Smile – When using [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) (instead of Amazon.com), a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to Bigger Vision of Athens if you select our organization.

Kroger Plus – Activate [Kroger Community Rewards](#) to donate a percentage of every purchase you make using your Kroger Plus card to BVOA if you select our organization.

Creative Ways to Donate: Here are some fun ways to get your network involved in your support of Bigger Vision!



Company Fundraiser

You can expand your impact by asking your coworkers to get involved and collect donations! Many businesses have a corporate giving program as well!

Donate Your Time

One cost way free to donate is to donate your time as a volunteer! Volunteering is essentially a donation of the value of your hard work. We appreciate our volunteers so much!

Social Media Post

Share our donation posts, or let your imagination run wild and create your own design! Social media is a great way to let your friends and family know Bigger Vision!

Opportunities for Item Donations:

AmazonSmile Charity List: Our supply of items fluctuates, so we keep a list of items we currently need on [Amazon](#).

Walmart Registry for Good – Visit our [Walmart](#) registry to see more items the shelter is in need of, including gift cards that can be used for future purchases!

This month's **highest** needs:

- **PONCHOS**
- **REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES**
- **NEW SOCKS**
- **RAZORS**
- **DEODORANT**
- Assorted Snacks

COVID-19 Shelter Updates:

In an effort to continue placing the health and safety of guests, volunteers, and staff as a top priority, the board has determined that some

Upcoming Events

August 13th:
Street Love Ministries
Monthly Giveaway

existing precautions will continue to remain in place. These precautions include:

- Guests are asked to provide proof of at least one COVID-19 vaccination.
- Guests are having their temperature checked, are asked to sanitize their hands & are required to wear a mask.
- Volunteers are asked to wear a mask while inside the facility and interacting with guests.
- In the case of exposure to the virus, we will close the shelter until we deem it safe to return.

Event
FREE

September 1st:
Georgia Department of
Health COVID-19
Vaccine Event
FREE



FAQ:

What kind of food items can be donated?

- In addition to Dinner and Breakfast meals, Bigger Vision also provides bagged lunches and snacks during the day from noon until 3 pm. We are always interested in major protein sources such as chicken, fish, etc.; however, we are also interested in expanding our side item variation on evenings when we are responsible for providing meals. Leafy greens/salads, steamed vegetables, and/or fruit bowls are wonderful options for both sides and snacks for our guests. Many of our guests also have oral health issues, so softer snack options are definitely appreciated! We can only heat up cooked food on site, so all donations must be cooked beforehand!

What are Bigger Vision's most pressing needs during the summer months?

- During the hotter portions of the year, the population that we serve is most in need of water bottles (both disposable and reusable), hygiene supplies, sunscreen, and bug spray. All of these items help mitigate the discomfort that individuals experiencing homelessness feel during the summer.

Can clothing be donated?

- Yes! We accept both new and used clean clothes without major defects. Some of the most in-demand items during the summer months include socks, shoes, boots, underwear, hats, shorts, leggings, sunglasses, and backpacks/bags.

Connect with us

Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc. | 706-340-6062 | [Volunteer](#) | [Website](#)



The Bigger Vision of Athens, Inc. | 95 North Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

[Unsubscribe fundraising.biggervision@gmail.com](mailto:fundraising.biggervision@gmail.com)

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