

August 2021

The Scope

Bigger Vision Of Athens Monthly Newsletter



Our Mission:

To provide a safe and comfortable place for those in homelessness in Athens, Georgia, as they navigate the path towards sustainable housing.

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Bigger Vision Highlight:

During the month of August, Bigger Vision will be ramping up efforts to help improve the vaccination rate among the individuals experiencing homelessness in Athens-Clarke County. On Friday, August 6th, Bigger Vision will be hosting Advantage Behavioral Health in the shelter parking lot, where free COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered to those with a willingness to be vaccinated. Information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, as well as the dangers related to COVID-19 infection, will be made available for guests to learn more about the effects of the virus. Guests will be given ample opportunity to use this time to ask questions so that they are able to make a fully informed decision about their medical health. Information regarding additional sites where guests can be vaccinated will be posted in various locations around the shelter in full view of guests, including the front door for those that need access during nonoperating hours.

In addition to an increased focus on improving the vaccination rate among individuals experiencing homelessness in Athens, Bigger Vision aims to

increase the amount of hygiene and sanitation supplies made available to guests for use both on and off site to help further decrease the spread of COVID-19 and other highly contagious illnesses. Bigger Vision is working with local groups to help coordinate the creation of hygiene kits for distribution to guests in an effort to improve access to highly necessary sanitation items in a way that is both manageable and convenient for the guest. If you have an interest in helping create these kits at home or with a group, please [contact us](#) to learn more about the necessary items that should be included.

COVID-19 Shelter Updates:

During the month of July, Bigger Vision experienced **POSITIVE** cases of **COVID-19** among select staff and guests. The shelter was immediately closed on a temporary basis in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus among additional staff and the population we serve. Please check our Facebook page for updates regarding the status of the shelter.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, we modified our services to better serve those experiencing homelessness in our community including:

- In line with the most recent CDC approved COVID-19 protocol regarding emergency shelters, we have capped our bed capacity at 24 (a reduction from our usual 34 guests, but up from the 17 we've been able to serve) to allow for appropriate distancing.
- Offering a limited number of to-go dinners each day.
- Offering afternoon showers & laundry from 1:00pm to 4:00pm Thursday-Sunday by appointment.
- Guests are having their temperature checked, are asked to sanitize their hands & are required to wear a mask.
- In the case of exposure to the virus, we will close the shelter until we deem it safe to return.

Words from the Director

"Bigger Vision is dedicated to helping improve the vaccination rate among our guests to help eliminate further disruptions in service."

Steven Mason
Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for events later this year!



Donor Spotlight of the Month:

During the month of August, Bigger Vision would like to highlight the generous donors that help provide vital supplies to the shelter through our Amazon and Walmart registries. Each month, Bigger Vision receives dozens

of packages from a wide range of supporters that are immediately redistributed to our guests and the individuals experiencing homelessness that utilize our services. Often times, these donations arrive anonymously with an inspirational message that we share with staff as a reminder of the friends of supporters we have in our community. While the positive impact of these donations can be felt year round, they are all the more apparent during times wherein the shelter is unable to operate under normal conditions, such as during the recent COVID-19 exposure. Whether it's snacks to help feed between meals, or ponchos to keep guests dry in the rain, Bigger Vision's donors are always ready to answer the call.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



Volunteer Opportunities:

In light of the recent COVID-19 exposure, Bigger Vision is taking the necessary precautions required before allowing volunteers back in a limited capacity. While offering a robust and valuable volunteer experience is something Bigger Vision strives to provide, the safety of our volunteers, guests, and staff remain a top priority. We appreciate your understanding!

Due to COVID-19, we reduced volunteer opportunities to better ensure everyone's safety, but we still need volunteers! Bigger Vision has recently starting welcoming back a limited number of volunteers in the morning and evening times to assist staff and guests with a variety of tasks. All staff and volunteers are required to wear a mask while guests are present in the building. New, exciting volunteer opportunities will be continue to added as normal volunteering resumes! 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 5:00-5:30pm.
- Usually, we would ask volunteers to serve the meal to the guests but due to COVID-19 we ask that they only drop off the meal.

Morning Volunteer*

- Answering the phone
- Answering the questions of guests that ring the doorbell
- Filing
- Project Research

Evening Volunteer

- Assisting staff with guest check-ins
- Assisting guests with minor issues
- Help facilitate smooth dinner process

- Build relationships with guests through conversations and games
- Provide encouragement and offer advice when requested

[Learn More](#)

*The ideal volunteer for the mornings will have recurring availability on select days during the week. Please [contact us](#) directly to learn more and sign up.

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

PayPal – Using PayPal, you will be able to contribute as a one time donation, or as a monthly contribution to the Bed Sponsorship program through the link on our [website](#).

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!



Matching Gift

Does your employer offer a matching gift program? Check in and see if they will match your donation to Bigger Vision!



Homemade Masks

Do you have a knack for making homemade crafts? Try your hand at some reusable masks for redistribution to our guests!



Hygiene Kits

Help us stop the spread by assembling hygiene kits and donating them to Bigger Vision. [Contact us](#) to learn more about what to put inside!

Opportunities for Item Donations:

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

This month's **highest** needs:

- Blankets
- Disposable Water Bottles
- Assorted Snacks
- Socks
- **HYGIENE SUPPLIES**

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!

Community Resources:

Georgia Community Affairs:
[Rental Assistance](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
[Housing Counseling](#)
[Avoid Foreclosure](#)
[Help with Utility Bills](#)

FAQ:

Why is Bigger Vision currently closed to the public?

- During the month of July, a small number of guests and staff tested positive for COVID-19. To prevent the further spread of the virus within the shelter, Bigger Vision temporarily ceased normal operations to effectively quarantine and sanitize the shelter in preparation to safely resume normal operations.

Will volunteering resume when the shelter reopens?

- Yes. Once the determination has been made that it is safe to reopen to the public, volunteers will be welcomed back in the same limited capacity as they were prior to July's temporary closure.

How do I stay caught up on the most recent news about Bigger Vision?

- To stay updated on the most recent news, including updates regarding COVID-19, make sure to like and follow our [Facebook](#) page.

Connect with us

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

