

The Scope

Bigger Vision Of Athens Monthly Newsletter



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Bigger Vision Highlights:

Fighting the Blazing Heat at Bigger Vision

This month has seen some scorching heat descend upon our quiet college town; however, Bigger Vision has been hard at work continuing to serve our community. In addition to fully funding and replacing our building's HVAC system (with the help of our *fantastic* supporters), Bigger Vision of Athens has also been approved to operate as a cooling center on the days in which Athens is under a heat advisory. This will help provide temporary respite to those we serve during the hottest hours of the day. The health and safety of our guests remain our highest priorities, and we are delighted to expand our service capability!

New HVAC System Installed:

HVAC Replacement Through your Support!

Within only 48 hours of sending out our emergency email detailing the air conditioning crisis, our family of supporters mobilized in force and wholly funded the cost of our HVAC renovation!

With such an outpouring of support, we were able to complete the replacement of our HVAC system that very week, entirely averting the possibility of a catastrophic HVAC failure that would have forced us to suspend operations.

On the day of our HVAC installation, *Jones Mechanical Contractors*,

LLC., recognized the urgent nature of our circumstances and worked from the early morning well into the evening to ensure that our new HVAC system would work that evening for our guests. The professionalism and courtesy from the team at *Jones Mechanical Contractors* is immensely appreciated.



Chipotle Fundraiser:

Show some love to Bigger Vision of Athens and fill your tummy up all at the same time! On Wednesday, August 3rd, Chipotle on Alps Road will be hosting a fundraiser to help support the guests here at the shelter! Make sure to mark your calendar and show a copy of the flyer below so that Bigger Vision receives a portion of the sale.

[Bigger Vision Chipotle Fundraiser](#)



We'll see you there on August 3rd!

Donor Spotlight of the Month:

This month, the administration of Bigger Vision would like to open our hearts and sincerely thank every single member of our family of supporters, volunteers, donors, and community partners who helped promote our June

HVAC repair campaign. Your assistance truly made the difference!

Additionally we want to further acknowledge everyone who has turned out this past month to help serve and engage our guests. There is no question that June can be a challenging month to schedule for, and your commitment to the operation of *BVoA* is quite appreciated.

We at Bigger Vision of Athens are immensely lucky and grateful to have you as a vital link in our chain of partners, and with your continued fellowship, we know that the future is very bright for our operation!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Bigger Vision is back to having volunteers serve meals to our guests indoors! Meal Provider's 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 Provider's 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 JULY DATES FOR MEAL PROVIDER VOLUNTEER

July 8th
July 16th
July 18th
July 19th
July 20th
July 22nd
July 26th
July 27th
July 29th
July 30th
July 31st

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, Steven Mason, 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 development@biggervisionofathens.org. 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

Givebutter – Using Givebutter, 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](#) (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!



Pancake Breakfast
One way to serve up smiles for our guests would be to prepare a pancake breakfast as a team. Smiles and pancakes are a great way to start any weekend morning!



Battle of the Bands
If you like to make music and enjoy some friendly competition, then a battle of the bands is a great way to entertain and raise some funds to help out.



Dance Marathon
As students begin to trickle back into town for the upcoming term, one way that you can break some ice and help is to host a back-to-school Dance Marathon in support of BV!

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:

Beginning in April, Bigger Vision's Board of Directors agreed to shift back towards more normal operating procedures regarding the dangers presented by COVID-19. 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 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 of 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.

Upcoming Events

July 9th:
Street Love Ministries
Monthly Giveaway
Event
FREE

July 16th:
Hall Family Cookout

July 28th:
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!

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

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