

The Scope

Bigger Vision Of Athens Monthly Newsletter



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Bigger Vision Highlights:

The Effect of Inflation on Bigger Vision

Over the past several months, our community, and many others around the nation, have been rocked by the accelerating pace of inflation. This has an impact both on our operations and on the ability of folks in our community to get out of homelessness.

Housing is Getting Less Affordable

For the people we serve, the increase in the price of apartment rentals in Athens is putting a sustainable housing solution out of reach for those whose earnings are at the lower end. With low housing availability and the skyrocketing cost of materials pushing the price of homes higher and higher, Bigger of Vision of Athens recognizes that today our services are unfortunately becoming ever more crucial in stabilizing and sheltering our community's most vulnerable members. As many of you know, Bigger Vision is working with other providers, coalitions, and local and state governments on the issue of increasing the stock of affordable housing. In the meantime, we are connecting people to various programs in our community that help with funding for housing.

Impact of Inflated Prices Our Operations

While Bigger Vision continues to plan for expansion in its service capacity and program capabilities, the past month has brought multiple critical

issues to the surface at our facility. This relates to the need for repairs and replacement to our facilities during a time when building materials and equipment are at inflated prices in our community. One example is the building of our shed, a project planned over the past year, but as we approached the time to build it, prices skyrocketed, putting the project over budget. We received a \$1,400 donation from a university group called MEDLIFE at UGA, but even with donated labor, the total cost of the shed project will cost more than twice that amount.

The Cost of Utilities

The cost of our utilities has gone up substantially this year, especially in water usage, which is running at 50% higher than what it was this time last year. This increase in cost is coming at a time when water for showers, laundry, and drinking is in peak demand for our guests and others experiencing homelessness as the heat continues to swelter during the brutal Athens Summer.

Maintenance and Repairs

Bigger Vision has a host of maintenance issues that must be addressed quickly, just as prices for such things are at an all-time high. Some of this hit earlier in the year, such as the need for a replacement ice maker, oven, and large coffee maker. We need to spend approximately \$19,000 to completely replace our heating and air conditioning system this month. Having a fully-functional HVAC system is critical to ensuring that our guests feel comfortable while present in the facility, especially while sleeping at night. We applied to several grant sources to fund this, but we still have a long way to go. Our small commercial dishwasher has not worked for several years, and now that we are eating inside again using dishes, we need to either repair or replace the existing unit. We also need electrical work and replacement fixtures on our external lighting.

How You Can Help

We are in the process of requesting funds to address these issues through a variety of public and private sources. In the absence of those funds, there are many ways that we can work together to build the stability of Bigger Vision during this period of rising costs and tightening belts. First, we are always looking for corporate partners who may be able to donate services that relate to the maintenance of the facility, repairs to equipment, or replacement equipment. Others can contribute financially to address one or more of these needs. To learn more about how to donate to Bigger Vision, check out our Opportunities for Financial Donation below.

Like the pandemic, the inflation affecting us is something we will get through together as a community.

Thank you for all of your support!

Steven J. Mason
Executive Director
Bigger Vision of Athens

New HVAC System:

HVAC Replacement and Upgrade Campaign

Our aging HVAC system has begun to fail, jeopardizing the ability of Bigger Vision of Athens to provide a safe, comfortable shelter from the dangerous summer heat. The 13-year-old, three-section system is critical for our operations during the sweltering summer months, and its failure would force our shelter to close or reduce guest services during a time of urgent need.



We have already raised several thousand dollars through the support of the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council and UGASports, but the urgency of this looming crisis requires that we raise the remaining amount as soon as possible. To help keep our shelter open, safe, and comfortable for our guests, please [click this link](#) or follow the adjacent QR code to donate.



Thank you!

Donor Spotlight of the Month:

This month, Bigger Vision would like to thank the production team from Sozo Studios for donating their time and knowledge to film a brand new video all about Bigger Vision! The Sozo team worked over several days and locations to help capture stories from Bigger Vision's staff, board of directors, and the guests that we serve. This video will be featured on the Bigger Vision website and social media pages, helping our supporters learn more about our organization and all of the work that Bigger Vision, with the help of our incredible supporters, continues to do for our community.



The Sozo Studios Team!



Preparing to film upstairs.

Thank you to everyone from the Sozo Studios team, the staff and volunteers that helped manage the filming process, and most importantly, our guests for participating by telling their stories. Stay tuned to see the finished product, we can't wait for you to see it!

Meet Our New Interns!

Bigger Vision has new interns joining us for the summer, and we're so excited to have them! Sam Motley and Matthew Curley are both students at the University of Georgia who are earning their MA in Public Administration, and they'll be spending their time at Bigger Vision working on a number of different projects that will help us continue to serve our community in a number of important ways.



Sam Motley



Matthew Curley

A Little About Sam

"Hi! My name is Sam, and I am excited to be interning at Bigger Vision this summer! I am currently an MPA student at the University of Georgia. I'm most excited about helping with grant writing, event planning, and other management projects."

A Little About Matthew

"My name is Matthew and I am a Master of Public Administration candidate at the University of Georgia. I have lived next to North Ave. for going on three years now and I am really excited to contribute to such a wonderful organization in my own neighborhood! I will assist in multiple management and research projects for Bigger Vision as the organization continues to expand in its service capabilities and reach over the coming season."

We're so excited to work with Sam and Matthew this summer and see all of the fun projects they're able to help us complete!

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 JUNE DATES FOR MEAL PROVIDER VOLUNTEER

June 2nd
June 5th
June 8th
June 20th
June 21st
June 28th
June 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, 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](https://www.amazon.com/smile) (instead of

Kroger Plus – Activate [Kroger Community Rewards](#) to donate a

Amazon.com), a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to Bigger Vision of Athens if you select our organization.

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!



Sock Drive

Did you know that socks are the number one most requested item in shelters? Help us meet this need by doing a sock drive!



Car Wash

Summer is almost here, it's time to get those cars squeaky clean! Plan a car wash fundraiser and donate the proceeds to BV!



Yard Sale

Embrace the wise adage from Marie Kondo, "Does this spark joy?" If not, have a yard sell and donate a portion of the proceeds to help support our Emergency Shelter Program!

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:

Upcoming Events

June 11th:
Street Love Ministries
Monthly Giveaway
Event
FREE

June 23rd:
Georgia Department of

- 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.

Health COVID-19
Vaccine Event
FREE



FAQ:

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.

When will the new video be ready to debut to the public?

- The new video should be ready in just a few weeks! Filming was completed this past week, and the amazing team at Sozo Studios is currently piecing together and editing the video so that we can present the most polished product possible. We know they're going to do an amazing job!

What is the easiest and quickest way to donate to Bigger Vision?

- If you're interested in donating towards one of our shelter programs, visit our donate page and use the Givebutter platform to make your gift!

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:unsubscribe.fundraising.biggervision@gmail.com)

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