

Community of Hope Newsletter

Gratitude Edition



Thanksgiving in Abundance

Community of Hope has a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. We were able to move our food pantry storage area into a larger space, both bathrooms were renovated, we were awarded a grant to add a lift gate to the Hope Truck, and we were recipients of some of our families' most needed items from individuals who decided to give—to name just a few of our blessings.



Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday, launched in 2012, is a global day dedicated to generosity occurring annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. If it is a day you observe, consider supporting Community of Hope with a financial contribution on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

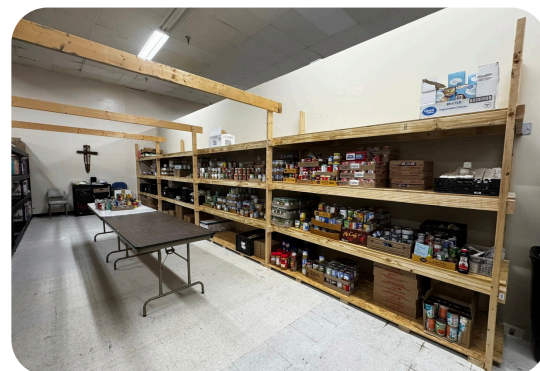
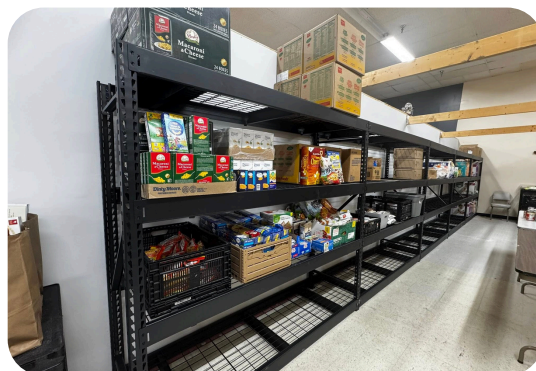
Blessings upon Blessings

The Lord has really showered blessings upon Community of Hope over the last year.

- In August 2024, we were able to do a dollar-matching fundraiser through the Heart of Alabama Food Bank, raising \$5750. As a result, we did not have to pay fees for 14 months! That was such a blessing.
- We collected donations from students moving out of dorms at Alabama State University at the end of spring semester 2025, to include 3 microwaves, 3 mini-fridges, 2 air fryers and numerous mirrors, mattress toppers and brooms. We have hopes to expand to other colleges in 2026.
- This summer, we entered a contract with America's Thrift Store + Make-A-Wish Alabama in which they pay us for clothes and shoes which may be stained, ripped or otherwise too damaged for give-away. They also accept books, which are plentiful.
- We have contracted with an additional food bank, Midwest Food Bank, with a satellite office in Wetumpka. We will be able to select food once a month for our families—at no cost to us!
- In November 2025, Darren and Karol Woodling donated and installed 544 feet of sturdy metal shelving, helping tremendously with donation organization efforts.



Old pantry



New pantry

The Mary Louise Carr Food Pantry Now Complete

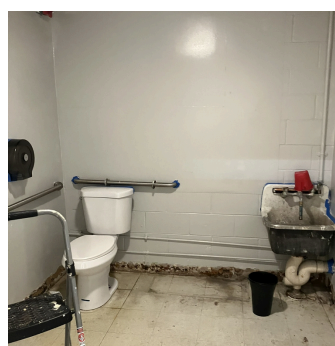
Earlier this year, we began moving the food pantry to a larger space due to our need for more storage and preparation space for the Food Ministry. Numerous volunteers lent their hands, skills and resources throughout 2025 to bring this project to fruition.

Major Renovations

When our friends from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Dutton, AL, asked Lou Ann what Community of Hope needed, they were a direct answer to prayer. In just 3 days, they completely renovated 2 bathrooms, including reinforcing the shower; hung sheetrock to complete 2 walls in the new food pantry; hung 3 fans; installed some electrical plugs and switched out 100 overhead lights! We were overwhelmed with the love and generosity they showed us on their mission trip this past July.



Men's Bathroom with Shower



Women's Bathroom

Grant to Purchase Lift Gate

With only four days from the date Eboni first saw the grant opportunity from Central Alabama Community Foundation (CACF) until the deadline, she knew she had to work quickly. Prayerfully, Eboni prepared the request for the addition of a lift gate to the Hope Truck to aid in loading and unloading boxes of food, furniture and other heavy items. We were elated CACF awarded a grant of \$5500 to purchase and install a lift gate to increase efficiency and decrease the risk of injury loading and unloading groceries and furniture.



While the current midsize Hope Truck has served us well, we desire to replace it with a full-size truck before having the lift gate installed. God has been faithful and we know He will continue to be.



FUNDRAISER External Door Repair

You can get so used to making due that you don't recognize a need. That's exactly what happened with the external doors. The storefront double doors were damaged during a burglary a few years ago, which resulted in the right door detaching from the top, if opened too widely. This has happened multiple times, usually with a few female volunteers having to hold the heavy door while trying to fit the top pivot screw back in place. The back metal double doors need to be replaced as well. There is a large gap underneath the back doors and if the doors are not closed in a specific way, they will appear locked but can be pushed or pulled open. Lastly, the wooden door leading to the office space was damaged during the burglary and needs to be replaced with a steel door.

Our attempt at requesting a grant for this project was not successful, but it helped us realize the seriousness of the issue for safety and security. This entire project is estimated to cost approximately \$6000. We are asking our donors to prayerfully consider contributing to this fundraiser to fulfill this unmet need.



Online Giving

It has been a while since our donors had the option to give online, but this capability is now up and running. We are able to accept credit and debit cards, as well as ACH transactions, through our new donation processing platform, Realm. Donors may also set up recurring donations. Realm gives donors the opportunity to pay for transaction fees as part of their charitable gift, which decreases the ministry's administrative fees, allowing us to use more funds to directly meet the needs of the families we serve. You can access our giving page by scanning the QR code.





Check Out Our Revamped Website

We are very excited about our updated website. It had been a few years since it had received the attention it needed. One of our regular "First Saturday volunteers" dedicated her time and expertise over a three-month period to give Community of Hope a beautiful website which speaks to who we are as a ministry and provides the information our site visitors are looking to acquire. Please check us out at <https://communityofhopemontgomery.org/> and let us know what you think!

Volunteer Opportunities

Weekly

Monday-Thursday from 9 AM-1 PM

First Saturday

of each month from 9 AM-1 PM

Scheduled

alternate days/times for groups

What will I do?

Glad you asked! Volunteers do a variety of tasks such as

- Organize donations
- Sort through clothes and shoes
- Prepare for Food Day
- Assist with Food and Clothes Only Days
- Intake donations

Contact Us

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