

Get off our Donkey

Teaching guide

Presented by Silent Images



Letter from the Director of Silent Images

Committed to being a voice for the voiceless, the Silent Images team of professional photographers, videographers, and writers travels the world to capture stories of hope and beauty found in the midst of persecution, poverty, and oppression. And while Silent Images remains committed to telling these worldwide stories, we recognize there are also significant needs and stories to tell in our hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina.

We produced the Get off our Donkey (GOOD) film series to help draw attention to the broken and hurting people right at our doorsteps, and to offer practical ways to “get off our donkeys” and help. Narrowing Charlotte’s needs to only seven issues was difficult, but our research helped us determine the most urgent, the least talked about, and the most misunderstood issues.

Comprised of seven, 10-minute videos, the GOOD series seeks to introduce complicated subjects by sharing people’s stories and experiences. As we produced this film series, the Silent Images team was privileged to meet extraordinary people and hear their gut-wrenching stories. Deeply moved by their strength, vulnerability, and courage, our hearts were burdened to tell their stories with dignity and integrity. As you watch each video, we pray that you, too, will connect deeply with these individuals and prayerfully consider your role in meeting local needs.

Silent Images is humbled to offer our photography and videography services to help move our city toward restoration and redemption. Thank you for partnering with us to bring these areas of need to the forefront of our thoughts and conversations.

David Johnson, Director
Silent Images
www.silentimages.org



Frequently asked questions

What is the Get off our Donkey (GOOD) project?

Silent Images produced the GOOD film series, which is comprised of seven, 10-minute videos, to describe the following areas of need in Charlotte, North Carolina: human trafficking, high school dropouts, homeless children, abortion, prisoner re-entry, refugees, and the elderly. Each video introduces the need, provides fact-based information as well as personal testimonies, includes the names of local organizations that are taking action, and gives viewers several practical ways to respond to these needs.

What is Silent Images?

Founded in 2007, Silent Images is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides charities and churches with professional photography and video services that educate and inspire viewers to give, go, and pray. You can read more about Silent Images at www.silentimages.org.

Who should watch the GOOD series?

Many Charlotte-area organizations, schools, and churches are using the GOOD series to educate and motivate people to take action. And while the videos in the GOOD series target seven areas of need in Charlotte, the needs presented are relevant to most cities in the United States. The subject material is appropriate for adults and many teenagers, but discretion is advised for young viewers.

How can I show the GOOD series to my organization, school, or church?

While Silent Images is offering the GOOD series and curriculum free of charge, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the GOOD fund. To obtain viewing rights to the GOOD videos, please contact Silent Images at info@silentimages.org or 704-999-5010. The videos can also be viewed online at www.silentimages.org.

What is the GOOD fund?

Silent Images established the GOOD fund to raise and distribute funds to help meet the needs expressed in the GOOD series. Seventy-five percent of every dollar donated to the GOOD fund is given back to the individuals and charities documented in the seven videos. The remaining 25% will fund future Silent Images productions. To make a tax-deductible donation to the GOOD fund, please contact Silent Images at info@silentimages.org or 704-999-5010.

How was the GOOD film series funded?

Like all Silent Images projects, the GOOD film series was funded by donations from individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses. Thank you to everyone who contributed time and resources to make this project possible.

How can I help?

Everyone is equipped to effect change in our world. We all have different talents, resources, and abilities, but the first step is to get off your donkey and the next step is to take action. Whether you choose to volunteer your time at one of the organizations documented in the GOOD series, donate money to the GOOD fund, or minister to hurting people in your midst, you can make a difference. For additional information and resources, please contact Silent Images at info@silentimages.org or 704-999-5010.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact information for various Charlotte-area organizations is listed throughout this guide. For additional information about the GOOD series, the GOOD fund, or Silent Images, please contact Gabriela DeGracia at gabriela@silentimages.org or 704-999-5010.

Can I make copies of the curriculum?

Yes, with permission from Silent Images. Please email us with your request at info@silentimages.org.



Introduction

Love your neighbor

In the Bible's account of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), a Samaritan man was riding his donkey to Jericho, recognized another man's need, put aside his culture's stereotypes, and took action to help. But, before being able to help his neighbor, the Good Samaritan first had to get off his donkey.

Each day, thousands of people in Charlotte rush to jobs, classes, or local coffee shops without pausing long enough to notice the needs around them. The Get off our Donkey (GOOD) film series seeks to educate those in the Charlotte area about specific groups of people in our city who are in need, and to urge us to love our neighbors by drawing near to them and offering our help.

Let's be known by our love

Mother Teresa was Roman Catholic, Martin Luther King junior was Baptist, and William Wilberforce was Anglican, but they weren't known by their theology. They all agreed with Jesus' teaching that injustices should not be tolerated, and it was their love-in-action that left a lasting legacy.

Christians in Charlotte can do the same. Jesus said Christians will be known by our love—not by our theology, church buildings, or worship programs, though Christians are prone to focus on and put our hope in such things. With churches on almost every corner in Charlotte, what if we put aside our minor differences and focused instead on our major similarities? Imagine Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians serving alongside each other to eliminate human trafficking, offer housing to homeless mothers, and assist Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools by serving students at risk of dropping out of school.

**By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.**

— John 13:35

Together we can make a difference

Together, we could make a lasting impact on our city and be known for how we love our neighbors. The GOOD film series seeks to educate our city about the needs around us; and with education comes great responsibility—we are called to take action. But before we can take action, we first have to get off our donkeys. We must pause from our often distracted and busy lives, come out of our homes and church buildings, and work together to serve the hurting people in our city.



Week 1: Human trafficking*

*Please use discretion, as some content in this video may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

The United Nations defines human trafficking as “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Biblical references

- Genesis 1:26
- Proverbs 31:8-9
- Psalm 72:4-5, 12-14
- John 4:1-29

Discussion questions

1. Whether it happens in Cambodia or Charlotte, what are the root causes of human trafficking?
2. Which of the statistics at the beginning of the video was most shocking to you? Why?
3. Neet had a solid education and dreams for her future. She said, “In high school, things were not good at home financially, so I picked up a ‘job.’” This was her first experience of selling her body for money. If you were a close friend of Neet’s, what could you have done or said to redirect her path?
4. Neet then states, “I did not feel that I was ‘fearfully and wonderfully made.’” What would you say to a young girl in poverty who makes a statement like this?
5. Neet shared “You can make more from trafficking a body because you can use it more times.” What would your Biblical response to this be?
6. Neet shared that when she was trafficked, she and the girls were made to wear the same color dresses so they could be easily identified. How does this parallel the historical treatment of slaves?
7. What was significant about Brian being the one who helped restore Neet’s identity in Christ?
8. Aunt Koona’s inspiration stuck with Neet as she grew older. Words of encouragement and inspiration can change a child’s life. Have you planted a dream in a child (other than your own)?
9. Jillian was a typical student at UNCC until her modeling manager took advantage of her and used his power to strike fear into her. Compare and contrast her situation with Neet’s.
10. Jillian speaks about her desire to uphold her reputation and not tarnish her public persona. Where does this pressure come from? How can Christians address this issue so it does not lead to self-destructive decisions?
11. There are more than 50 strip clubs in the Charlotte area. Had you ever considered that the women working in strip clubs could be in a human trafficking ring?
12. Why is it crucial for men to play a role in eliminating human trafficking in Charlotte?
13. In what ways can males play a significant role in eliminating human trafficking in our city?
14. What actions will you now take to fight human trafficking in Charlotte?

Organizations and supplemental materials

Compassion to Act	www.compassiontoact.org
Neet’s Sweets	www.neetssweets.com
NC Stop Human Trafficking	www.ncstophumantrafficking.wordpress.com
International Justice Mission	www.ijm.org
Taken (movie)	See review at: www.imdb.com/title/tt0936501
Born into Brothels (documentary)	See review at: www.imdb.com/title/tt0388789/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1
Not for Sale (book), by David Batstone	Available at: www.amazon.com

Week 2: High school dropouts

Biblical references

- Psalm 71:5
- Isaiah 40:30-31
- 1 Peter 5:8
- Psalm 73:26
- Romans 12:12

Discussion questions

1. Wynton poses the lyrical question, "They got me asking why?" How would you answer his question?
2. Although Wynton says his troubles didn't begin until 10th grade, what could have been done or said to encourage him before things became too difficult?
3. Wynton says the best way to encourage students in danger of dropping out of high school is to "keep them motivated." Who kept you motivated when you were in middle school and high school? What are some practical ways to keep students motivated?
4. When Marissa became pregnant with Bella, she was living at home with her mother and younger sisters. Her mother worked to support the family, leaving Marissa with little help, guidance, and options. What role does the absent father play in Marissa and Bella's lives?
5. Does Marissa's love for Bella change your perspective on other high school dropouts in similar situations?
6. Principal Leach says, "There are all of the external factors that we cannot control, but what about the internal factors?" What are some of the controllable internal factors?
7. Coach Q says, "It is hard for someone to know there is sky above the clouds if they have never flown before." What does he mean by this and how does it affect the way we should minister to students at risk of dropping out of school? List some practical ways to show someone how to "fly."
8. Coach Q and Principal Leach both say students do not need handouts, they need hope. List some practical ways you can provide hope to a student struggling in school.
9. List three schools close to your home. Have you considered contacting them to see how you might be able to assist the schools and serve their students?

Organizations

Q Foundation www.qfoundation.com

Brookstone Schools www.brookstoneschools.org

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools www.cms.k12.nc.us



Week 3: Homeless children

Biblical references

- 1 Samuel 17:33-37
- Psalm 139:13-16
- Matthew 18:10
- Mark 10:13-16

Discussion questions

1. Annabelle says, "We must look beyond the situation and find the person." What actions could you take to achieve this?
2. Josh has seen significant violence while living on the streets. In what ways does this affect a child who is homeless? Does this change the way we should minister to children like Josh?
3. Naomi dreams of one day becoming a hair stylist. How could the church create opportunities for children like Naomi to explore their dreams?
4. Troy mentions that his dad is in jail, which could be one of the factors that left Troy and his mother without a home. What are some proactive services Christians could provide to prevent Troy's situation?
5. Theresa, once a homeless child, is now a successful CEO. How could her story change how we view children who are living in poverty?
6. Annabelle says, "By faith, we are called to serve the poor." Why does it take faith? What things are out of our control when serving the poor?
7. Governor Pat McCrory says, "Government is just a short-term remedy. We all have to get involved, and who better than the faith community to take a central leadership role in doing just that." Do you agree with Governor McCrory? What can the government and faith communities learn from each other? What strengths does each possess?
8. Annabelle says, "We are becoming a world-class city, and we have the ability to solve homelessness. It just comes down to having the will to help, and it starts with the church." Do you agree with Annabelle? If churches really worked together and shared resources, could we solve homelessness in Charlotte? If so, why haven't we done it?

Organizations

A Child's Place	www.achildsplace.org
Center of Hope	www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/commands/charlotte/programs/coh
Urban Ministry Center	www.urbanministrycenter.org
Charlotte Family Housing	www.charlottefamilyhousing.org
Uptown Men's Shelter	www.mensshelterofcharlotte.org
Restoring Place Church	www.restoringplace.org
Speak Up Magazine	www.speakupmag.org



Week 4: Abortion*

*Please use discretion, as some content in this video may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

Biblical references

- Exodus 21:22-24
- Luke 1:39-44
- John 8:7
- Jeremiah 1:4-5
- Luke 7:36-48

Discussion questions

1. Have you ever met someone who has had an abortion? What insights did you gain from her?
2. All of the women in the video were unmarried when they became pregnant. What does this reveal about one of the major underlying causes of abortions? Do our churches do a good job of teaching the Biblical truth that sex is sacred and intended for marriage?
3. Toward the end of the video, Erin says, "We realize the best decision is to follow God's plan for sex inside of marriage. Yet, unplanned pregnancies are a reality, and we must face the issue with Christ's love." How could the church do a better job ministering to both the father and mother of the unplanned pregnancy?
4. The fact that close to 2,500 women traveled to Charlotte for the sole purpose of having an abortion reveals the ease of access to abortion clinics in our city. Can you name where these abortion clinics are? In what ways could the church minister in these areas?
5. Would putting a "pro-life" bumper sticker on your car have changed any of these women's lives? List some relational actions that could have a greater impact on an individual.
6. Princess says it was not something she wanted to do, but she had weighed all of her options. If you were with Princess at that time, what other options and practical help would you have offered her?
7. Many of these women ended up having multiple abortions. Why do you think this is the case?
8. Kim says she allowed men to abuse her sexually because, "I did not feel as if I had any worth or value." This appears to be a common feeling among women who have had abortions. What are some things you would have said to Kim in her teenage years to assure her of her value?
9. The death of Caitlin's father triggered a life of promiscuity. She says, "I knew this was not who I wanted to be." How does your church currently serve families who experience untimely death? Beyond bringing them meals, what things can the church do to better minister to the deeper and long-term needs that may exist?
10. Kim says, "It is not just about protecting the baby in the womb, it is also the life of the mother." Would you agree that the pro-life movement hasn't focused enough on the mothers? If so, in what ways does this reveal itself and how could we change it?
11. Is it easier to fight for an unborn baby than to minister to a pregnant teenager? Do you think our churches offer grace and love to unmarried women who become pregnant? Why or why not?
12. How do you think abortion affects the fathers of unborn children?
13. List three practical ways you can assist someone who is considering an abortion:
14. List three practical ways you can assist someone who has already had an abortion:

Organizations

Pregnancy Resource Center
Room at the Inn
Lois' Lodge

www.prccharlotte.com
www.rati.org
www.loislodge.org



Week 5: Prisoner re-entry*

*Please use discretion, as some content in this video may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

Biblical references

- Genesis 39:20-23
- Isaiah 61:1
- Hebrews 13:3
- Psalm 103:1-22
- Matthew 25:35-46

Discussion questions

1. With 95% of prisoners re-entering society, we all will encounter former prisoners. Honestly answer whether this statistic strikes fear within you, or causes you to rejoice in someone's opportunity at a second chance?
2. Monique is college educated and seemed to have a normal start to life, but the murder of a family member sent her into a tailspin and made her vulnerable to a drug dealer. In addition, the poverty of her extended family pressured her to work more to make ends meet. If you were friends with Monique at the time of the murder, what could you have done to help bring stability to her life?
3. Donald and Candice had dreams of becoming an artist and a writer. How could the church help children in poverty to realize their dreams?
4. Abused by her father, Candice says, "I just did not know who I belonged to." Abuse or neglect by fathers seems to be a reoccurring theme among stories told in the GOOD series. Can churches and government-assisted programs replace the father? What are some practical ways we could work to stand in the gap of fatherless homes?
5. Mike's prison record is a direct result of alcoholism, which began when he was a teenager. What proactive ways are you addressing teenage alcoholism in your school, church, or neighborhood?
6. Donald was homeless when a drug dealer approached him and took advantage of his vulnerability. Drug dealers seem to be one step ahead of Christians in knowing where the vulnerable are and offering them empty solutions to broken lives. Why is this, and what can Christians learn from drug dealers? Would Jesus have been friends with the drug dealers? Why?
7. Monique says, "I am affecting a child that is innocent. Why does he have to be without his mom?" Imprisoned mothers can lead to generational destruction. Is there a better solution? What can the church do to fill this gap?
8. All four people admit they needed to spend time in jail, and none of them deny their guilt. Although they came out of jail with a new hope and optimism, they faced a society that refused to employ them because of their criminal record. What can Christians do to fill this immediate need?
9. Most of the needs that former prisoners have do not cost money. What are some things the four people said they needed from society when they came out of jail?
10. Mike now runs a for-profit business that rents rooms in homes to addicts, the homeless, and former prisoners, giving them a place to start over. Could churches create similar models? This doesn't even have to be a program—individuals or families could offer similar services. Do you know anyone who has done this? How did it work and what would prevent you from offering housing?
11. Why do Christians often respond to broken souls with material gifts? Is this always wrong?
12. Melissa mentions that Charlotte does a very good job of giving "hand outs." Would offering free things to the people in the video solve their deeper issues? How can Christians better balance their inclination to give resources with the larger need to give their time to people in broken situations?
13. While conducting interviews with local prison ministries, one of the directors said, "We do not need any more Bible studies in prisons. We have more than enough of these. This is what most Christians first think of when they think of prison ministry, but they rarely consider how to assist the prisoner once he or she is released." Why do you think this is the case?

Organizations and supplemental materials

Second Helping
Crossroads Reentry Ministry
Alcoholics Anonymous
Why America Doesn't Work (book), by Charles Colson

www.secondhelpingcharlotte.org
www.crossroadsreentry.org
www.charlotteaa.org
Available at: www.amazon.com



Week 6: Refugees

Biblical references

- Genesis 12:10
- Exodus 12:37-39
- II Chronicles 2:17-18
- Ecclesiastes 4:1
- Luke 4:16-21
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Genesis 23
- Deuteronomy 26:5
- Psalm 146:9
- Jeremiah 7:5-7
- Romans 12:13

Discussion questions

1. Like many refugees, Hassan left his house in such a rush that he didn't have time to take anything with him. Other than clothing and food, what other significant items are left behind? What consequences does this have on the refugees' futures?
2. Joy talks about her husband wanting her to kill her baby because it was a girl. Why do some cultures value males over females?
3. Joy said she'd rather stay and die with her daughters than to leave. But she also didn't want to risk her girls being raised without a mother. Like Joy, many refugees must leave family members behind. When these refugees arrive in Charlotte, how can the church love them well? If you had met Joy in her early days in the U.S., how would you have cared for her?
4. Susan describes the motivation and determination of the refugees. How can we better leverage these attributes among Charlotte refugees to equip them to be more successful?
5. Steven talks about using sports to connect with refugees and build friendships. In what ways could your church use sports to connect with refugees in your area?
6. Susan says many refugees dream of one day gaining U.S. citizenship. Does this surprise you? In what ways do the media and politics influence our thinking about this topic?
7. What are some ways your church can help expedite this dream of citizenship for the refugees?
8. Hassan emphasizes the need for friendship with Americans. Does this need to be another program in the church or is this something that area Christians should be doing on a daily basis?
9. What would be the pros and cons of creating new church programs to meet relational needs of refugees?

Organizations and supplemental materials

Catholic Charities	www.ccdoc.org
Urban Eagles	www.charlotteeagles.com
Refugee Support Services	www.refugeesupportservices.org
Project 658	www.project658.com
ONE7	www.one7.org



Week 7: Elderly

Biblical references

- Leviticus 19:32
- 1 Timothy 5:1, 3-4, 17
- 1 Peter 5:1
- Mark 7:10-12
- James 1:27

Discussion questions

1. Dale mentions that many elderly people don't receive physical touch. What type of ministry could the church offer to meet this basic human need of touch?
2. Senior citizens have built Charlotte into what it is today. As we enjoy the fruit of their labor, why do we often forget or neglect those who have built our city?
3. Wesley is an American hero living in Charlotte who few people stop to thank. What could the church do to better serve and thank our retired military heroes?
4. Karen, a former professor and author, is now homebound and often finds herself restricted by a wheelchair. In her poem, she writes about people walking by and appearing to be too busy to stop and speak with her. Can you think of the last time you stopped and spoke to an elderly person you saw sitting alone? What impact did the conversation have on him or her?
5. Karen describes how many people often fear those with disabilities. What do you think drives this fear? What are some practical ways for overcoming these fears?
6. Judson and Harriet have been married for 65 years and invested their lives on the mission field in Thailand. Judson talks about never retiring from the mission field. Have you ever considered how Christian senior citizens can minister to their neighbors, whether living in a typical neighborhood or in an assisted-living home? How can the church assist people like Judson in their efforts to serve and love their communities in the name of Christ?
7. Dale mentions that Charlotte churches focus more on younger people and families than the elderly. Do you agree? If so, why do you think this may be the case?
8. Our culture often separates groups and activities by age, limiting contact between the elderly and the youth. Why do we do this? What do we lose by limiting intergenerational contact? How could churches effect change in this area?
9. Karen shares that her church members have become her family and how important this is for her. Name one or two assisted-living homes close to your church. Does your church reach out to this community? If not, what would you need to do to facilitate personal contact between church members and the senior citizens closest to your church?

Organizations and supplemental materials

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| Love INC | www.loveinc-charlotte.org |
| Friendship Trays | www.friendshiptrays.org |



Week 8: Getting off our donkeys

Take action today

To have the same impact as the Good Samaritan, we must keep our service focused and personal. After viewing the series, you may feel burdened to help in all seven areas. But, be careful to not spread yourself so thin that you lose focus. Start by choosing one or two areas on which to concentrate, and then adjust as time goes on. And, to effectively serve and minister to others, it must be personal. Yes, Facebook can help start campaigns, and Twitter can help inform people of shocking facts about poverty, but neither offers the power of looking into someone's eyes and sharing a moment of their journey. When Jesus felt compassion, he always took action—and usually it was by serving the person in front of Him.

To better determine what actions you will take and who you will serve, let's consider three areas:

- Your passion
- Your talents
- Your resources

What is your passion?

Our world is full of broken people and complicated issues. And while our hearts should break and be burdened to pray for all of them, we each need to focus on one or two areas to create effective ministries. Out of the seven topics discussed, which most burdened your heart?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are your talents?

Because every person is uniquely talented and equipped, spend some time considering your own individual talents and skills. This exercise is best completed by brainstorming—rather than asking yourself if a skill is useful, list everything that comes to mind. Some examples could be abilities in music, administration, conversation, athletics, photography, organizing, event planning, cooking, carpentry, listening, Spanish, accounting, hospitality, typing, and so on. You may also consider doing this activity with someone who knows you well, so you can remind each other of certain skills and abilities.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



What are you resources?

Next, take a few minutes and list all the resources God has blessed you with. Again, do not dismiss any resource as being too small. Some examples could be a mini van, an extra \$50 in savings, access to a pool, free time at lunch, an extra bedroom, access to wealthy or influential people, a healthy marriage, your business or personal network, abundance in clothes or books, etc.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

My action plan for this week

After considering your passion, talents, and resources, the next step is to use that information to choose practical areas where you can take action and help. And, it's okay to start small—any action you take can help make a difference in someone's life. For example, you could commit to smiling at or talking with any elderly people you come across this week, calling a homeless shelter to see if you could volunteer, donating some clothes to one of the refugee organizations, or contributing money to the GOOD fund or another charity. Use the space below to list three things you will do this week to get off your donkey.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Getting off your donkey can be scary

Getting off your donkey may feel scary or unnatural, but be encouraged that you have the potential to make a difference in people's lives. One common misconception about helping others is that it always feels good. Living a life of compassion often causes us to suffer alongside someone. And, while it does feel good to know we are affecting a life, we should never make the mistake of loving someone else so we feel lovable. If our goal is to feel good, "compassion fatigue" will set in, preventing us from making a long-term commitment to any social ill or individual. As Jeff Goins writes in his book, *Wrecked*, "This idea that philanthropy is self-medication is not true. If you're really helping someone in pain—if you're really experiencing compassion—you can't help but hurt, too. This compassion stuff isn't nice and clean. It's horribly messy, which is precisely what makes it beautiful."

The most beautiful part of serving others is that God invites us to participate in the restoration of His canvas. While some of us are equipped to make broad brushstrokes in the world and effect change that will eliminate massive injustices, most of us are equipped with thin paintbrushes that will bring beauty to just a small corner of our city. Whether through broad or thin brushstrokes, we have the pleasure of participating in God's ultimate plan of bringing beauty and restoration to a broken and hurting world. We are not called to do everything or to save everyone, but we are called to do something. Yes, getting off our donkeys can be scary, but it's worth it. And we are all called to do it.



Additional resources and information

Clothing

Crisis Assistance Ministry: www.crisisassistance.org 704-371-3001
Providing help, hope, and understanding to people struggling with limited financial resources.
500-A Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206 (open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Hope Match: www.hopematch.org, contact@hopematch.org 704-271-4636
Offering Christmas gifts for those in need.
P.O. Box 691051, Charlotte, NC 28227

Union County Crisis Assistance Ministry: www.unioncrisis.org 704-225-0440
Providing short-term assistance to those in crisis by supplying resources to meet their basic needs.
1333 W. Roosevelt Boulevard, Monroe, NC 28110

Food

Catholic Charities: www.ccdoc.org/services/food-clothing 704-370-3232
1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Second Harvest Food Bank: www.seconddharvestcharlotte.org 704-376-1785
500-B Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206

The Common Cupboard: www.thecommonplace.org 704-218-9060
116 Business Park Drive, Indian Trail, NC 28079

Urban Ministry Center: www.urbanministrycenter.org 704-347-0278
945 North College Street, Charlotte, NC 28206

Transportation

Charlotte Area Transit System: www.charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cats 704-336-7433(RIDE)
CATS offers community-wide public transportation services to the greater Charlotte region.

Union County: www.co.union.nc.us/Departments/Transportation.aspx 704-283-3713
Offering transportation services between Union County and Charlotte, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
To schedule an appointment, call 704-283-3713 (between 8 a.m. and noon) at least 48 hours before service is needed.
One-way trip fare within Union County is \$2 and one-way trip fare within Charlotte \$10. Passengers must have correct amount of fare.

Housing

A Child's Place: www.achildsplace.org 704-343-3790
Housing options for families that live in an unstable housing situation and have a CMS student in 8th grade or below.
601 East 5th Street, Suite 230, Charlotte, NC 28202

Charlotte Family Housing: www.charlottefamilyhousing.org 704-335-5488
Offering solutions for family homelessness in Charlotte.
300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204

Charlotte Rescue Mission: www.charlotterescuemission.org 704-334-4635
Providing residential programs for homeless, jobless men and women with alcohol and drug addiction issues.
907 West 1st Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

Hope Haven: www.hopehaveninc.org 704-372-8809
Provides life skills for homeless, chemically dependent adults and families within a residential environment.
3815 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28206

Jackson Park Ministries: www.jacksonpark.org 704-392-4981
Offering housing and crisis assistance to families with children.
5415 Airport Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208

Lois' Lodge: www.loislodge.org 704-332-4003
Offering housing, counseling, and support for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies.
1301 Hemlock Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Room at the Inn: www.rati.org 704-525-4673
Providing housing for pregnant women, as well as assistance with other pregnancy-related needs.
3737 Weona Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28209

Room In the Inn: www.urbanministrycenter.org 704-347-0278
Area churches provide temporary shelter for homeless individuals (December 1 – March 31). 945 N. College Street, Charlotte, NC 28206



Salvation Army: www.salvationarmycarolinas.org

Offering emergency shelter services and disaster services for victims of fire, flood, or natural disaster.

• Family shelters in North and South Carolina: 704-522-4970

www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/programs-that-help/family-shelters

• Women and children (Center of Hope): 704-348-2560

www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/commands/charlotte/programs/coh

534 Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206 Urban Life: www.urbanlifect.org 704-898-7350

Assisting families as they transition out of homelessness.

109 South Summit Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28208

Abuse and domestic violence assistance

Compassion to Act: www.compassiontoact.org

Offering immediate shelter and assistance to victims of human trafficking and exploitation.

Safe Alliance: www.safealliance.org

Empowering people to build and sustain healthy and respectful relationships and enjoy lives free of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. Formerly known as United Family Services, Safe Alliance offers a 24-hour hotline, shelter, counseling, and support groups for children and adults who have been victims of rape or sexual offenses. Also provide court accompaniment for criminal cases and help with medical costs associated with being a victim of a violent crime.

• Administrative offices: 704-332-9034

601 East Fifth Street, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28202

• Mecklenburg County domestic violence crisis line: 704-332-2513

• Mecklenburg County rape crisis line: 704-375-9900

• Cabarrus County rape crisis line: 704-721-0110

• Union County rape crisis line: 704-283-7770

Turning Point Shelter: www.unioncountyturiningpoint.org

704-283-9150 (info), 704-283-7233 (hotline)

Program offers safe shelter and other services to Union County victims of domestic violence and their children.

P.O. Box 952, Monroe, NC 28111

Jobs

Center for Community Transitions: www.centerforcommunitytransitions.org 704-374-0762

Providing employment and transition services to help people with criminal records.

2226 North Davidson Street, Charlotte, NC 28205

Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc.: www.jacobsladdercharlotte.org

Helping the unemployed and underemployed find and keep living-wage jobs.

• 2304 The Plaza, Charlotte, NC 28205 704-332-5822

• 2201 Caronia Street, Charlotte, NC 28208 704-714-4051

Joblink Career Centers: charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/ed/Pages/JobLink.aspx

Offering various employment and training services to the public (for job seekers and employers).

• 7140-A Forest Point Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217 704-565-6865

• 10801-A Monroe Road, Matthews, NC 28105 704-847-2660

• 4045-C North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28206 704-597-8057

• 5125-A South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28217 704-527-3195

• 500 West Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 704-342-6131

Medical assistance

Matthews Free Medical Clinic: www.matthewshealthclinic.org 704-841-8882

Free medical clinic that provides quality health care to low income, uninsured patients of Matthews and surrounding areas, including Mecklenburg and Union Counties. Doctor visits by appointment only.

196 S. Trade Street, Matthews, NC 28105

Mecklenburg County Health Department: charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/HealthDepartment

• General services: Providing various health and wellness services. 704-336-4700

• Substance abuse: Providing substance abuse prevention services. 704-336-3047

Pregnancy Resource Center: www.friendsofprc.org

704-372-5981

Offering confidential, free services to help clients work through the issues surrounding unintended pregnancies.

1505 E. 4th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204

Other assistance and counseling services

Crisis Assistance Ministry: www.crisisassistance.org 704-371-3001

Providing help, hope, and understanding to people struggling with limited financial resources.

500-A Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206 (open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Love INC: www.loveinc-charlotte.org

704-536-5588

Offering various services and assistance to people in need.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

1-800-talk (8255)

Offering a confidential 24/7 hotline to connect you to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area.

Refugee Support Services: www.refugeesupportservices.org info@refugeesupportservices.org

Helping refugee families achieve self-sufficiency through programs and education that empower them to thrive in the U.S.

