

CityHeart Outreach Ministry

Hours: Monday – Friday from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm

Christ Episcopal Church
20 W. 1st St.
Dayton, OH 45402
223-CITY (223-2489)
Kris Sexton, Director



CityHeart Outreach Ministry is a *ministry of presence* in the heart of downtown Dayton. This ministry has evolved out of the longstanding and ongoing reputation Christ Episcopal Church has developed as a result of being attentive and responsive to the immediate emergency needs of our neighbors. Most of those who come to us for help live in extreme poverty. They are unemployed, under-employed, or unemployable - senior citizens, mentally and physically disabled, ex-offenders, drug/alcohol abusers, homeless persons and victims of unfortunate circumstances. We offer them hospitality, information, referral, emergency assistance & hope! Our policy is to help determine the immediate need, assist if possible, and then refer them to other resources that may be able to offer additional assessment, case management and longer term assistance. CityHeart can provide limited financial help, usually in the range of \$25.00 per person, to potentially meet the immediate need or to apply as a pledge towards a greater need. We frequently collaborate with other area churches, social service agencies, and assisting organizations. CityHeart is an Ohio Benefit Bank site and also works in partnership with the United Way HelpLink case consultation program.

The most unique aspect of CityHeart is that *we view our work as ministry*. Coming to CityHeart is a much different experience than what is common for people who are asking for help. We are not a social service agency. We are not governed by regulations that restrict our actions. We are open, accessible, friendly and welcoming to all persons—respecting the dignity of all we serve. We seek to improve the lives of those who come to us by listening with *care and compassion* to their stories and *responding* to them with the love that we receive by grace through faith.

Our most frequent requests for help are in the following areas:

Hospitality/Presence:

- Simple needs—Restroom and Phone use
- Something to eat—A drink of hot coffee or cold water
- Respite/Shelter from the cold, heat, rain
- Someone to talk to or pray with

Food/Hunger Resources:

- Emergency sack lunch of non-perishable food snacks
- Information/Referral for Food Pantries
- Referral to Hot Meal Sites (set up to provide regular meal programs)
- Referral to Benefit Bank counselors to determine SNAP eligibility

Identification Documentation:

- Birth Certificates are needed to obtain a Driver License or Ohio State ID, and to apply for public benefits and subsidized housing
- Driver License or State ID needed to apply for public benefits, housing, jobs, and food pantry

Transportation:

- RTA bus tokens to get to appointments (medical, mental/behavioral health, social service, job interviews)
- RTA weekly bus pass to get to work (generally for new job until first paycheck comes)
- Greyhound ticket to travel out of city/state (occasionally help in extenuating circumstances)

Pharmacy:

- Assistance with Infant formula/diapers (give referrals for longer term help)
- Assistance with feminine hygiene/incontinence products (SNAP ineligible)
- Assistance with non-narcotic, low cost meds or co-pays

Housing/Rent/Evictions:

- Information on homeless shelters, domestic violence shelter, half-way house
- Give referrals for subsidized, senior, disabled, low-income housing sources
- Offer full or partial pledge for rent, research other forms of additional help

Utility Shut-off Notice:

- DP&L, Vectren and Water—verify status, verbal pledge, help to coordinate or verify additional pledges for full payment
- Referral to Benefit Bank counselors for PIPP and HEAP application