

Dear Board of Alderman and Mayor,

Helping Hands of Haywood is pleased to share the outcome of our first quarter increment from the American Rescue Plan funding that we have been graciously awarded. Attached you will find receipts for hotel room stays totaling 190 nights. This came to a total cost of \$8,708.68, leaving us with \$41.32 left over from the \$8,750.00 that was awarded to HHOH. Through partnerships with multiple hotels, we were able to provide rooms for an average of less than \$46.00 per night. The left over amount is not enough to rent a room for a night, so it will be put with the next increment towards more hotel shelter.

Some participants were in shelter with Helping Hands due to Haywood Pathways Center being unable to take them because of quarantine at Haywood Pathways Center from a Covid-19 outbreak, or having no space left in their family dorm. Other participants were not able to stay at Pathways due to various other circumstances such as having a service dog, or having medical issues that conflict with congregate living such as paranoid schizophrenia, and other severe mental illnesses. All participants were residents of the town of Waynesville, and were able to show us ID.

Meridian Behavioral Health visits many of the participants in hotel shelter, ensuring they get mental health assessments, employment specialist sessions, therapy, substance use treatment, medication assistance appointments, rides to appointments, and peer support. Lunch is delivered to most participants daily, and there is a food pantry and clothing closet that participants can access when needed. NA is also conducted at one of the hotels, allowing us to make access for participants more feasible.

We have had great success with this program, and are motivated to continue being a "step one" or "stepping stone" for people in need of housing. We appreciate your support, and look forward to continuing to help our Waynesville neighbors experiencing life without a home. This email will be followed immediately by more emails with receipts. It is all too large to send at once in a single email.

Nicole Kott

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Helping Hands of Haywood