

OMI homeless shelters seeking donations



By Jasmine Gallup
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A virtual fundraiser for Sanford's two homeless shelters is set for early May.

Outreach Mission, Inc., which runs a men's shelter on Chatham Street and women's shelter on Third Street, will hold its Virtual Business Breakfast Fundraiser at 8 a.m. May 5 on its Facebook page, Sanford Outreach Mission. Its in-person fundraiser set for March 31 had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The financial impact of canceling the fundraiser altogether would be significant, said Hamer Carter, president of the nonprofit's Board of Directors. He is hopeful people will still be able to give online.

A loss of potential donations would be devastating to the already-financially strapped nonprofit.

"We continue to struggle financially each month with paying staff and expenses," Carter said.

As of Monday, the Outreach Mission shelters housed 15 men, 14 women and two children, according to Carter.

With the coronavirus pandemic, "the homeless are more vulnerable now than ever," Carter said.

According to Carter, a \$15 monthly donation can provide one night of shelter and services to a person experiencing homelessness. A \$45 monthly donation will help the nonprofit meet its \$108,000 goal for the year, he said.

Participants in the virtual fundraiser will see a video with presentations from state Rep. John Sauls, Sanford Mayor Chet Mann and members of Outreach Mission's board of directors. The video will also include testimonials from shelter residents.

To donate or pledge anytime, visit sanfordoutreachmission.com and click "Donate Now," or mail a check to Outreach Mission, Inc., P.O. Box 476, Sanford, NC, 27331.