

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!



After years of planning, zoning meetings, raising money and praying, MUST broke ground for the new campus on Feb. 1. Beginning with the homeless shelter, the consolidated campus will come to life during 2021 so an early 2022 moving date can take place. The new shelter will host 136 people with 36 additional “flex beds” for cold weather, plus a new kitchen, dining hall, clinic, workforce development area, rooftop family area and outdoor space with a playground. Deep appreciation to our Build Hope a Home donors for making this important project a reality.



From a humble beginning in 1971 as a group of volunteers began serving in Cobb County, to today's 10-county reach in services with clients coming from 20 counties, MUST Ministries celebrates daily miracles that brought the organization to this point. Stay tuned for a historic look back coming later this year and a community celebration in October!



## Mobile food pantry rolls into neighborhoods soon!

The exciting new mobile food pantry is slated to roll out to “food deserts” in the MUST service area, taking fresh produce, meat, dairy and limited canned goods to areas where food is not accessible. After locating a suitable bus, MUST went through an inspection process and made plans to retrofit the vehicle. As the retrofitting is happening, pilot locations are being chosen, vendors selected for sourcing food and drivers hired. Thanks to generous donors, MUST mobile food distribution will be on the road in early summer!





*Bridget Thompkins, CNA (standing), reviews patient information with Pam Spearman, Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner at the MUST Ministries Marietta location of Mercy Care.*



*Nurse Practitioner Pam Spearman, FNP-BC, examines Jenelle Charlton-Broomes in the Mercy Care Clinic at MUST Ministries.*

# Healthcare services offered to adults

MUST Ministries provides comprehensive wraparound services including food, housing, jobs and clothing for the homeless and those in dire need in Metro-Atlanta, but now services have been extended with accessible, affordable healthcare.

MUST offers healthcare to anyone with financial difficulties through an on-campus Mercy Care Clinic in Marietta and the mobile Bethesda Community Clinic in Canton, both open to individuals without insurance or who have insurance with a high deductible.

In the first eight months of operation, the clinic provided 731 patient visits but Mercy Care has the capacity to serve even more people in need. “There’s a public misunderstanding that Mercy Care is a homeless clinic but it’s open to the entire community,” said Cheryl Haire, MUST Ministries Sr. Director of Strategic Partnerships and Community Outreach. “We offer full-service primary and preventive healthcare. We take Medicaid and Medicare and don’t turn anyone away.”

Mercy Care is a not-for-profit federally qualified healthcare clinic that charges clients based on a sliding fee scale depending on their income. The clinic provides primary care, screenings, women’s health services, behavioral health services, medication management and a licensed, professional counselor provides help for substance abuse and depression. It also has a wide referral network for further care, including Wellstar.

“For example, if someone comes in with a dental issue and needs additional care, we can provide an antibiotic and then help find dental providers who can see the patient,” said Haire. Mercy Care encourages appointments by calling 678-843-8600.

In Cherokee County, MUST Ministries is partnering with Bethesda Community Clinic to offer free healthcare services through their Mobile Medical Unit. The fully-equipped unit offers primary care, chronic disease management, women’s health, pediatric care, sick visits and physicals. The unit is at the MUST location in Canton at 111 Brown Industrial Parkway on the first Friday of each month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and no appointment is necessary.

“Offering these clinics in addition to health fairs and screenings and even telemed services for some individuals has greatly enhanced our comprehensive services,” according to MUST Pres. and CEO Dr. Ike Reighard. “If someone is physically hurt or sick, it’s difficult for that person to focus on taking the steps to move forward out of their poverty situation. Providing compassionate healthcare is critical to our mission.”

# From Felonies to a Full-Time Job

Jim Crysel was recently released from prison after being in and out for the past 11 years with five felonies for non-violent offenses. The 54-year-old veteran is determined to change his life this time. And MUST Ministries is helping him on his new path.

Jim was born in Columbus but calls Alabama home. He served in the military twice, and in between serving had a high-paying sales job, was married and had a daughter.

He started doing drugs, drinking heavily and gambling as his life spiraled out of control. He got divorced and was sentenced to his first stint in prison for drug possession. After getting out, he decided to go back to the military but failed a drug screening, was court martialled and sentenced to a year in military prison.

He ended up back in prison in 2019 for parole violation. "Prison is a really ugly, violent place. I don't want to go back so I decided that I'm going to change."

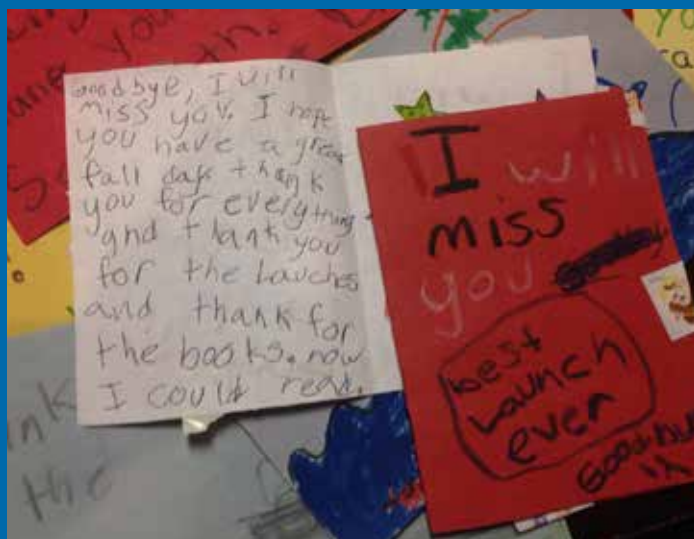
His sister and her husband said they would give Jim one more chance with them in Kennesaw. "Before

I got out of prison, my sister started reaching out to MUST Ministries to see how they could help me," he said. "I went to see Jenna Geary, a MUST Employment Specialist. She listened and put me in touch with people who could help right away. I felt like she was working for me full-time with the amount of time she spent with me."

"Jim was blown away by everything that MUST had to offer," said Jenna. "I like to build confidence in my clients and I helped him with that. He mentioned he likes to work with his hands and not sit behind a desk. I contacted N. Georgia Staffing and told my contact that Jim really wants to turn his life around and we should give him a second chance."

As a result of MUST's assistance, Jim secured a full-time job with a local roofing company as a material handler and is making \$16 an hour.

Today he's taking life one day at a time and grateful to MUST Ministries and his family for giving him this new opportunity. "I've been in this situation before and then I mess up. I've been to enough rehab places that I could have owned one. But I haven't felt this good in a long time and now is the time to change my life."



*A heartfelt letter MUST received at the end of the summer.*

## SUMMER LUNCH ARRIVING JUNE 1

For 26 years, donors and volunteers have helped MUST deliver meals to hungry children when schools are closed and food is less attainable for families in need. Breakfast has been added to the lunch distribution so each child receives two meals a day for five days during the nine-week program.

"Our goal is to serve 6,000 children, which totals 540,000 meals," the Summer Lunch Team stated. A weekly wellness focus - including dental hygiene kits, a physical education component, books and other helpful items - is being added to the already aggressive goal of helping hungry children in at least seven counties have a healthier summer.

# MUST<sup>™</sup> Ministries

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For more information,  
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[www.mustministries.org](http://www.mustministries.org)

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### A heartfelt client thank you

“My name is Shannon Green. I personally thank MUST Ministries. I thank God for all of those that started MUST Ministries. I thank all staff and those that donate and invest into MUST Ministries. I must say Amber Johnson, my case manager, is relentless. She handles so many cases and she follows through to the end, seeing to it that we move forward, giving updates on new info concerning housing meetings and checking on us women to see what’s needed. She’s definitely a leader and a great example of what perseverance looks like. Great job, Amber!”

- Elizabeth Inn Shelter Client

## SAVE *the* DATE



**MAY 17 2021**

Annual Golf Tournament  
**CHEROKEE**  
Woodmont Country Club, Canton



**JULY 17 2021**

MUST Dance  
Piedmont Church, Marietta  
Celebrity Ballroom Dance Studio



**SEPTEMBER 13 2021**

Annual Golf Tournament  
**COBB**  
Pinetree Country Club



**NOVEMBER 25 2021**

Gobble Jog  
Marietta Square

**MUST Ministries** is a nonprofit, faith-based organization helping people in your community break the cycle of poverty. MUST provides basic needs such as groceries, hot meals, housing, emergency shelter, healthcare clinics, workforce development, toy shops, children's summer lunches and clothing. All services are free and provided without regard to income, race or religious beliefs.

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