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!
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

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.”

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.

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

1407 Cobb Parkway North
P.O. Box 1717
Marietta, GA 30061
770-427-9862

For more information, volunteer application, online financial donations and a lists of needs:

www.mustministries.org

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

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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.