



# COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE



The [Community Resource Guide](#) is our way of giving back to our loving and generous community.

*We are working to connect people to resources while illuminating the needs of Anderson County and collaborating with government, non-profits, businesses, and individuals to reduce or eliminate barriers for solving problems in our community.*

## THE NEED

There are nearly 31,000 people struggling to support their families on incomes below the federal poverty levels, and another 42,000 who are near poverty. Over 1,000 Anderson County School students were experiencing homelessness last year and over 10,000 students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

## CONNECTING

Our Community Resource Guide seeks to help families find assistance immediately with current information to effectively connect people.

## ILLUMINATING

We also wish to create awareness of the rising need in our Appalachian community and to challenge presumptions about what it means to be in need or poor in Anderson County. For example, our local housing challenges. Our County has only 22 percent of the subsidized rental housing units needed for low-income renters. Housing in Anderson County is rel-



actively new, but the percent of housing considered functionally obsolete is higher than national averages: 3.3 percent or 2.7 percent (depending on which definition you prefer). These units represent a public health risk to all who dwell within them. Overall, 30.6% of households in Anderson County experience a shortfall every month in their income to cover monthly costs because of the high cost of shelter (which includes insurance, utilities, and taxes as well as rent or mortgage).

## **COLLABORATING**

We hope to shift thinking about need in Anderson from a “them” problem to a challenge for “us.” Conversations through our community engagement activities can help us identify any disconnect in how need-based problems are resolved.

## **PRINTED FOR EASE OF DELIVERY AND ACCESS**

We have divided over 200 services into 24 categories to give you a quick view of helping agencies you are most likely to need when helping yourself or someone else. This guide is designed to fold up and fit in your pocket and it's printed on regular paper so you can write all over it. In 2019, we distributed over 25,000 copies throughout Anderson. We're also working with the United Way to update their fabulous 2-1-1 resource.

## **CURATORS**

A curator is someone responsible for one of the 20+ categories we've identified. We're looking for a few people per category, or a small group, that will help us maintain the information on the website as well as the printed version of the resource guide for a year at a time. Please contact us if this sounds like something you would like to help with.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our workshop provides a current report on opportunities for community engagement right here and right now. We tailor presentations for your audience to ensure we are speaking on the topic and hitting the main points you want to stress. Check our website for more details.

### WHERE DO I TAKE MY STUFF?

What do you do with those things you have laying around that you want to donate to someone? You don't want to throw things away, and you're pretty sure Goodwill can't use the items, so what do you do? It's not as simple as it should be, but it's not as complicated either. As we meet with the service providers listed on our Community Resource Guide we seek to learn what kinds of things they need. From these conversations we compiled a list of goods vs organizations that might help. We will have an online tool, but for now, [take a look at our page](https://myresourceguide.org/project/easy-win/) or send us an email if you have a question and we'll give you some ideas.

### EASY WIN

A quick and easy win is great for individuals to get involved. There are low- or no-cost opportunities to support organizations in our community such as: Give blood, Be My Eyes, City Police Ride-Along, Sheriff's Citizen Academy, Meals on Wheels--Anderson, etc.

See: <https://myresourceguide.org/project/easy-win/> for more examples.

### BUILD A KIT

A kit is any group of items for a particular agency. For groups or individuals, building a kit is a great way to spend a few hours to meet a specific need. We have a [list of kits to get you started on our website](https://myresourceguide.org/project/build-a-kit/). Let us know if you have a group that's interested! Better yet, reach out to an organization that shares your vision and passion for serving.



<https://myresourceguide.org>



## FINDING YOUR PASSION

We believe the community is best served when we match volunteers with similar passions to organizations that address each particular need. To address this goal, we are working on an exercise designed to help people identify their top passions and connect them to opportunities in our community to serve within their areas of interest. Please check our website for details coming soon.

## WHAT'S NEXT

These are all parts of a beautiful puzzle. Motivated volunteers serving in areas of need organically build relationships with those they are serving. In my wildest dreams, I see a community that isn't defined by them and us. Instead, it's just us. I'm stealing the idea from Mother Teresa and Father Gregory Boyle:

*Mother Teresa diagnosed the world's ills in this way: we've just "forgotten that we belong to each other." Kinship is what happens to us when we refuse to let that happen.'*

Every person is wired differently, of course, and this is a gift. But some similarities help establish relationships without the use of programs, classes, or curricula. When people serve together, community happens beyond expectations.

*Connecting people to resources,  
collaborating across agencies, and  
helping solve problems in our community.  
Loving God ♦ Loving Neighbors  
#LoveAndersonSC*

**Website:** <https://myresourceguide.org>

**Online:** <https://myresourceguide.org/online>

Dave Phillips, 703-398-9471  
[dave@myresourceguide.org](mailto:dave@myresourceguide.org)

Zoë Hale, 703-398-9376  
[zoe@myresourceguide.org](mailto:zoe@myresourceguide.org)

<https://myresourceguide.org>