



# WAYS TO HELP DURING COVID-19

UPDATED: Monday, April 13, 2020

The COVID-19 health emergency is creating a hardship for thousands of people here in Horry County. Businesses have curtailed operations or been told to close, shelters for the homeless are at capacity, unemployment numbers have skyrocketed, and the governor has issued a “work or home” order. As a result, the need greatly exceeds the available resources. Fortunately, many in our community have huge hearts and are willing to help. If you are able, please find a way to give something back during this extreme event. Here are a few options we have identified.

## United Way

The economic devastation due to COVID-19 led to extreme hardship for thousands of Horry County residents. Nonprofits across our community are working to help those in need. The [COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund](#) has been established to provide funding for medical care, food access and financial support to those most affected by the coronavirus outbreak in coastal South Carolina.

Through April 20, any donation made to this relief fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to a generous \$500,000 matching gift challenge from Tony Bakker and family, founder of Blackbaud. If you give \$20 by April 20, you’re actually generating \$40 for the fund. If you give \$50, you’re effectively giving \$100. If you want your contribution to support the Horry County Community, please specify “Horry County” in the “comments” field of the payment form.

## Meals On Wheels

Meals On Wheels needs volunteers for Meal Delivery and Kitchen Assistance. To volunteer your services, call 843-970-2330, Ext. 3.

## Donate to local charities

The following local groups provide support to those in need. You can make a donation directly to one of these or to the United Way’s COVID-19 Relief Fund

- Backpack Buddies <https://help4kidssc.org/donate/>
- Helping Hand <https://www.foodpantries.org/li/helping-hand-myrtle-beach>
- Lowcountry Food Bank <https://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org/donate/>
- New Directions <https://newdirections.kindful.com/>
- United Way <http://unitedwayhorry.org/covid-relief-fund/>
- Salvation Army <https://give.salvationarmycarolinas.org/campaign/wmbf-covid-relief/c279406>

## **American Red Cross**

Blood Bank supplies are critically low. The American Red Cross hosts a Blood Drive, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28 at the Red Cross, 3531 Pampas Drive. To schedule blood donations online go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> or call 843-477-0020. To make a financial donation, go to <https://www.redcross.org/donate/blood-services-donation.html/>.

## **Feeding America**

Donate to “Feeding America,” which distributes based on needs nationwide. Or, you can search for a local food bank on the Feeding America webpage, <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>. You can search for food pantries in your area at <https://www.foodpantries.org>.

## **Buy a gift card...**

The Myrtle Beach Vet Center is assisting veterans during this time and would welcome a gift card for them. Please contact Chris Aranda at [Christopher.Aranda@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.Aranda@va.gov). Or, purchase a gift card for your future use from businesses or services that are not operating due to the Coronavirus. These might include salons, spas, barbershops, retail stores and restaurants.

## **Pick up the phone...**

Call your neighbors, family and friends for a wellness check. Offer to pick up groceries or prescriptions. You can also pay to have food delivered to someone’s doorstep through services such as DoorDash and Instacart.

## **Order Takeout**

Order takeout meals from restaurants. Here’s a list of restaurant still serving pickup or delivery orders: <https://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com/news/dining-options>.