

The Good Neighbor Fund - Help the Homeless

[Good Neighbor Fund donation link:](#)



The Story:

There are individuals who are our neighbors that are having a hard time. Many are without hope and help. Many are hurting and using drugs or other means to numb the pain. Some unfortunately are not doing good things and are harming other people, including those on the streets.

We see them and want to do something. But we don't want to do something that also harms them. We want a solution of how to do the right thing, for the right person, in the right way, and at the right time.

We see that they likely need someone to help them - a friend. They need resources for comfort, health, or nourishment. They need a better place to rest or live. They even will need a way to make income to provide for themselves and their needs.

The Solution:

Fortunately, the Municipality and community organizations have outreach workers who are connecting with our neighbors who are on the street or in other public spaces. However, these outreach workers do not have enough resources for helping all of those that they meet.

We can do something to help. A group of community members, working with Mayor LaFrance's office, has set up the "**Good Neighbor Fund**" that these outreach workers can use to buy and pay for needed supplies, temporary housing, travel expenses, and services to help those in need. We can provide these needed items and services ourselves, or we can give some dollars to the Fund to help these workers.

How can Everyone do something to contribute to the community's "Good Neighbor Fund"?

Besides volunteering and donating supplies yourself, one option that you may consider is to at least once a month, give up (do not eat) one or two meals. Give the money value of these meals not eaten (or the food itself) to the "**Good Neighbor Fund**", or to another of your favorite trusted organizations.

Sometimes even a dollar really can make a difference.

Then what happens?

Help will be provided to neighbors in need, who can be invited to work or give service back for the assistance that they receive (to the extent of their ability), and who will be supported to advance toward long-term stability with an Individualized Care Plan.

100% will provide help to pay for housing or other needs (not a penny to administration or overhead). The tax deductible **Fund** is held by the Alaska Community Foundation.

Help is provided to those in need who are staying in our streets, camps, and shelters by the Anchorage Police Department's HOPE Team, the municipal contractor RRS, and the 3rd Avenue Resource and Navigation Center.

Call 907-244-1728 for more information, to get involved, or for others ways to contribute to the **Fund**.

<u>Steps/Actions of being a Good Neighbor:</u>	<u>Resource/Help Needed:</u>
1. Smile, Visit and Engage those in need; Be safe (rather than passing by)	Be a Good Friend/Neighbor
2. Provide Healthcare /Hygiene on site	Provide Skilled Person
3. Give Food /Nourishment on site	Give Supplies/Fund
4. Give Clothing /Covering provided on site	Give Supplies/Fund
5. Provide Transportation to care/shelter	Give Supplies/Fund
6. Pay for a Room for the night or a few nights	Give Supplies/Fund
7. Connect and Pay for an "Inn" with " Innkeeper " support	Provide Place & Skills
8. The "Innkeeper" provides Services - Housing, Health, Supplies, Care	Provide Skilled Person
9. Stay/visit to build trusted relationship	Be a Good Friend/Neighbor
10. Followup to support long term relationship	Be a Good Friend/Neighbor
11. Support them with Self Success opportunities - Income, Involvement, Purpose, Giving Back/Forward	Be a Good Friend/Neighbor

Funding: The Vision and Plan

Fasting and Fast Offerings

Definitions:

To **fast** is to go without food and drink voluntarily for a certain period of time.

A **fast offering** is a donation given by community members to benefit the needy. The contribution generally consists of money saved by fasting for two consecutive meals.

The Concept

"Is not this the **fast** that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

"Is it not to (A) deal thy bread to the hungry, (B) and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? (C) when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; (D) and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

"Then shall (1) thy light break forth as the morning, (2) and thine health shall spring forth speedily: (3) and thy righteousness shall go before thee; (4) the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. (5) Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. ...

"If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; (6) then shall thy light rise in obscurity, (7) and thy darkness be as the noonday: (8) and the Lord shall guide thee continually, (9) and satisfy thy soul in drought, (10) and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, (11) and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not, and they that shall be of thee shall (12) build the old waste places: thou shalt (13) raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, (14) The repairer of the breach, (15) The restorer of paths to dwell in." (Isaiah 58:6-12).

The Vision

"The care of the poor is in the hands of [leaders of the neighborhoods]—those leaders who are nearest to the [neighborhood] members and most intimately aware of their needs. ... The funds to administer such aid come through a simple, divinely inspired program—what we call fast day and fast offerings. The millions of dollars which are needed for this purpose each year really cost no one anything. It is not a sacrifice for anyone to go without two meals a month and give the equivalent cost, and even more, to his or her [neighborhood leader] for the care of the needy.

"Think, ... of what would happen if the principles of fast day and the fast offering were observed throughout the world. The hungry would be fed, the naked clothed, the homeless sheltered. Our burden of taxes would be lightened. The giver would not suffer but would be blessed by his small abstinence. A new measure of concern and unselfishness would grow in the hearts of people everywhere. Can anyone doubt the divine wisdom that created this program which has blessed the people of this [neighborhood] as well as many who are not members of [our neighborhood]?"

The Plan: Fast Day and Fast Offering

The neighborhood designates one day each month, usually the first Sunday, as a **day of fasting**. Observance of "fast Sunday" includes going without food and drink for two consecutive meals, and giving a **fast offering** to help care for those in need. A fast offering should be at least the value of the two meals one does not eat. When possible, be generous and give much more than this amount.