Great Falls Help
Church Handout Pack

Great Falls, Montana · You are not forgotten.

Five printable handouts for pastors, staff, and volunteers. Use them when someone comes to your church needing food, a place to sleep, or a listening ear.

What’s inside

1. How to help someone experiencing homelessness — dos and don’ts, dignity, safety, cash versus what to give, and cold-weather risks.
2. What to say — conversation starters, phrases to avoid, how to listen, and how to offer help you can actually give.
3. Local resource contacts — verified November 2026 listings, including crisis lines, 211, shelters, meals, the food-voucher path, and Native American resources.
4. How to connect people to gfhelp.org — a flyer and pocket cards with a QR code, the three-question walk-through, and 211 as the phone fallback.
5. How a church can partner — ideas only, not a signup: meals, rides, coat or sock drives, and pointing people to existing agencies.

Hours change, so please call ahead. Where a listing says “call to confirm,” please do. These handouts do not replace 911, 988, or 211.

gfhelp.org

How to help someone experiencing homelessness

A plain guide for churches in Great Falls, Montana.

Treat the person as a neighbor, not a project. You do not have to fix everything. A kind word, a meal, and a clear next step can be enough.

Dignity first

- Ask their name, and use it.
- Talk with them, not about them. Don’t share their story without permission, and don’t take photos or post about them.
- Don’t assume you know what they need. Ask.
- Don’t pressure anyone to pray, attend church, or share their story in exchange for help.

Do

- Start with a simple hello and your name.
- Listen more than you talk.
- Offer a specific help you can actually give right now: a meal, a warm layer, a bus pass, or a ride to a shelter — if you can do it safely.
- If they want more help, walk through gfhelp.org together, or call 211 (or 406-268-1337) with them.
- In cold weather, treat this as urgent. See the box below.
- If someone is in danger or talking about suicide, call 911 or 988. Veterans can dial 988, then press 1.

Don’t

- Don’t make promises you can’t keep — a bed, a job, rent money, or “we’ll take care of everything.”
- Don’t argue about why they are in this situation.
- Don’t try to handle a medical or mental-health emergency yourself. Call 911 or 988.
- Don’t give a stranger a ride if you feel unsafe. Go in pairs when you can, or call a shelter or 211 with them instead.

Cash, and what to give instead

Cash can help, but it can also put someone at risk or be used in ways you didn’t intend. If your church has a policy, follow it. Often more useful: a hot meal, water, socks, gloves, a hat, a blanket, a bus pass, or going with them to a meal or a shelter.

For groceries, do not send people to the Community Food Bank door and expect a box. They need a voucher from Opportunities, Inc. first. See the contacts handout. For clothing and household goods, Emilie Center needs a voucher from a partner such as a church, Opportunities, Inc., Salvation Army, or the Rescue Mission.

Safety

- Meet in a public place when you can, and tell someone where you are going.
- Go with another person from church when you can.
- Keep your own limits. You are not a shelter, a clinic, or the police. If you feel unsafe, leave and call 911.

Cold weather in Great Falls

When it feels like 32 degrees or colder, the Rescue Mission is open all night, 10 PM to 7 AM. Call 406-761-0095. This is true no matter the person’s situation.

After 10 PM, call the Men’s Shelter at 406-761-0095.

Men’s Shelter: 326 2nd Ave S, 406-761-0095. Women’s Shelter: 317 2nd Ave S, 406-452-1483. Families / Cameron Family Center: 408 2nd Ave S, 406-761-2145.

Free lunch is at 12:15 PM and dinner at 6:15 PM every day at the Rescue Mission. Call to confirm times.

Hypothermia and frostbite can happen quickly. If someone is outside in the cold and seems confused, sleepy, or is shivering hard, call 911.

If you are not sure what to do

Go to gfhelp.org and answer three short questions together. Or call 211. Hours change, so please call ahead.

What to say

Conversation starters, listening, and offering help you can actually give.

Conversation starters

- “Hi, my name is ____. How are you doing today?”
- “Would you like something to eat or a warm drink?”
- “Is there something you need right now — a meal, a place to sleep, a ride?”
- “I don’t have all the answers, but I can help you find the next place to call.”
- “Would you like to look at gfhelp.org together, or call 211 with me?”
- “You are not forgotten.”

How to listen

- Give them time. Don’t jump in with advice.
- Repeat back what you heard: “It sounds like you need a place tonight.”
- Don’t interrogate. They don’t owe you their story.
- Sit or stand at the same level when you can.
- If they don’t want to talk, that’s okay. You can still offer a meal or a number.

Phrases to avoid

- “Why don’t you just get a job?” or “Have you tried harder?”
- “You don’t look homeless.”
- “I’ll take care of everything,” or “I promise you’ll have a bed tonight,” unless you have already confirmed it.
- “This is God’s way of teaching you a lesson.”
- “You can stay with me” — only if you truly mean it, have thought it through, and have a plan. A casual offer can be unsafe for both of you.
- “At least you have…”
- Questions that shame, such as “Are you using?” or “Where is your family?”

Offer help you can actually give

- Be specific: “I can give you a ride to the Men’s Shelter right now,” not “Let me know if you need anything.”
- If you don’t know, say so: “I don’t know if they have a bed. We can call together.”
- Don’t promise rent, a job, or ongoing housing unless your church already has a real way to do that.
- When you leave, leave them with a clear next step: a phone number, the gfhelp.org card, or a time you will follow up — and then do it.

If they say no

Thank them. Leave the door open: “If you change your mind, 211 and gfhelp.org are there.” Don’t argue, and don’t withhold a meal because they declined a prayer or a church service.

If this is a crisis

If they talk about suicide or wanting to die, stay with them if it is safe, and call 988 or 911. Veterans can dial 988, then press 1. Voices of Hope is 406-453-4357, free and private. Or text MT to 741741.

Local resource contacts

Verified Great Falls and Cascade County listings, November 2026. Hours change, so please call ahead. Where a listing says “call to confirm,” please do.

24/7 crisis and help

911
Police, fire, or a medical emergency.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Free help if you are in crisis. 24/7.
Veterans: dial 988, then press 1.

211
Food, shelter, rent, and other help. 24/7.
Or call 406-268-1337.

Voices of Hope
A free, confidential crisis line. 24/7.
406-453-4357

YWCA Mercy Home
24-hour crisis line for people in danger or leaving abuse. This is not a general walk-in homeless shelter. Services are available to men, women, and children.
Crisis line 406-453-1018 or 800-352-7449. Office: 220 2nd Street North, 406-452-1315.
Call to confirm shelter intake hours.

Crisis text line
Text MT to 741741. 24/7.

A place to sleep tonight

When it feels like 32 degrees or colder, the Rescue Mission is open all night, 10 PM to 7 AM. Call 406-761-0095. After 10 PM, call the Men’s Shelter at 406-761-0095.

Great Falls Rescue Mission shelters
Men’s Shelter: 326 2nd Ave S, 406-761-0095 (24/7).
Women’s Shelter: 317 2nd Ave S, 406-452-1483 (24/7).
Cameron Family Center (families): 408 2nd Ave S, 406-761-2145.

YWCA Mercy Home (domestic violence shelter)
Call the 24-hour crisis line first: 406-453-1018 or 800-352-7449.
This is shelter and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, not a general walk-in homeless shelter.
Call to confirm shelter intake hours.

Family Promise of Great Falls

Temporary housing for families with children under 18. They also help families who may lose their housing. Call first. This is not a same-day walk-in shelter.

Office: 1019 Central Ave, 406-564-5267. Monday–Thursday 9 AM–3 PM.

Grace Home Veterans Center

A place to stay for a while for male veterans who do not have a home. Call first. This is for men only, and it is not a walk-in overnight shelter.

2211 5th Ave N, 406-952-0699. Call to confirm hours.

Opportunities, Inc. housing help

Housing help, Housing Choice Vouchers, and food vouchers.

905 1st Ave N. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

406-761-0310 is Great Falls' housing intake / Coordinated Entry line.

Great Falls Housing Authority

Public housing and Section 8 applications. Not same-day housing and not emergency rent money.

1500 Chowen Springs Loop, 406-453-4311.

Monday–Thursday 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, Friday 8:30 AM–1:30 PM.

Food

Great Falls Rescue Mission meals

Free lunch at 12:15 PM and dinner at 6:15 PM every day. Walk in.

Men: 326 2nd Ave S, 406-761-0095. Women: 317 2nd Ave S, 406-452-1483. Families: 408 2nd Ave S, 406-761-2145.

Call to confirm times.

Grocery box through Opportunities, Inc.

The Community Food Bank at 1620 12th Ave N does not hand food directly to people.

Step 1: Go to Opportunities, Inc., 905 1st Ave N. Ask for a food voucher. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM. 406-761-0310.

Step 2: Take the voucher to the pantry they assign.

If they send you to the FISH pantry (in the Food Bank building at 1620 12th Ave N), it is open Monday–Friday 9–11 AM. You need that referral slip. 406-452-3474.

Angel Room (St. Vincent de Paul)

Breakfast, lunch, and meals you can take with you. Daily showers, laundry, clothing, bedding, and blankets. Walk in.

500 Central Ave W, 406-315-3400. Daily 8 AM–2 PM (winter hours).

Salvation Army Hope Market

A grocery pantry where you choose your food. This is a different door from the Corps office.

527 9th Ave S, 406-761-5660. Monday–Friday 10 AM–12 PM and 1–3 PM.

The Corps office is at 1000 17th Ave S, 406-453-0391. That is not the pantry door.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Free groceries. 426 Central Ave W, 406-761-0870. For rent, utility, or ID help, call Charity Services at 406-761-0111 — that is a different program.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9–11:30 AM and 1–3:30 PM.

Call to confirm. Call to ask if a voucher is needed.

Vineyard Mercy food boxes

A box of groceries at the church every Saturday from 9–11 AM. Walk in. Call if you have questions.

1617 6th Ave N, 406-452-8448. Saturday 9–11 AM.

Helping Hands of Great Falls

Food pantry, plus clothing and hygiene items when available. Open Saturdays.

726 2nd Ave N, 406-453-9551.

Call to confirm today's hours.

Set Free weekly food drops

Food drops on Set Free’s calendar, in addition to Saturday dinner. Monday and Thursday 11 AM–12 PM at 216 9th St N, 406-453-4479. Other stops in Vaughn, at First Church of the Nazarene, Sunrise Court, and Fort Shaw.

Call the number for that stop if you can.

Set Free Montana Saturday dinner

Free dinner at 5:30 PM on Saturday. Church at 6:30 PM. 216 9th St N, 406-453-4479.

Sun River Valley Food Bank

Weekly food help for Simms, Fort Shaw, Sun River, Vaughn, and Sun Prairie.

14 Ramble Inn Rd, Sun River, 406-899-0635. Monday 4–6 PM, or by appointment.

Cascade Food Bank

2 Central Ave West, Cascade. A phone number and hours were not listed on the directory page we checked.

Call 211 to confirm hours before you travel.

Office of Public Assistance (DPHHS)

Apply here for SNAP (food stamps), TANF, Medicaid, Healthy Montana Kids, and energy help. This office takes applications. It is not a food pantry.

201 First St S, Suite 1, 1-888-706-1535. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM. Apply online at apply.mt.gov.

WIC

Food help for pregnant women, new moms, and children under 5. Bring a photo ID, proof of address, proof of income, and a Medicaid card if you have one.

Cascade County WIC, 115 4th St S, 406-454-6953. Monday–Friday 8 AM–12 PM and 1–5 PM.

School meals

Free or lower-cost breakfast and lunch. Pick up an application at any Great Falls Public Schools office. One application covers all the children in your family.

Nutrition Program: 406-268-6047. Call the Nutrition Program to ask.

Heat, rent, and bills

LIHEAP, weatherization & Energy Share

LIHEAP helps pay winter heating bills from October 1 to April 30 for renters and homeowners. Weatherization help is available all year on the same application. Emergency Energy Share help is also through this office.

Apply at Opportunities, Inc., 905 1st Ave N, 406-761-0310, or toll-free 1-800-326-0955. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM. Apply online at apply.mt.gov.

NorthWestern Energy

Ask about a payment plan or a later due date. If you are approved for LIHEAP, you may also get a NorthWestern bill discount.

888-467-2669. Monday–Friday 7 AM–6 PM. Call first.

Lifeline (phone or internet discount)

A monthly discount on phone or internet. You may qualify if you get SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, or housing help.

Montana consumer help: 800-646-6150. lifelinesupport.org.

NeighborWorks Great Falls — Stay in Your Home

Help to keep you from being evicted if you are struggling to pay rent. Appointment.

509 1st Ave S, 406-761-5861. Monday–Thursday 8 AM–5 PM, Friday 8 AM–12 PM.

Salvation Army Family Services

Help with rent, mortgage, and utility bills.

527 9th Ave S, 406-761-5660. Monday–Friday 10 AM–12 PM and 1–3 PM.

St. Vincent de Paul Charity Services

Help with some rent and utility costs, clothing or household items, and help getting a birth certificate, state ID, or Social Security card. This is a different program from the food pantry (406-761-0870).

426 Central Ave W, 406-761-0111. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9–11:30 AM and 1–3:30 PM.

Call to confirm which door to use.

Montana Legal Services Association

Free civil legal help, including evictions, if you qualify. MLSA also helps Native Americans with tribal-court matters and other civil legal issues. For eviction guidance, text START to 406-324-7880.

Helpline 1-800-666-6899, Tuesday–Thursday 9 AM–1 PM. Apply at mtlsa.org.

Health, kids, showers, clothes, and jobs

Alluvion Health

Medical, dental, mental health, and pharmacy help. You pay what you can. Bring proof of income for the lower fee. Dental is by appointment, but they take emergency walk-ins first come, first served. No one is turned away if they cannot pay.

601 1st Ave N. Medical 406-454-6973. Dental 406-791-9267.

Medical hours Monday–Friday 7 AM–6 PM, Saturday 8 AM–5 PM. Walk-ins welcome.

Many Rivers Whole Health

Counseling, mental health care, and substance-use treatment (formerly Center for Mental Health). Arrive early, because space is limited. After hours, this phone goes to Voices of Hope. No one is turned away if they cannot pay.

915 1st Ave S, 406-761-2100. Walk-in care Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

Indian Family Health Clinic

Medical, behavioral health, and chemical dependency care. Native and non-Native people are welcome. This is not an IHS hospital; there is no IHS hospital in Great Falls.

1220 Central Avenue, 406-268-1510. Monday–Friday 7 AM–5 PM.

Alliance for Youth Resource Center

Drop-in help for youth ages 13–20: food, a meal at 5 PM, showers, laundry, clothing, and connections to school, work, and housing.

3220 11th Ave S, 406-952-0136. Monday–Friday, starting at 1 PM.

Call to confirm today's closing time.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Falls)

Walk in to an open meeting, or check the official meeting list. District 41 hotline 833-800-8553. Do not use 406-452-1234.

Many meetings are at 111 Center, 1225 8th Ave N. aa-montana.org.

Narcotics Anonymous (Montana)

24/7 helpline 800-990-6262. Check namontana.org for current meetings.

Cascade County Aging Services / Meals on Wheels

For people 60 and older: meals, Medicare counseling, rides, and referrals. Meals on Wheels: 406-454-6993. Main office: 1801 Benefis Court, 406-454-6990. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

Great Falls Transit reduced fares

Reduced fares for students, seniors 60 and over, and eligible riders with a disability. There is no general low-income fare listed. Main office 406-727-0382. Paratransit reservations 406-452-7272.

3905 North Star Blvd.

Great Falls Public Library

A library card, computers, and a warm place to sit. You do not have to have a permanent address. Ask at the reference desk for a visitor computer pass.

301 2nd Ave North, 406-453-0349.

Volunteers of America veteran services

SSVF help for veterans who need to stay housed. 11 6th Street South, 406-315-8449.

Call to confirm hours.

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship

Help paying for licensed child care. Apply through the state's MAQCS Parent Portal. Family Connections can help you apply.

Family Connections, 410 Central Ave, Suite 402, 406-761-6010. Toll-free 800-696-4503. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM.

Head Start & Early Head Start

Free early learning for qualifying families, for children from birth to age 5. Applications are accepted year-round.

Opportunities, Inc., 1220 3rd Ave S, 406-453-5415. Call to ask about hours.

Toby's House Crisis Nursery

Free crisis child care for ages 0–6. There is no income limit. Call first.

421 5th St N, 406-770-3191. Monday–Friday 8 AM–11:30 PM. Saturday 8 AM–3:30 PM.

Echoz

Free, private pregnancy support and baby supplies. Bring a photo ID. Appointment.

1323 9th Ave S. Call or text 406-727-1850. Monday–Thursday 10 AM–5 PM, Friday 11 AM–4 PM.

Emilie Center

Free clothing, furniture, baby items, and household goods. Get a voucher from a partner such as Opportunities, Inc., Salvation Army, the Rescue Mission, a hospital, a school, or a church.

1920 10th Ave S, 406-771-6695. Tuesday–Thursday 9 AM–3 PM.

Job Service Montana

Help looking for a job, writing a resume, filing for unemployment, and finding training. Walk-ins welcome.

1018 7th St S, 406-791-5800. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM. Call to confirm hours.

Rural Dynamics (RDI)

Free one-on-one help with money questions. They also offer free IRS-certified tax prep (VITA) during tax season, usually January–April.

2 5th St N, Suite 201, 406-403-8162. Call to ask about hours and tax-prep dates.

Native American resources

On gfhelp.org, choose "I am Native American" in the walk-through to see tribe-only services in the short plan. Eligibility differs by program.

Indian Family Health Clinic

See the health section above. Native and non-Native people are welcome.

Little Shell Tribal Health Clinic

Primary care, behavioral health, pharmacy, lab, dental, and vision. For Little Shell members and members of other federally recognized tribes, not the general public.

425 Smelter Ave NE, 406-760-2055. Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM. Walk-ins may be available depending on staffing.

Little Shell Miijim Center (food packages)

Monthly USDA food packages (FDPIR). The Tribe's official newsletter says households that qualify for SNAP or meet income standards may apply. You cannot receive SNAP and FDPIR in the same month. Call to confirm whether your household qualifies.

1301 Stuckey Road, 406-315-2400 ext. 130.

Call to confirm hours and eligibility.

Little Shell Tribe Housing Assistance Program

For enrolled Little Shell homeowners in Cascade, Blaine, Hill, or Glacier Counties who meet income limits. Appliance upgrades, and limited emergency furnace, fridge, or stove help for elders and disabled members. This is not general emergency rent help and is not open to the public at large.

511 Central Ave W, 406-315-2400 ext. 133. Applications in person are by appointment.

Call to confirm.

Little Shell enrollment and tribal ID

Apply for Little Shell enrollment or a tribal ID at the tribal office. Enrollment and a tribal ID use separate forms. There is an enrollment application fee; call to confirm the amount and what to bring.

511 Central Ave W, 406-315-2400. Email forms to frontdesk@lstribe.org.

Call to confirm office hours.

Montana United Indian Association (WIOA jobs)

Job training, career counseling, and related employment help for urban Native Americans. Applications ask for proof of tribal enrollment.

625 Central Ave W, Suite 102, 406-315-3413.

Call to confirm hours.

Great Falls Public Schools Indigenous Education (Title VI)

Culturally related academic support for Native students in Great Falls Public Schools. Ask about the 506 form. This is not a general community walk-in office.

Indigenous Education Department, 2400 Central Avenue, 406-268-6669. Director 406-268-6003.

Call to confirm hours.

Churches that welcome people

These listings are from the November 2026 verified list. Call about a ride before you count on one.

Set Free Montana

216 9th St N, 406-453-4479. Saturday dinner 5:30 PM, service 6:30 PM. Call about a ride.

Vineyard Great Falls

1617 6th Ave N, 406-452-8448. Sunday 10 AM, in person and online. No regular rides. Call if you need help getting there.

Victory Church

3001 13th St S, 406-452-6451. Sunday 8:30, 10:00, and 11:30 AM. Call about a ride.

New City Church

205 River Dr S, 406-727-4849. Sunday 8:30, 10:30, and 12:30 PM. Call about a ride.

Solid Rock Bible Church

751 4th Ave NW, 406-453-0895. Sunday 10 AM. Call about a ride. Call to confirm the phone number.

Need help in Great Falls?

You are not forgotten.

gfhelp.org

Answer three short questions. Then you'll get a short plan with the first places to go, including hours, a number to call, and directions.

The three questions

1. Where will you sleep tonight?
2. Who is with you?
3. What do you need most?

You can go back and change an answer.

No phone or no internet? Call 211, or 406-268-1337.

In a crisis: 911 · 988 · Voices of Hope 406-453-4357 · Text MT to 741741

Print this page and post it. Cut out the pocket cards on the next page.

Great Falls Help

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3. What do you need most?

No phone? Call 211 or 406-268-1337

Crisis: 911 · 988 · Voices of Hope 406-453-4357

Shelter: Men 406-761-0095 · Women 406-452-1483

Families 406-761-2145 · Cut along the dotted line

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How a church can partner

Ideas only — not a signup, and not a promise from this site.

The most useful thing a church can often do is point people to help that already exists, and walk with them while they take the next step. You do not need a new program to be useful.

Point people to existing help

- Use gfhelp.org together, or call 211 (or 406-268-1337).
- For housing intake in Great Falls, call Opportunities, Inc. at 406-761-0310 — the Coordinated Entry line.
- For a bed or a meal tonight, start with the Rescue Mission. See the contacts handout.
- Don’t try to become a shadow shelter or a food bank unless you are truly set up for it and already working with the agencies that do this work.

Meals

The Rescue Mission already serves lunch at 12:15 PM and dinner at 6:15 PM every day. Call to confirm times. Set Free Montana serves a Saturday dinner at 5:30 PM. If your church hosts a meal, pick a time that fills a gap, say the time clearly, and don’t require worship in exchange for food.

Rides

A ride to a shelter, to Opportunities, Inc., or to a clinic can matter more than a new program. A few local churches say to call about a ride — call first, and don’t assume a ride is waiting. Go in pairs. Don’t offer a ride if you feel unsafe.

Coat, sock, glove, and blanket drives

These are useful in a Montana winter. Call a place that already serves people — for example the Rescue Mission or the Angel Room — and ask what they can actually use and how to drop it off. Don’t invent a drop-off that isn’t real.

Vouchers for clothing and household goods

Emilie Center offers free clothing, furniture, baby items, and household goods, and it accepts vouchers from partners such as a church, Opportunities, Inc., Salvation Army, or the Rescue Mission. If your church wants to be a voucher partner, call Emilie Center at 406-771-6695 and ask how. Don’t assume you already are one.

Volunteer where the work already happens

Call the agency and ask what they actually need. Don’t show up unannounced with a large group, and don’t start a parallel list of phone numbers that can go out of date. Keep a simple church plan: who to call, where these handouts live, and how to use gfhelp.org together.

There is no fee and no sign-up through gfhelp.org. These are ideas you can take or leave.