

November 16, 2020

Dear Madison Community Members,

The outpouring of community support for our friends experiencing homelessness during the pandemic has been overwhelming. While your generosity of time and donations are greatly appreciated, we have noticed that a lot of supplies are being collected and dropped off at select encampments and there is a lot of food and supplies going to waste. On behalf of Madison Area Coordinated Outreach, we ask the community to consider connecting their donations to organizations who have built relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness and who employ case managers who can connect necessary services and housing.

Moving forward, we ask community groups who would like to donate to the growing crisis for unsheltered individuals to contact Friends of the State Street Family. FSSF will help to coordinate donations to be distributed throughout Madison's encampments, shelters, and individuals who are housed in hotels because of health risks. Please email outreach@friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org or call our Outreach line 608-535-9394 to arrange a supply drop off or to learn where your group projects could service the most people experiencing homelessness.

The Madison Coordinated Outreach Teams hope to shift our focus to monetary donations. Donations will help us with car repairs, gas cards and car maintenance for friends sleeping in their cars. We hope to be able to support individuals who do not qualify for the Dane County hotel programs to stay in hotels when the weather turns frigid. In addition, monetary donations will allow our groups to coordinate and provide the most essential resources equitably throughout the Madison area.

In friendship,

Madison Area Coordinated Outreach Teams

