



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Buckhead Christian Ministry's mission?

First, we provide compassionate, emergency assistance to individuals and families in the Atlanta area. BCM places special emphasis on people's basic needs such as housing and food, but we also promote programs that lead to longer-term financial independence. Second, we provide opportunities for people of this community to live out their call to service.

Can people receive assistance from BCM regardless of their religious affiliation?

Absolutely. BCM is an ecumenical ministry that reaches out to serve people of all backgrounds and faiths, treating every person that comes through its door with dignity and compassion. Those seeking help are not asked to divulge their religious affiliation in order to receive services. BCM is a ministry of service, not evangelization.

Which zip codes does BCM serve?

We serve the following zip codes: 30305, 30309, 30311, 30318, 30319, 30324, 30326, 30327, 30329, 30331, 30340, 30341, 30342, 30345, 30360. If you do not live in one of the zip codes listed, please call the United Way at 211 or (404) 614-1000 for information about other agencies that can serve you.

Are most of your clients homeless?

Most of BCM's clients are categorized as the "working poor" and live in apartments or houses. Their income is just enough to make ends meet, but they do not have the resources to save for a "rainy day." BCM's clients generally have trouble paying their bills after a life-changing event such as a medical emergency, a death in the family, unexpected repairs, a reduction in work hours or the loss of a job.

BCM does have a homeless ministry: Our Foundation 3 Program provides housing and support services to homeless families, and homeless individuals can meet with social workers on our staff to help find services tailored to their needs.

How do people hear about BCM?

Most often, people hear about BCM through friends and neighbors. BCM is also recommended by employers, agencies, landlords, churches and the United Way's "211" helpline.

How do you decide who to help?

Compassion is the guiding concept behind all service provision at BCM. Our goal is to greet each person with an open mind and treat them with dignity. Recipients are interviewed and selected based on need and their motivation to help themselves. BCM clients work hard, with help from staff and volunteers, to find their own solutions.

BCM does have eligibility requirements. These requirements help us make sure that we stay focused on our mission and that we manage our resources in a way that helps as many people as possible. If someone calls and does not fit our eligibility requirements, staff and volunteers will help that person connect with other resources in the community.

Do people have to pay BCM back?

No, we do not ask that our clients repay the money given. However, when providing financial assistance, BCM uses a partnership approach. Emergency Assistance clients are given a “pledge,” where BCM commits to paying a portion of the total amount due for rent or utilities, if they can pay the remainder. People in our Foundation 3 Program and The 70/30 Project commit 30 percent of their monthly income to pay down debt or begin saving money so that they can stabilize their financial situation.

How many times per year can clients receive services at BCM?

Clients can receive financial assistance once per year, food six times per year, and clothing two times per year. Supplies are given based on need and family size. Employment support is available for clients with new jobs until they receive their first paycheck. BCM’s services are intended to help families become self-sufficient and to prevent homelessness. We take steps to limit clients’ dependence on services so that they may become financially stable and independent.

What is Buckhead THRIFTique?

Buckhead THRIFTique is a boutique-style thrift store that offers free clothing to people in need, sells affordable clothing to the community and provides volunteer opportunities for groups and individuals. All profits support BCM programs.

How does Foundation 3 Program work?

The Foundation 3 Program helps homeless and near-homeless families move toward financial stability by focusing on three key areas: safe housing, stable employment and education. These three areas are addressed through customized coaching with a staff, social worker and financial support from BCM. Once these areas are addressed, clients are prepared to transition seamlessly into the 70/30 Project where they learn money management skills and continue on their path to long term stability.

BCM accepts homeless families including single fathers, single mothers and married couples with at least one child under the age of 18. At least one adult must be employed full time throughout their stay in the program. Families are selected by a committee of staff and community volunteers through a process that includes a written application and a personal interview. Residents are required to attend weekly life skills classes, counseling sessions and individual progress updates with a staff member.

How does *The 70/30 Project* work?

The 70/30 Project helps working people who are not yet homeless, but need more than one-time assistance to stay in their own homes. In this program, BCM offers working people graduated rent and utility support for six months. While enrolled in the program, clients attend the money management course, meet weekly with financial coaches and professional social workers, and commit to use 30 percent of their monthly income to pay down debt and begin to save for future “rainy days.”

How much of BCM’s budget is used specifically for client service?

Eighty percent of Buckhead Christian Ministry’s operating budget is dedicated to client services.

Does BCM help people with employment?

Yes. BCM posts job opportunities in our waiting room and can provide updated job listings to all our walk-in clients. There are two computers that clients can use for internet job searches and to write resumes and letters to employers. BCM also helps new workers with one-time work related expenses – such as buying uniforms and work boots or paying for transportation until they receive their first paycheck.

Are there volunteer opportunities for youth and children?

Yes, BCM welcomes volunteers as young as six years old. Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Families can volunteer together at BCM and teenagers are always a big help, especially during the holidays and summer school breaks. BCM also encourages supervised groups of young people (aged 10 and older) to complete projects in the food pantry and Buckhead *THRIFTique*. There are also ways for younger children to help out as well: Sunday School and Vacation Bible School groups have collected items for the food pantry and put together hygiene kits for the homeless. BCM also offers summer internships for college students who want to gain experience in the non-profit sector.



2847 Piedmont Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 239-0058
www.buckheadchristianministry.org