

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

BENEFITTING:



Each winter season, Roof Above coordinates the Room in the Inn (RITI) program where area churches and organizations help house neighbors experiencing homelessness overnight. Sardis will host Room in the Inn guests 1-2 times a week in January-March.

INSTRUCTIONS: Each day during Advent, purchase one of the items on the calendar or use the prayer or fact about homelessness for reflection. Drop off donation items to the Mission Corner blue donation shelves in the gathering space by January 8th. *Please ensure all donation items are new, unused and in their packaging.

NOV 27 **Did you know?** Roof Above seeks to unite the community in ending homelessness through a comprehensive approach that provides for basic needs, emergency shelter, temporary housing and permanent supportive housing for neighbors experiencing homelessness.

NOV 28 **Donate:** Women's Socks

NOV 29 **Donate:** Individual bags of chips, breakfast bars, or protein bars

NOV 30 **Donate:** Plain T-shirts (sizes M-XXL)

DEC 1 **Donate:** Hand Warmers

DEC 2 **Did you know?** Roof Above moved 433 people out of homelessness into long term housing in the last 7 years?

DEC 3 **Pray:** God, we pray for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and pray for their wellbeing in body, mind and spirit.

DEC 4 **Did you know?** Roof Above opened an 88 unit Permanent Housing complex called The Rise on Clanton Road in 2022.

DEC 5 **Donate:** Bar of Soap

DEC 6 **Donate:** Small Bottle of Hand Sanitizer

DEC 7 **Donate:** Chapstick or Travel Hand Lotion

DEC 8 **Donate:** Wash Cloth

DEC 9 **Did you know?** 2,667 people experience homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg each month.

DEC 10 **Pray:** God, we pray for our neighbors that we will welcome during RITI this season. May we see each other as companions and share your love with each other.

DEC 11 **Did you know?** In 1980, three men froze to death outside in the cold. This sparked faith communities to create emergency winter shelters.

TURN OVER



“WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE TIME CAME FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN, AND MARY GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN, A SON. SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS AND PLACED HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO GUEST ROOM AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

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DEC 12 **Donate:** Word Search Book

DEC 13 **Donate:** Pen / Pencil

DEC 14 **Donate:** Travel Size Deodorant
(Men & Women)

DEC 15 **Donate:** Nail Clipper or Disposable Razor

DEC 16 **Donate:** Rain Poncho

DEC 17 **Pray:** God, we pray for our Sardis and Trinity Presbyterian volunteers who are giving their time to serve our neighbors through Room In The Inn.

DEC 18 **Did you know?** Less than 4% of the apartments in Charlotte-Mecklenburg have rent below \$1,000/month. Due to rising rent in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, you must earn at least \$21/hour to be able to afford to live alone.

DEC 19 **Pray:** God, we pray for the churches and city leaders of Charlotte to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and allocate resources for affordable housing.

DEC 20 **Donate:** Reusable Grocery Bag

DEC 21 **Donate:** Women's Brief-Style Underwear (sizes L-XXL)

DEC 22 **Donate:** Individual Bags of Chips, Breakfast Bars, or Protein Bars

DEC 23 **Did you know?** Sardis provides lunch at Roof Above Soup Kitchen and dinner at Salvation Army Women's Shelter each month.

DEC 24 **Pray:** God, help us discern how we can make an impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness. Open us to the ways our homeless neighbors can impact our lives.

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