



Mount Vernon

An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown

Mount Vernon, Salvation Army Introduce Pour It Forward

Residents can assist neighbors through donation-based utility assistance program

MOUNT VERNON, June 20, 2023 – The City of Mount Vernon and The Salvation Army are pleased to announce Pour It Forward, a new initiative beginning July 1 that will allow interested residents to help out their neighbors by assisting them with their utility bills.

This donation-based program will allow qualified utility customers to maintain their access to clean water through the generosity of other residents who have opted to have their regular monthly utility bills rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. Those extra pennies – 100 percent of them – will then go toward paying the utility bills of residents who qualify for the assistance.

Pour It Forward is the brainchild of the City's Kristen Goldner, administrative assistant at Moundview Cemetery, who came up with the idea through the City's Leadership Training Program. She singled out The Salvation Army for partnering with the City on this initiative.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with The Salvation Army on this program. They already have a tremendous structure in place for providing aid in our community, so their assistance with the Pour It Forward program has been fundamental in getting it started," Goldner said.

"The Salvation Army is always looking for ways to partner with other agencies for the betterment of the community," said Captain Christine Moretz of The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon.

"Our mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. With the Pour It Forward program, we will be able to assist our friends and neighbors in need because of the generous donations of our community," she said.

Beginning July 1, the City's utility customers can contact the City's Water Billing Office to start donating by:

- Calling the office at 740-393-9504 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m Monday-Friday and speaking with a customer support specialist.
- Emailing their request to utilitycs@mountvernonohio.org.

Those who donate will then see their bills automatically rounded up to the next whole dollar amount each month, which will be itemized on the invoice. Participants can leave the program at any time, via the same method they joined.

Residents seeking utility bill assistance should call The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon at 740-392-8716 for full guidelines, applications and approval. To participate, the resident's total household income cannot exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), which varies depending on the number of people in the household. For an individual living alone, for instance, 300 percent of the FPL is currently \$43,740. The resident's utility bill must also be in disconnect status and in the applicant's name, and applicants can only be assisted once in a rolling, 12-month period.

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ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. The City is dedicated to providing modern services with an emphasis on continual improvement, customer service and equitable laws that support our citizens and visitors, while retaining and attracting investors in our community. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community's infrastructure and spaces. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

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