



**Two Homes, One Mission**  
**Dorchester County Community Outreach**

**Our Story...**

In April of 2015, a nonprofit, Dorchester County Community Outreach (DCCO), was formed expressly to establish and run the only homeless facility in Summerville. Working in conjunction with the Town of Summerville, the shelter known as the Home of Hope, located at 821 Central Avenue, was born, housing sixteen (16) men. In the Summer of 2019, we opened our women's facility, Hope's House, located at 700 Central Ave, which sleeps up to eight (8) women. Since we opened our doors in October 2015, over 600 men and women have been served in both facilities.

**How we proved to be more than a shelter...**

Our facilities operate using a relationship model vs. a rapid rehousing model. We meet each guest's individual needs and help them achieve the goals they set for themselves to establish housing independence. We have no defined timeline for staying. We offer professional and spiritual counseling, financial education, support groups, job advocacy, and more to help find permanent housing and a way back to self-sufficiency. We seek to improve lives for the long-term, not an immediate challenge. Our guests have an individualized program to "meet them where they are." We have them live in a home-like environment and offer a bed, food, clothing, and support. All of our guests assist in the chores of maintaining the facility. They must be capable and willing to seek full-time employment.

**What happens next...**

Our vision is to have a community where no one is homeless. With many people struggling through the difficulties affecting our nation today, homelessness is increasing and impacting our community. DCCO provides essential services to those in a housing crisis. Our long-term goal is to expand our services to reach more guests across Dorchester County. We have begun the process to purchase and build Dorchester County's only warming/cooling center on the same land that will house our guests. We have received a pledge from Dorchester County for a portion of the funds needed to support this mission to assist us with the land purchase. Our long-term vision is just starting, and we will continue to seek community support as we support those in our community who need a hand up. With the two combined facilities, DCCO continuously serves 24 men and women for a combined budget of \$345,500 per year.

**How to find out more about us...**

One of our staff or board members would love the opportunity to speak with your group or organization and present our mission. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and visit our website at [www.dcco4homeless.org](http://www.dcco4homeless.org). We can also be reached by email at [info@dcco4homeless.org](mailto:info@dcco4homeless.org) or by calling our main office at 843-900-4315.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS!**



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## Commonly Asked Questions

### ***What are the safety measures taken to protect myself, my family, and my neighbors?***

Safety of everyone in and around DCCO's facilities is our number one priority. We complete background checks on all of our staff and SLED background checks on each of our guests before they stay in the facility. Our facilities have a 24 hour video security system in and around the property. Our homes are protected by an access control card that is unique to each guest. The access control card gives the staff a time stamp of who has come in and out of the facility. We have a close relationship with the local police and sheriff's departments, who have advised us on best practice safety measures.

### ***What are the requirements to receive services from the facility?***

Currently, each of our guests participate in a screening and extensive intake process. All of our guests must be willing to gain full time employment while staying in the facility and work toward short and long term goals to help them achieve long-term housing independence. Our guests also participate in chores around the home. We have a zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol on the facility grounds. We conduct random and for-cause drug and alcohol screening on our guests. Guests who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to leave.

### ***Do you allow anyone into the facility?***

All of our guests must pass a SLED background check and complete an extensive intake form before joining the program. Due to the proximity of the locations to churches and schools we do not allow those with a sex offender charge to stay in the homes. We are also not equipped to take guests with a severe mental health diagnosis. Instead, we work closely with local agencies to help connect these guests with services where they can get the help they need. Once a guest has completed the intake process they must agree to the *non-negotiable house rules*. If a guest breaks any of these rules, they are immediately terminated from services at DCCO.

### ***How long will guests stay?***

We have no set timeline for our guests to stay in the homes, on average our guests stay around six months. This allows them time to achieve multiple goals that will support them on their journey towards housing independence. This also allows our guests to build relationships within the home and find support through peers.

### ***How successful is your program?***

We have a success rate of 80%, which means 80% of our guests go on to independent living, reunification with family/friends, or achieve their other goals they have set to maintain independent living.



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***How many people will be living here?***

We will have beds for 16 men and 16 women. Once the support center is open, it will operate as a temporary warming and cooling shelter on days where the temperature is dangerous for individuals to be outside as determined by SC DHEC. The support center will only be open during special hours and will be monitored around the clock to ensure safety.

***Why in this location? What were the requirements to select this land?***

We searched long and hard for the right property for our guests and this next chapter for DCCO. We wanted to find a property that could allow us space to grow, be close to job opportunities for our guests, and be located in the communities where we serve. We have been given some funding from Dorchester County and the Town of Summerville, so we have to remain within those zoned areas. Once that is completed, we will work with Dorchester County to model this location in other areas of need within the County. This is the first of many future sites for DCCO.

***How will you maintain the property?***

We currently maintain the property's landscaping with pride. We want our facilities to feel like welcoming homes for our guests. We have community volunteers who regularly come and help maintain grounds upkeep.

***Is there a curfew?***

All of our guests, unless their employment requires a special exception, must be in the homes at 8 p.m., 7 days a week. We do not allow loud gatherings and guests outside of normal office hours.

***Will this decrease my property value?***

We have spoken with two local appraisers who have worked on similar projects (domestic violence shelter and homeless shelter) and have stated that the building of these properties did not affect the appraisal value of the surrounding properties.

***Can I volunteer in the home?***

We welcome volunteers to share their God-given gifts with our guests. We have had volunteers lead book clubs, Bible studies, mentor programs, craft projects, cooking classes and more. Please contact our main office at [info@dcco4homeless.org](mailto:info@dcco4homeless.org) or 843-900-4315 for more information about volunteering.

***Why are you moving?***

We do not currently own the property where the men's facility is located and our lease is up. The property we do own, where the women's facility is located, is not large enough to expand to meet the current needs of the community. So we intentionally looked for property that could meet the needs of our guests and serve the Summerville community.