



For Immediate Release
March 19, 2020

Savannah Young
208-861-6010
Savannah.Young@voaut.org

Volunteers of America, Utah Statement on Our Response to COVID-19

Salt Lake City, Utah– Volunteers of America, Utah is a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of individuals struggling with homelessness, mental illness and substance use disorder. The organization operates several human service programs including shelter and other congregate living programs. As always, ensuring safe, clean and healthy facilities is of utmost importance. The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is currently a major concern as clients remain in close proximity of one another. Volunteers of America, Utah is aware of the severity of the situation, and is taking every precaution possible to help keep all clients, staff and volunteers safe and healthy.

Organization leaders are working in tandem with Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake County Health Department and 4th Street Clinic to adhere to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and are evaluating and reevaluating policies and procedures to ensure the appropriate response.

In addition, preventative measures recommended from the Salt Lake County COVID-19 planning session are being implemented in all programs addressing homelessness, detoxification and counseling services to reduce the chance of infection. We are also separating clients who have respiratory symptoms, issuing masks and referring them for medical help in accordance with established protocols.

Volunteers of America, Utah is committed to addressing the needs of Utah's most vulnerable populations and is confident the steps being taken support the safety and well-being of individuals being served. We will continue to be in communication as updates arise.

Items most needed right now include any cleaning and disinfectant supplies not limited to Clorox wipes, disinfectant spray, non-alcohol hand sanitizer, and health supplies such as face masks and no touch thermometers. Financial contributions are always welcome to help purchase specific items needed especially in this difficult time. Visit voaut.org for a complete wish list of items needed or to donate to those who need the help right now.

###

Volunteers of America, Utah is a human services nonprofit organization with more than 300 paid staff who provide a bridge to self-reliance and serve more than 8,000 people across the state each year through programs addressing homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. Thousands of volunteers and partners join with us to accomplish our mission to reach and uplift those in greatest need.