Resources for Networking and Sharing in Your Local Community

Do you need help finding which store in your local community has toilet paper available? Are you willing and able to help a neighbor in need pick up groceries or supplies safely? Various community-based resources allow you to register with your specific neighborhood to network and share information with those nearby. Both Facebook and Nextdoor have launched new tools to increase connections during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another platform, Helping Hands, is a specific tool for neighbors helping neighbors impacted by COVID-19.

- Facebook
    - Facebook recently announced Community Help, a platform for people to request or offer help to neighbors, such as volunteering to deliver groceries or donating to a local food pantry or fundraiser. You can access Community Help in the COVID-19 Information Center on Facebook or by visiting www.facebook.com/covidsupport.
    Read more at https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/31/tech/facebook-community-help-coronavirus/index.html.

- Nextdoor
    - Neighborhood social networking app Nextdoor has introduced two new features, ***Help Maps*** and ***Groups***, to give people a way to support one another during the coronavirus outbreak. The ***Help Map*** offers a way to coordinate aid between those in need and those willing to offer some form of assistance. ***Groups*** allows smaller groups to network outside of the main feed.
    Read more at https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/19/nextdoor-adds-help-maps-and-groups-to-connect-neighbors-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/.

- Helping Hands
    - Helping Hands is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving those most vulnerable to COVID-19: senior citizens, the immunocompromised, and people with pre-existing medical conditions which put them at additional risk. The platform offers the ability to sign up to request help or to volunteer in your local community. The Helping Hands platform can work anywhere in the United states, so long as there are volunteers signed up and requests being made.

- **Other Community/Neighborhood Resources**
    - MyNeighborhood.com
    MyNeighborhood.com is a secure, private social meeting place for residents of your neighborhood. MyNeighborhood.com is free for all neighbors and local associations.
    - Patch
    Patch is a way to find out about, and participate in, what's going on near *you.* Users can contribute content, keep up with news and events, learn more about local businesses and the people behind them, and participate in discussions.

UMB Employee Resources and Services

- **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**
  Experienced counselors can offer support and structure to help individuals and groups talk about issues. Feel free to call us at 667-214-1555 to schedule an appointment, browse the [Employee Assistance Program brochure](#) PDF or visit the [website](#).

Emergency Community Resources

Do you need help with ***food, unemployment, health care, child care, mental/physical health, housing/utilities, or social services***? The [Community Engagement Center](#) has provided a list of Baltimore-specific resources and provides updates at www.facebook.com/umbcommunityengagement/. Links below also include some statewide resources.

FOR SENIORS

- Maryland residents 65 and older may register to receive free daily call checks by clicking [here](#).
- Seniors who participate in *Eating Together in Baltimore* may call Maryland Access Point at 410-396-2273 to schedule meal deliveries.

FOR SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS

Baltimore City:

- School-aged children in Baltimore city can pick up a midday snack and prepared dinners at 40 recreational centers across the city. See a list of all participating centers: https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/bcrp-alerts-0.
- Download online learning packets: https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/learning-packets.
- Call the city school district's COVID-19 hotline with any school-related questions at 443-984-2000.

Statewide:

- Many Maryland State Department of Education sites are serving free meals for students (and families) while schools are temporarily closed. Click [here](#) for links to county public school webpages relating to meal sites.
- For Guidance, Resources and Updates for Maryland Schools and Communities, click [here](#).
- Access Xfinity WiFi hotspots for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi.