



Panhandling



A better way...

Our local social service agencies are one of this community's best assets and people throughout Akron are generous in their support of those in need. A better way is to give is to give to those in need is to donate to charities and organizations with outreach programs that truly help the homeless and needy with long-term solutions.

What you can do to help those in need:

- Donate your money to organizations dedicated to helping the homeless and others in need.
- Volunteer your time to organizations and service agencies providing aid.

Many local organizations need financial and volunteer help to meet their goals to provide essential services such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, employment training and counseling.

Call any of the organizations listed inside for ways you can help.

"Statistics show that most panhandlers are not homeless and most homeless do not panhandle. For some, panhandling is a career... and a lucrative one."

*U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*

Consider this:

- For some, panhandling is a profitable business, not an immediate need.
- Panhandlers may not be looking for a meal, gas money or shelter.
- Your dollars may go to support and enable destructive habits and dependencies.

Downtown Akron Partnership Safe & Clean Ambassadors are committed to keeping Downtown Akron a safe and clean place to work, live and play.

Safety ambassadors play an important role in regulating panhandling in the Downtown district. They approach panhandlers, educate them on services available as an alternative to panhandling, and encourage them to move on. They also seek to educate the public on better ways to help.

Safety ambassadors patrol the 42-block Downtown Akron Special Improvement District and the Metro Transit Center six days a week deterring crime and unwanted behaviors, providing escorts, visiting businesses and assisting pedestrians and motorists. Ambassadors can be reached at 330-706-7374 or e-mail safe@downtownakron.com.

Safety Ambassador Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Safe & Clean Ambassador Operations Manager:

330-762-9012 (office)

330-706-7374 (cell)

safe@downtownakron.com

If you have a safety question or need to report suspicious behavior, e-mail safe@downtownakron.com or call 330-762-9012 or 330-706-7374.



58 W. Exchange St., Ste. C, Akron, Ohio 44308

www.downtownakron.com
330-762-9550 • FAX 330-762-6622

*Promoting and building
a vibrant and valuable Downtown*

***Giving to panhandlers
is not the best way to help.***

***Give your spare change to agencies
that can make a real difference.***



For those who need a helping hand...

Immediate aid is available through these social service agencies, non-profits and faith-based organizations. There is help out there for those who want it. Many shelters and agencies provide meals, shelter, health care and employment counselling to the homeless and others in need.

Police and social service professionals agree that giving money to panhandlers is not the best way to help them. Giving to organizations such as these is a much more effective way to help.

The City of Akron has taken measures to eliminate aggressive panhandling in the city. Panhandling is a protected form of expression under freedom of speech laws. Communities like Akron attempt to regulate its abuses. Panhandlers must register with the city (at no cost), wear city-issued identification when panhandling and obey certain restrictions.

Areas off limits to panhandlers include within 20 feet of:

- banks and ATMs
- sidewalk cafes licensed by the city
- entrances to entertainment facilities
- schools and churches
- bus stops

Panhandlers may not:

- block your way
- use abusive language
- panhandle after sunset or before sunrise
- approach cars
- restrict pedestrian or vehicular traffic
- threaten, harass or otherwise cause you to feel you are in danger if you do not give...to do so is aggressive panhandling.

What you should do if asked for money?

- Politely say "no" and walk away.
- Walk with confidence. The streets of Akron belong to everyone.
- If a panhandler becomes aggressive or if you feel threatened, contact a safety ambassador at 330-706-7374 or the police at 911.

Haven of Rest 330-535-1563
 175 E. Market St., Akron 44308
 (Provides safe, clean shelter for the homeless, hot meals and free clothing for those in need, employment counseling.)

InfoLine 330-376-6660
 Referrals for Assistance

Downtown Walk-In Meal Sites

First United Methodist Church . . . 330-376-8143
 263 E. Mill St.
 Every Tuesday - 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Gennesaret Family Nutritional Center 330-253-0011
 517 W. Exchange St.
 Tues. 10-11 a.m.; Sat. 11-12:30 p.m.

Haven of Rest 330-535-1563
 175 E. Market St.
 Mon-Sat-Lunch 10:30 a.m.; Dinner 6 p.m.
 Sunday - Lunch 1:30 p.m.; Dinner 6 p.m.

Red Cross 330-535-2146
 501 W. Market St.
 2nd & 4th Sunday - 12:30-2:30 p.m.

St. Bernard's 330-253-5161
 Corner of Broadway & E. State St.
 Everyday - Bag lunch 9-10 a.m.
 Last 2 Weds. and Sundays. - Dinner 5-6 p.m.

Salvation Army 330-762-8481
 190 S. Maple St.
 Monday through Friday 12-1 p.m.

Wesley Temple AME 330-434-5800
 104 N. Prospect St.
 Thursdays - 5-6:45 p.m.

Assistance is also available through:

Summit County Job and Family Services 330-643-7811
 (Ohio Direction Card/Food Stamps)

Akron Community Health Resources 330-724-5471

Akron Summit Comm. Action, Inc. (Food) 330-784-3301

Akron Urban League 330-434-3101
 (Career Clothing)

Akron Veterans Outpatient Clinic 330-724-7715

East Akron Comm. House 330-773-6838
 (Food Referral)

Info Line 330-376-6660
 (Referral agency for a variety of services including food, clothing, health care, eyeglasses, etc)

Mobile Meals 330-253-8656

Open M's Summit County Free Clinic 330-434-0110

Veterans Service Commission 330-643-2830

A better way to help.