

## **Our Daily Rest seeks help from community**

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In 2005, community leaders representing churches, businesses, civic organizations and other entities began to address the needs of a growing population of the temporarily homeless. The result was Our Daily Rest, a transitional home for the homeless near downtown Seneca.

"We have been operational now three years, and the needs of the community are quite large and we hope to continue to provide this vital service," said Julian W. Davis III, board secretary of Our Daily Rest.

According to the home's website, 5,500 workers in Oconee County have found themselves unemployed over the last two years. The county has the second-highest unemployment rate in the state.

"What this means is that a lot of people are simply on the streets with no jobs and no home," Davis said. "Our mission is to identify these people and provide transitional housing for them while assisting them with job training, financial and family counseling, transportation and to help them rebuild their foundation to get them back on their feet and back into the community."

Our Daily Rest provides facilities for families, men and women and has been full since it opened.

"We have simply run out of funds to continue to provide these valuable services to people who have had no control over their situation in many instances," Davis said.

"With the economic down resulting in job loss and loss of homes, this is an epidemic in our nation," he said.

Victims of domestic abuse, often women with small children, become temporary residents at Our Daily Rest due the lack of a home for them for them in the county.

"The creation of such a home for abuse victims in Oconee has been in the works several years, thanks to the Oconee County Ministerial Association's Women Alive group and fundraising efforts like the recent tournament for Safe Harbor held at Chickasaw Point,"

said Rhonda Morgan, victim advocate for the Oconee County Sheriff's Office.

"But we are still quite a ways from seeing that home become reality here, and Our Daily Rest has helped a number of these victims and their small children."

According to Morgan, South Carolina ranks second in the nation in criminal domestic violence cases.

"Our county is in desperate need and we hope that people will respond to help Our Daily Rest meet some of these needs," said Realtor John Powell, who was instrumental in helping to start the home.

"When you don't have a home, then it is hard to function in life," he said.

The budget for Our Daily Rest is \$300,000 a year and money needed to sustain the facility through the cold winter months, Powell said.

For more information, call 864-482-2040, or visit [www.ourdailyrest.org](http://www.ourdailyrest.org).

The facility is at 525 E. Main St. in Seneca.