Teddrick Hardy (left) gave a gift card to a Haughville resident. Hardy is helping the Haughville community through the COVID-19 crisis by making sure those hit hardest financially can afford groceries and bills. (Photo provided)

As many people face difficult questions about what their financial futures look like because of the COVID-19 pandemic, those in the Haughville neighborhood can rest assured that they’re not trekking forward alone.

Teddrick Hardy, a lifelong resident of Haughville, helps those in need afford their groceries, as well as pay bills and get their medicine — any task that was difficult before but is now even more challenging.

Don’t just assume COVID-19 pandemic will lead to increase in crime

The economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic could have a negative impact on crime trends, especially in the long run, if there aren’t adequate measures to make sure people are taken care of in such uncertain times. But it’s not time to sound the alarm yet.

Tom Stucky, executive associate dean at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI, said it’s never a good idea to make sweeping statements about what will happen in the future with crime, but it’s especially difficult during a national crisis when there are so many unknowns. What kind of aid will people get from the government? Will the aid be recurring? Will people be able to return to their jobs when it’s safe? "I’m not willing to sit here and say there will be no impact," Stucky said. "It’s too soon to tell. If the social safety net is not adjusted, I would not be optimistic." In the short term, it could be the case that the COVID-19 pandemic translates into a decrease in certain property crimes such as home robberies, more than half of which occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., according to FBI data, because that’s when people are most likely to be at work. With so many businesses closed temporarily, and government officials begging people to stay home, there aren’t nearly as many empty homes during the day. According to an analysis of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department records, there were 42 residential burglaries from March 17 — the day Mayor Joe Hogsett closed bars, entertainment venues and other businesses — to March 24, compared to 59 over the same time frame in February. By TYLER FENWICK
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The results from the 2020 census will do much more than let us know how many people live in the United States and where they are. Census numbers help determine how many schools a community needs, where companies take their job opportunities, how much money certain programs should get and much more.

When the census comes back with an inaccurate count, there’s a real impact. Children, especially from newborns to 1 year old, are historically undercounted in the census. This happens for a variety of reasons. Some parents don’t know they need to count their children before they’re old enough for school. Grandparents taking care of their grandchildren may not count them because of confusion about who they should include. For children who split time between divorced parents, mom might assume dad will count the kids, and vice versa.

The census should be completed to include everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Denise Laster, vice president of impact research and analytics at United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI), said the impact from an undercount in the 2020 census would be especially harmful for children in

The COVID-19 pandemic will likely lead to a short-term decrease in some types of crime because more people will be home throughout the day, but it remains to be seen what the long-term consequences might be. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)