

Community of Faith Mission is a faith-based, non-governmental low barrier emergency shelter ministry, which, through the efforts of volunteers, provides emergency shelter and food on a weekly basis from November through March for men, women, and families who are homeless in the Greater Williamsburg, Virginia area.

www.cofm.info

Fall 2014 *Newsletter*



Shelter Schedule 2014-2015

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|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nov.9-16 | St. Bede Parish Center |
| Nov.16-23 | CrossWalk Community Church |
| Nov.23-30 | New Town United Methodist Church |
| Nov.30-Dec.7 | Chickahominy Baptist Church |
| Dec.7-14 | St. Martin's Episcopal Church |
| Dec.14-21 | Williamsburg United Methodist Church |
| Dec.21-28 | Williamsburg Christian Church |
| Dec.28-Jan.4 | St. Bede Parish Center |
| Jan.4-11 | Williamsburg Community Chapel |
| Jan.11-18 | Williamsburg Christian Church |
| Jan.18-25 | St. John Baptist Church |
| Jan.25-Feb.1 | Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church |
| Feb.1-8 | Christian Life Center |
| Feb.8-15 | Bruton Parish Church Parish House |
| Feb.15-22 | Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist |
| Feb.22-Mar.1 | Walnut Hills Baptist Church |
| Mar.1-8 | Williamsburg Presbyterian Church |
| Mar. 8-15 | Smith Memorial Baptist Church |

See list of Shelter Partners inside!

Welcome to Year 3!

Community of Faith Mission begins its third year of providing an emergency shelter program in Williamsburg.

Training for Shelter Host and Partner Key Leaders will be held Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30-8:30 pm at New Town United Methodist, 5209 Monticello Avenue (next to the courthouse).

All Hosts should send at least two Key Leaders, and Partners should send at least one. You may bring up to six, but due to space limitations we are not able to accommodate more than that.

We will use a different format in our training this year, updating you on any new policies and highlighting four key areas through rotating stations. The program will conclude with a speaker who will provide valuable insight into the lives of those who live unsheltered.

We have produced a new training video, which you may use at your own in-house training. Congregations will also receive one copy of the training manual, which you may reproduce.

NEW to training this year is a special segment on Safety and Security. As we approach our third season we have implemented policies and procedures to enhance the security protocol we currently have in place. We believe that our program

will be better served if each Host and Partner assigns one volunteer whose sole responsibility when working at the shelter is safety and security.

This designated volunteer will have additional training to be better prepared to handle security protocol should a situation arise with a guest.

We have asked each Host and Partner to send one or two individuals to this special training on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6:30-8:15 pm at New Town United Methodist Church. Jay Sexton, retired JCC Police Officer specializing in CIT (Crisis Intervention Team), will be the lead facilitator.

Key Leaders: Please RSVP your COFM key contact with the number of individuals from your congregation who will be attending **each training session.**

Key Leader Training

Thursday, Oct. 23

6:30-8:30 pm

New Town

United Methodist Church

5209 Monticello Ave.

Shelter Partners 2014-2015

Our Shelter Partners play a vital role by providing volunteers, food, and support to Shelter Hosts. Thank you!

Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints

First Baptist Church

Hickory Neck Episcopal
Church

James City Community
Church

James River Baptist Church

King of Glory Lutheran
Church

New Zion Baptist Church

St. Olaf Catholic Church

St. Stephen Lutheran
Church

Stonehouse Presbyterian
Church

Temple Beth El

Williamsburg Baptist
Church

Zion Baptist Church

Joining Together for Christmas Week

Christmas Week can be a tricky time for the COFM emergency winter shelter. Church facilities are booked with holiday festivities, and church members are busy with holiday plans or even out of town.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Pastor Fred Liggin of Williamsburg Christian Church, we have a new plan for Christmas Week. Williamsburg Christian Church on John Tyler Lane will be the host site for the week, and many faith groups will join hands in a collaborative effort to

provide volunteers and food to our guests who have nowhere to go.

Temple Beth El has taken on a vital role in this effort. The temple will be the key leader in charge on both Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Thank you! At this printing, the temple may still be in need of volunteers to help on those days. Contact Renee Collins (reneecvt@cox.net) if you can assist.

Members of the COFM board will be on hand throughout the week to make sure everything runs smoothly using this new model.



Our New Intern Welcome Anna Newton, a senior at the College of William and Mary! Thanks to a generous grant from a Shelter Host, we are delighted to have Anna assisting the COFM board at Host Sites during the shelter season and with other administrative tasks. Be sure to say hello to Anna when you see her working in the shelter!

Welcome to Three New Partners and One New Host!

We are pleased to announce that three new partners have joined the 2014-2015 shelter program: James City Community Church, James River Baptist Church, and Zion Baptist Church. Welcome!

Shelter Partners play an important role in providing volunteers, food, and support to Shelter Hosts. We could not do it without you!

And thanks to Christian Life Center, which is making the change this year from being a Partner to being a Host!

Coming Soon: A Volunteer Link

Volunteers will soon be able to access on the COFM website three important documents all volunteers must read before working in the shelter.

Look for the purple Hosts & Partners Button soon on our home page - www.cofm.info.



Thanks to all who supported the summer Aqua Zumba fundraiser, sponsored by Iron-Bound Gym. We had fun and got out the word about COFM!

A New Feature for Guests This Year in the Shelter

This year for the first time, COFM Board Member Roy Gerardi will be in the shelter once a week to assess whether there are services outside of COFM to which guests can be referred, primarily in the areas of housing, employment, and personal issues such as health, education, and substance abuse.

Other trained COFM board members will also provide this service to our guests.

We believe that by referring shelter guests to other services offered in the community, we are providing an added benefit to our guests.

COFM New Board Members

COFM has named three new members to its board: Lynn Blankman (Bruton Parish Church), director of communications; Kenneth Haywood (St. John Baptist Church), director of partnerships/facilities; and Annabelle Socha (Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, not pictured), director of fundraising.

They join Kathleen Banfield and Renee Collins, co-presidents (St. Bede Catholic Church); Christopher James, vice president of community relations (St. Martin's Episcopal Church); Stephanie Turner, treasurer (New Town United Methodist Church); Ashley Willis, secretary (Williamsburg Community Chapel); Bill Johnson, director of operations (Walnut Hills Baptist Church); Pastor Corwin Hammond, director and ambassador to faith community (Chickahominy Baptist Church); and Roy Gerardi, director of social services (City of Williamsburg Department of Human Services).



We Have All New Mats for Our Guests: Thank You!

We have been able to purchase all new mats for our shelter guests!

Thank you to the generous congregations and individuals who made substantial donations so that we could buy new mats for all our guests. (After two years of heavy use, the old ones were losing their cushioning.)

We are grateful for donations for the mats, as well as to congregations, persons, and businesses who have donated for many other items, including bus passes, directors' insurance, paper products, and so on.

For a complete listing of our partners and donors, please see the website at www.cofm.info.

Paper Products for Shelter Hosts

Riverside Paper Supply Company has generously offered to supply paper products for our shelter, including plates, cups, napkins, and plastic cutlery.

If you are interested, contact COFM board member Kenneth Haywood at kohaywood@yahoo.com. He will place two orders during the shelter season – Oct. 15 and Jan. 5. The products will be delivered to Williamsburg, where Kenneth will set a pickup time, date, and location.

If you wish to take advantage of the offer, please let your Shelter Partners know so that they do not purchase supplies themselves.

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