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

Spring 2015 *Newsletter*

Community of Faith MISSION™, INC.

Shelter Schedule 2014-2015

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!

Heartfelt Thanks to All For Our Third Season!

We want to thank all Shelter Hosts and Partners for helping to provide emergency winter shelter for a third year to those in our community without a home.

We want to thank our partners Virginia Regional Peninsula Jail and R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA for their support and assistance; law enforcement and county officials for their continued ongoing support; and social service agencies and service providers for providing over-capacity support.

We want to thank Wellspring United Methodist Church, supporting partner congregation, for providing 375 hygiene kits; Pete Henderson of Henderson, Inc. for donating much needed storage for our supplies; and Riverside Supply Company for donating 6,000 cups, bowls, cutlery and two sizes of plates!

It was **a challenging season** weather-wise for COFM and our Hosts and Partners, and we want to thank you for rising to that challenge. Guests were allowed to stay later in the morning, or even all day, when the weather was extreme. We are grateful for your flexibility and compassion.

In addition, our **numbers were higher** this year. We served a total of 111 individual guests, many staying on for weeks at a time—a **27% increase** in the total number of guests served from last year.

To support COFM Hosts and Partners, we provided two **videos** this year, one for training, the other—"Our Story"—to provide an overview of the program.

Also new this year was our **hardworking intern**, Anna Newton, who provided on-site shelter support most Sunday nights (and often one night during the week), and the **Security Volunteer** position, with CIT training to support it.

We tried a new model for **Christmas Week**. Williamsburg Christian Church generously offered its facility, and other congregations provided volunteers and food.

We also increased on-site **referral support** to shelter guests, we held our first **Warm Up Williamsburg** fundraiser (see p. 2), and the "God Pod" and COFM board members marched in the Williamsburg **Christmas Parade** for the first time!

We are already planning for next year! Signups will be April 1 for slots for the 2015-2016 season. See page 3!

Shelter Host Sign-ups for 2015-2016

Wednesday, April 1, beginning at 1 pm!
See p. 3 for details.

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

Warm Up Williamsburg Ladles up a Big Success!

Our first soup-tasting event, Warm Up Williamsburg, raised more than $6,000!

More than 300 tickets were sold for the event, which was held January 24. Proceeds will be used toward operating costs for our shelter program.

Chefs from area restaurants donated their soups, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church donated their fellowship hall, Zen Mojo provided music, and realtor John Ryland, Holland Designs, and Williamsburg Event were sponsors.

Warm Up Williamsburg was put together by COFM board member Annabelle Socha and her hard-working committee, comprising Missy Carr, MaryJo Headley, Pam Schlickenmeyer, and Vicki Walsh.

We are grateful for our sponsors, participating restaurants, donors, and everyone who purchased tickets and attended the event.

For a complete listing of our generous sponsors and participating restaurants, and donors, please visit our website www.cofm.info.

Scenes from the event, including sponsor John Ryland (above left) with daughter, COFM board member Ashley Willis.

Hygiene Supplies Needed for 2015-2016

We are always in need of supplies for our hygiene kits! Consider having a collection at your congregation. It's a great way to get youth involved. Contact Kenneth Haywood at kohaywood@yahoo.com.

Shelter Week Sign-ups Will Begin April 1

Signups to choose your week to host the COFM shelter begin **Wednesday, April 1, at 1 pm** on the COFM website, www.cofm.info.

Signups will be on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning no earlier than 1 pm on April 1. **Shelter season begins Sunday, Nov. 15, and ends Sunday, March 20.**

All requests will be time-acknowledged. Please consider taking a second week to host the shelter during the next season. Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists will be under construction next year and will not be able to host, so we will need an additional site.

Instructions for signing up are at www.cofm.info.

All Key Leaders received notification of the sign-up date with instructions on Feb. 27. Please email kathybanfield.cofm@gmail.com with any questions.

Youth at Wellspring United Methodist and St. John Baptist assemble hygiene kits for our shelter guests.

New for Year 4 – A Shelter Manager!

We have created a new part-time salaried position with COFM – Shelter Manager – to begin with the 2015-2016 shelter season.

This person will oversee all shelter operations and be onsite at all Host Sites. The focus will be on supporting Key Leaders and Security Volunteers to maintain safety, security, and consistency.

This is part of our business plan to ensure long-term success for COFM.

A detailed job description will be posted on the website May 1. Go to www.cofm.info for more information.

Transportation Grant from WCF

The board was very grateful for the transportation grant from the Williamsburg Community Foundation for $2,300. The funds provided much-needed bus tickets for our guests who are without transporation.

Season 3 By the Numbers

16	Shelter Hosts
13	Shelter Partners
126	Nights of shelter
111	Individual guests
66/34	Percentage male/ female guests
3	Children
21	Repeat guests from 2013-2014 season
27	Percentage increase in guests from 2013-2014
475	Hygiene kits distributed
2200+	Bus tickets provided
2400+	Volunteers who cooked, served, shared fellowship and offered hope
4000+	Meals provided
103.6	Miles traveled by God Pod from host to host

Many Thanks!

We are very grateful for the continued financial support, materials, and time provided by congregations, individual donors, and businesses.

Please check our website for a complete list of donors and sponsors.

www.cofm.info

COFM - Scenes from Season Three

with thanks to those congregations forwarding photos

One delivery of paper products from Riverside Paper Supply—cups, bowls, cutlery, big plates, small plates—a huge boon for our host congregations. Thank you!

www.cofm.info

From congregation to congregation:
preparing to bag guest belongings, setting up the kitchen, cooking and serving food, organizing check-in, offering haircuts and clothing, entertaining guests and volunteers, enjoying fellowship.

We could not have done it without you. Thank you!

www.cofm.info