

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

Winter 2015 *Newsletter*



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!

Warm Up Williamsburg!

COFM to hold fundraiser January 24

Join us for COFM's big fundraiser this month! Warm Up Williamsburg, a soup-tasting event, will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, 6-8 pm at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Road.

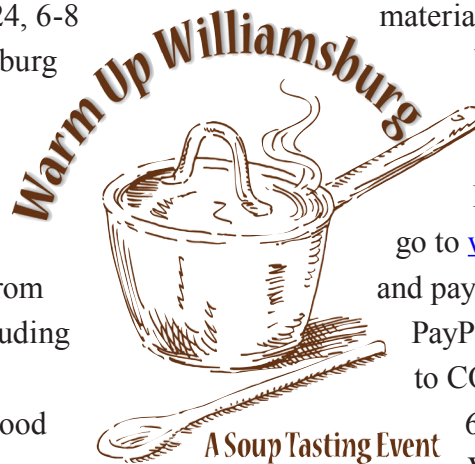
Local chefs from restaurants including the Fat Canary/ Cheese Shop, Food for Thought, the Coffeehouse, the Cove, Fresh Market, Martin's, Plaza Azteca, Second Street Bistro, and more will donate their tastiest soups. Bread and dessert also will be provided, as well as live music by Zen Mojo.

All proceeds from the event will support operating costs of the Community of Faith Mission

program, such as replenishing supplies of bed linens and towels, maintaining the trailer, and producing training and marketing materials.

We need your reservations! Tickets cost \$20.

For reservations, go to www.cofm.info and pay by credit card or PayPal, or mail a check to COFM, P.O. Box 6357, Williamsburg, VA 23188.



Warm Up Williamsburg

Saturday, Jan. 24

6-8 pm

Williamsburg
Presbyterian Church
215 Richmond Road

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

Shelter Update Midway

We are halfway through the shelter season and as the weather gets colder we anticipate our shelter guest numbers to increase. In the last several weeks our nightly average served has been approximately 22.

While we have been over our 25 per night maximum capacity only three times, we have seen our weekly shelter guest numbers served up considerably from last year (total number of different individuals served during the week).

In the 2013-2014 season, we served a total of 87 different individuals. This year, only 9 weeks into the season, we already have served a total of 80 different individuals. The increase in numbers required COFM to purchase additional bedding items.

We continue to refer guests to other services in the community, which has helped keep our shelter numbers stable.

We are pleased to announce two new resources for guests: an

ability to use General Delivery mail service and daytime warming stations located at JCC Rec Center and the Human Services Center lobby on Olde Towne Road.

As we move into the second half of the shelter season we continue to count our blessings for the endless dedication of volunteers who are serving those who find themselves without a home.

COFM Donations Now Can Be Made Through PayPal!

Donations are now possible on our website using PayPal! All donations go toward operating costs, such as replenishing supplies like bed linens and towels and maintaining the "God Pod" trailer. Go to cofm.info and click on "Donations." Thank you!

We Joined Together for Christmas Week

Thank you to one and all for a successful Christmas week!

It took one church facility, several congregations, many volunteers, and a ton of food, but with everyone pitching in, we were able to shelter and feed 38 individuals during the week of Christmas. Overall, we averaged 20 guests per night during the week.

Many, many thanks to the congregations and volunteers who welcomed our guests, cooked and

cleaned up, and spent the night so that those without shelter in our community had a warm place to sleep.

We want to particularly thank Williamsburg Christian Church and Pastor Fred Liggin for generously providing the host facility for the week, and Temple Beth El for being the key leader on both Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

We could not have done it without you!