

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](http://www.cofm.info)

## Winter 2017 Newsletter



### Shelter Schedule 2016-2017

Nov.13-20	Williamsburg House of Mercy*
Nov.20-27	Williamsburg Community Chapel
Nov.27-Dec. 4	CrossWalk Community Church
Dec.4-11	Life Church
Dec.11-18	Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Dec.18-24	Williamsburg Christian Church
Dec.26- Jan.1	Williamsburg Church of Christ
Jan.1-8	New Town United Methodist Church
Jan.8-15	Chickahominy Baptist Church
Jan.15-22	St. John Baptist Church
Jan.22-29	St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Jan.29-Feb. 5	James River Baptist Church
Feb.5-12	Bruton Parish Church Parish House
Feb.12-19	Walnut Hills Baptist Church
Feb.19-26	Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Feb.26-Mar. 5	Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Mar.5-12	Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
Mar.12-19	Smith Memorial Baptist Church

\*Formerly St. Bede Outreach Center  
See List of Shelter Partners Inside!



## Save the Date

### *Warm Up Williamsburg 2017 is on its Way*

**M**ark your calendars for Friday, January 27, 2017, and plan to meet at Williamsburg Community Chapel for Warm Up Williamsburg. We are pleased to announce that we will have 19 local chefs providing delicious soups for our 3rd annual fundraiser for the Community of Faith Mission Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter Program. Hours will be from 5:15 – 8:00 pm. Reservations are required and tickets will be \$20 paid in advance and \$25 paid at the door.

Musical entertainment will be provided by local band Elderberry Jam and we will once again be offering a Bake Shop, as well as a Gift Item sale. We have also added a takeout option for your convenience.

Please call 757-220-0484 with any questions or to volunteer the night of the event.

Go to [www.cofm.info](http://www.cofm.info) and make your reservations for this delicious evening.

Restaurants participating in Warm Up Williamsburg include:

- Aromas
- Berret's
- Carrot Tree
- Center Street Grill
- Cochon on 2nd
- Community Cafe
- Corner Cafe
- Fat Canary/Cheese Shop
- Food for Thought
- Fresh Market
- Giuseppe's
- Martin's
- Paul's Deli
- Plaza Azteca
- Sal's by Victor
- Victoria's
- Waypoint

We are thankful for our sponsor Old Point Trust and our event partners, which include:

- Phoebus High School Culinary Program
- The Culinary Institute of Virginia.

## Shelter Partners 2016-2017

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

Bethel Restoration Center

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

First Baptist Church

Greater City

James City Community Church

Kingdom Life Christian Church

King of Glory Lutheran Church

New Zion Baptist Church

St. Olaf Catholic Church

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Stone House Presbyterian Church

Temple Beth El

Williamsburg Baptist Church

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Zion Baptist Church

Hygiene Kits Partner\*

Wellspring United Methodist Church (\*Primary)

## Letter from the Director

Sometimes when we talk about the work that we are privileged to do through Community of Faith Mission, we forget that not everyone is familiar with the general operation and guest experience. While the shelter moves around town, week to week, and is staffed by MANY different caring volunteers, the basics stay the same. The schedule below gives a glimpse of what a guest experiences on a "typical" day...

**6:00 PM** Our guest arrives and is invited inside the host site for a warm place to sit and perhaps a cup of coffee before check-in.

**6:30 PM** Our guest steps up to check in table, stores his coat and some other items overnight and heads to the fellowship or dining area.

**7:00 PM** Our guest eats dinner with other shelter guests and

volunteers. After dinner there might be haircuts, a bingo game or movie. Some nights there is simply time to read, talk and fellowship.

**7:30 PM** Our guest gets a bus pass to use for the next day, allowing him to get around town for work or appointments.

**8:15 PM** Our guest gets his sleeping mat and bed linens.

**10:00 PM** Our guest retires to the sleeping area for lights out.

**6:00 AM** Our guest is up for breakfast. He grabs a bagged lunch to take with him for the day and is checked out of the shelter by 7:00 AM.

A lot of living happens in the hours that our guests are away from the shelter, and we hope that when they return in the evening they know they will find staff and volunteers who are ready to listen and to serve. Blessings! -- Ashley Willis



ABOVE: Youth teams from three churches helped to assemble hygiene kits.

### COFM Hygiene Kits

The youth of Wellspring United Methodist, Smith Memorial Baptist and St. John Baptist Churches assembled 680 hygiene kits for the winter shelter guests. Many thanks to everyone who worked on this project and to all who donated travel-sized toiletries or money to purchase additional items as needed.

Wellspring UMC and coordinator Beth Burroughs have organized the collection of toiletries throughout the year with support from Leigh Anne Langston (SMBC) and Kenneth Haywood (SJBC).

Thank you all for your time and efforts to ensure that our shelter guests receive new kits each week.

## Shelter Update Winter 2017

COFM is very thankful for the way the first half of this fifth shelter season has unfolded. Guests are getting the care they need on nights that have ranged from mild to bitterly cold. Strong relationships with Host Partners, Shelter Partners and Community Partners have blessed the program and the guests. In addition to the wonderful Host and Partner congregations who have supplied caring volunteers and delicious food, COFM is thankful for the YMCA for showers, the Williamsburg Area Hotel and Motel Associ-

ation for holiday support, as well as support from the offices of Human Services in the City of Williamsburg and James City County.

As in past seasons, the number of shelter guests was lower at the beginning of the season and increased steadily with colder temperatures. For the past few weeks the shelter has been operating at or near capacity and serving a guest pool of 75% men, and 25% women.

At this midpoint, COFM has served one family and more than 60 individuals.

### Volunteers Make This Work!



ABOVE: Shelter manager Kris with Thanksgiving week volunteers at the Chapel.  
BELOW: Williamsburg Christian Church volunteers during Christmas week.



## Sponsor -A- Night \$359 Campaign Update

Our \$359 Sponsor-a-Night of shelter campaign will continue to run until the end of the shelter season.

For more information on the campaign or to learn how to sponsor a night, please go to our website at [www.cofm.info](http://www.cofm.info) or contact Renee Collins at [renee@cofm.net](mailto:renee@cofm.net).

We would like to thank the businesses, individuals, and congregations who have already stepped up to sponsor a night of shelter. A list of our sponsors can be found on our website.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." -- Matthew 25:35.*



ABOVE: Volunteers from King of Glory Lutheran Church help to prepare dinner and provide hospitality and welcome during shelter week at Williamsburg United Methodist Church.