

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 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!

Wrapping up Season 5

Community of Faith Mission had the joy and privilege of serving 110 shelter guests during the season that ended March 19, 2017. Those of us who shared time and fellowship with them are sad to see the season end, but very hopeful and thankful that our guests received the care, resources and referrals that positioned them well for their next steps. In exit interviews, guests were asked what they liked best about the shelter and the overwhelming response was, "The people!" We are grateful that guests walked away knowing that COFM volunteers and staff really cared about them.

Without the compassion, kindness and hospitality of thousands of volunteers through our 32 shelter hosts and partners, COFM would not succeed as the area's only emergency winter shelter program for men, women and families. Thank you for making a tangible difference in the lives of our guests. In addition to Host Partners and Shelter Partners, COFM collaborates with treasured Community Partners to bring our guests the best possible program. Special thanks to: the Departments of Human Services for James City County and City of Williamsburg; local law enforcement and government officials; United Way; Williamsburg House of Mercy (WHOM); 3e Restoration; Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail; R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA; Pete Henderson of Henderson Inc; JP Hill and Riverside Paper Supply; and the Williamsburg Area Hotel and Motel



Children decorated a banner of welcome and hospitality to display in the common area at the Winter Shelter.

Association. We are blessed by your support. For a listing of all COFM supporters, please visit our website at www.cofm.info.

Of the 110 guests served during Season 5, 63% were male, 37% were female, and 27% were returning from last season. Guests ranged in age from infancy to late 60s. After shelter managers assessed their needs, one family stayed in the shelter and several others were referred to other service providers. The Over Capacity Protocol was used nine times out of the 126 nights, and everyone was sheltered. So much for which to be thankful!

Sign up for Season 6!

Sign-ups for Host Partners will be **April 11 & 12**.

See page 3 for details.

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

Williamsburg Baptist Church

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Zion Baptist Church

Hygiene Kits Partner*

Wellspring United Methodist Church (*Primary)

Naming Names

God gets the glory for every good thing that has happened in COFM and for every heart that has been comforted through the emergency winter shelter program.

A volunteer recently remarked, "It is hard to believe there ever was a time when we didn't have the shelter." In five years, the people we serve have gone from being "invisible" to most of us, to being people we know by name and by the impressions they leave on our hearts. Years ago God was pulling back the blinders and moving the community to engage. I am so glad He called two very compassionate and tenacious people, Kathy Banfield and Renee Collins, to stir people to action in a most loving, responsible way.

At this five-year mark, I am reflecting on all the Host Partners and Shelter Partners who have made "sacrifices" in their personal and congregational lives to operate the winter shelter and give the guests their best. As we look to fill next season's shelter schedule, including Thanksgiving week, we are grateful for past Hosts who made sure that guests had food and fellowship, instead of isolation and desperation, during the holidays.

In five seasons we have had a

total of: four Thanksgivings hosted by New Town United Methodist Church (Pastor Mike Derflinger) and then Williamsburg Community Chapel (Pastor Travis Simone); and five Christmas weeks hosted by Chickahominy Baptist Church (Pastor Corwin Hammond) and then Williamsburg Christian Church (Pastor Fred Liggin), with 2016 support from Williamsburg Church of Christ (Pastor Adam Davis).

Many thanks to New Town UMC for their CHEERFUL and extended service to our guests during the historic January snow storm. Thank you Todd VanTasel (COFM Board), NTUMC leadership, and volunteers from other congregations who came in to support.

Thank you to our graduating intern, Josiah Day! You have been a blessing for two years, and we wish you all the best! Thank you, too, to our college (field study) volunteer Ann Insley who logged 50 hours helping COFM!

Thank you Shelter Managers, Kris and Kim, for tirelessly supporting our volunteers and giving our guests the consistency, compassion and respect they needed. It has been a pleasure working with you!

--Ashley Willis, Executive Director

A Big Thank You to Ashley Willis

We are at the close of our fifth shelter season, a year of organizational growth and transition. On behalf of the COFM Board, I would like to take the opportunity to commend Ashley Willis on her first year as Executive Director. We appreciate her gentle yet strong leadership.

Ashley brought her passion, intellect, insight, experience and resources to this new position of Executive Director. On any given day, Ashley effectively handles a multitude of things – program operations, donors, grant writing, staff, facility issues, shelter guests' needs and possible problems, reports to the board, collaborating with agencies and providers, plus never losing perspective. Ashley has a personal life as a wife and mother of three. Her gentle spirit and passionate heart to serve is a tremendous gift to our Community of Faith.

We are grateful to have Ashley as our Executive Director and for her outstanding management of the Program.

Sincerely,
Kathy Banfield, President

SHELTER MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE

COFM has an exciting opportunity for the 2017-18 shelter season. If you love the shelter program, have a heart for service and a passion for administration, contact Executive Director Ashley Willis at 757-634-6787 to discuss this part-time, seasonal position.

Season 6 Shelter Sign-ups

April 11 and 12, 2017

Since 2012 Williamsburg's faith community has been stepping up to host our shelter guests during the coldest months of the year.

As we did over a two-day period last year, COFM is again asking current Host Partners to submit their top three or four choices of weeks they can possibly host the shelter. The shelter weeks will run Sunday to Sunday, mid-November to mid-March.

On April 11 and 12, Host Partners are asked to email director@cofm.info with their preferences for the 2017-18 shelter season. Afterward, COFM will review all requested weeks and set the schedule doing our best honor each congregation's top preferences. Any remaining vacant weeks in the schedule will be offered to current Shelter Partner congregations. It is always exciting for the faith community and for the COFM program when a Shelter Partner makes the transition to Host.

Historically, most congregations request to host shelter weeks in January

or February. While these weeks are very important, we ask that you also consider hosting in November or December and submit some of those weeks in your top choices.

Over the years, some congregations have repeatedly hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks, and this year there is an opportunity to have other congregations share in that responsibility and tremendous blessing. Please consider a new way of celebrating this year by hosting Thanksgiving week (Nov 19-26). Our friends at Grace Covenant have graciously committed to hosting Dec 26-31. You have BLESSED us.

Our brothers and sisters of Temple Beth El have generously and joyfully committed to taking Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals to our shelter guests staying in motels on those days. Thank you, Rabbi David Katz and the volunteers of Temple Beth El for partnering with COFM in this crucial way. For any questions about shelter sign-ups, call (757) 634-6787.



Renee receives a \$359 check from Alyson Harris and David Hoar at the Travel Corner.

The \$359 Campaign

Thank you to all of the businesses, individuals and congregations that stepped up to financially support and sponsor one or more nights of shelter! Our first annual campaign was a success, and the money raised through sponsorships significantly helped COFM with shelter operating costs. A complete list of all \$359 sponsors is included on the last page of the newsletter as well as on our website.

\$359 is the calculated cost to run one night of shelter based on estimated FY 2017 budget.

More Ways to Give to COFM



Mark your calendar for May 9 so you can support COFM, during that annual day of giving, with donations of \$10 or more. Your gift will also help COFM qualify for additional money from an incentive prize pool. Visit givelocal757.org/cofm on May 9, 2017.

You can also support COFM when shopping with Amazon.com Go to smile.amazon.com and search for "Community of Faith Mission" before you checkout. COFM will receive .5% of each qualifying purchase.



Annabelle Socha takes a break with three WUW chefs.

Warm Up Williamsburg an Annual Success

Our third annual Warm Up Williamsburg soup-tasting fundraiser generated nearly \$10,000 for the emergency shelter program. COFM is deeply grateful for the generosity of local chefs and culinary establishments, as well as for help from sponsors, volunteers and host site Williamsburg Community Chapel. Thank you to our passionate, devoted committee: Annabelle Socha (WUW Chair and COFM Bd member); Missy Carr; Sue Xander (COFM Bd member); Barbara Haywood; Mary Jo Headley; Ellen Morgan; Pam Schlikenmeyer; and Vicki Walsh. For a complete list of sponsors, restaurants and other participants, please visit our website at www.cofm.info.

2016-17 Season in Photos



A Bethel Restoration Center volunteer helps with bedding.



Bruton Parish volunteers.



A Bethel Restoration Center volunteer distributes bus passes.



Above: Children made Valentine's notes for guests. Right: Pastor Fred Liggins. All other photos on this page are of Walnut Hills and New Zion Baptist volunteers.



COFM staff and volunteers participated in the Christmas parade.



Christmas parade selfie!



Above: Smiling volunteers. Right: Kris works hard to make sure all is in order for the night.



Above: Smith Memorial Baptist Church volunteers.



Kim does paperwork.



Left: Volunteers at Smith Memorial Baptist. Right: Life Church and Williamsburg Presbyterian Church volunteers.



Williamsburg Christian Church volunteers.



"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him." Proverbs 14:31

A Big Thank You to All Our Donors

Thank you to all of you have ever blessed COFM with your monetary gifts. We know that YOU know, we could not operate the shelter program without you. No gift is too small, and we always strive to be great stewards with the resources we are given.

In recent months we have been blessed by impactful grants, generous individual donations and shelter night sponsorships, and a complete list of COFM donors is on our website at www.cofm.info. With the shelter season having come to a close, we would like to recognize gifts from: Pete Henderson; Westgate Resorts Foundation; Paul and Helen Fiscella; The Calkins Foundation/Joe Calkins; as well as an anonymous benefactor. We were also blessed to receive grants from the following participating congregations: St Bede Catholic Church; Bruton Parish Episcopal Church, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and St Martin's Episcopal Church.

We are grateful that so many organizations and individuals are: 1) filled with empathy for people living through homelessness; and 2) moved in their hearts to give to this program that serves the struggling, vulnerable people in our community.

Sponsor-A-Night - \$359 Donors

\$359 is the calculated cost to run one night of shelter.

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| 1. T & K Accounting Tom & Kelly Lusk | 18. J&J Financial Management, Inc. | 34. Dynamo Electric Paul Brinkley (2 nights) |
| 2. DDS & Associates, Dr. Timothy Johnston | 19. The Drying Company Steven Tetreault | 35. St. Stephen Lutheran Church (3 nights) |
| 3. Foote Construction Michael Foote | 20. Reverend Monsignor Timothy Keeney | 36. Walnut Hills Baptist Church |
| 4. R. Boucher, LLC | 21. Terry & Jan Walker | 37. Bruce's Super Body Shops Paul and Judy Hutchins |
| 5. Paul & Renee Collins | 22. Lawson Enterprises, Inc. (3 nights) | 38. Morrison's Flowers & Gifts Arlene Aitken-Williams |
| 6. Edwin & Kerry Keusey | 23. Godspeed Animal Care Dr. Pamela Dumont | 39. AAMCO Transmissions Hampton Hudson and Karen King |
| 7. John & Ashley Willis | 24. Covenant Wealth Advisors Rob Topping | 40. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church |
| 8. Steve & Sue Xander | 25. Hathaway Generators Steve Hathaway | 41. Williamsburg Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge-Kia Mr. David Julian |
| 9. Wal-Mart Stores Distribution Center Stanley Wood (3 Nights) | 26. Infralogix Wayne Vick | 42. Colonial Gastroenterology Associates |
| 10. Mayes & Cheryl Mathews | 27. Williamsburg Orthodontics Dr. Peter Wendell | 43. Doug & Kim Myers (2 nights) |
| 11. Lenny's Power Washing & Sealing Lenny Schrecengost (2 Nights) | 28. Bucktrout Funeral Home Mr. James Altmeyer | 44. Dean Mitchell |
| 12. Michael C Rock Agency Inc. Mike Rock | 29. Coresix Precision Glass Alan Grahm | 45. Gillette Law Group, PLLC |
| 13. Maryann Schwab & F.M. Kibler | 30. Bill and Pat Johnson | 46. Charles and Rosalie Frey |
| 14. Bill & Kathy Banfield | 31. Dr. Hecker and Associates Dr. Eric Hecker | 47. Adult Sunday School Class Olive Branch Christian Church |
| 15. The Travel Corner Inc. Ms. Allyson Harris & Mr. David Hoar | 32. Julie Sonson | 48. RJS & Associates |
| 16. Williamsburg Moose Lodge | 33. Jonathan & Jenny Holmes | |
| 17. Williamsburg Center for Dental Health Dr. Stacey Hall | | |