

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 2016 Newsletter



Sponsor-A-Night of Shelter

\$359 Campaign

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!

In November, COFM will officially launch our Sponsor-a-Night of Shelter campaign. The idea for this campaign came when we received a call from local business owner, Tom Lusk of T & K Accounting, who asked what our operating costs were to run the shelter for

one night. Tom and co-owner Kelly indicated their business would like to sponsor one night of shelter. They, along with several other businesses that they recruited, each donated \$359 to sponsor a night of shelter.



Business owner Michael Foote and Tom & Kelly Lusk present their \$359 checks to Sponsor-a-Night of Shelter. COFM's Renee Collins and Kathy Banfield received them.

Over the past year, our organization's growth has caused a 142% increase in COFM's annual operating budget. To help us meet our financial goals, we are launching the \$359 Sponsor-a-Night of Shelter Campaign. The campaign will
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Security and Leader Training Oct 11.

James City County Police Chief Brad Rinehimer will be the special guest at the Annual Volunteer Key Leader and Security Training on the evening of October 11 at New Town United Methodist Church. Chief Rinehimer and local law enforcement have been invaluable supporters and encouragers in the COFM shelter program year after

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Chief Brad Rinehimer will speak at the October 11 training.

Shelter Partners 2016-2017

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

Unity Fellowship Church

Williamsburg Baptist Church

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Zion Baptist Church

Hygiene Kits Partner*

Wellspring United Methodist Church (*Primary)

Letter from the Heart

Volunteers. I have had the joy of serving in numerous volunteer organizations and have worked with committed, skilled and compassionate people. But I never before experienced the level of joyful service, loving comradery, or sense of urgency to make a difference in the lives of others as I did as a COFM volunteer serving alongside amazing people. Before joining the COFM staff, I had the privilege of serving as a key leader at Williamsburg Community Chapel for four seasons and a Board Member for three years.

Volunteers are the heart of Community of Faith Mission. They are passionate about serving hurting people and offering the skills they have to that cause. Whether they are: serving faithfully on the Board of Directors; cooking meals; assembling hygiene kits; making endless phone calls; sending hundreds of emails; planning and executing special events; preparing supplies; cleaning facilities; working the check in desk; staying up all night; driving shuttles; counting inventory; driving laundry to and from the jail; loading, unloading or hauling the trailer; giving haircuts and manicures; helping with resumes; producing the newsletter; entertaining; listening; encouraging or praying, COFM volunteers exhibit excellence and love.

True stories. Volunteers work in the shelter until 11:00 PM and then leave to catch some sleep before a 4:00 AM flight for a business trip. Volunteers serve in the shelter on their birthdays because there is nowhere else they would rather be. Volunteers don't cook for their own families for a week because they are cooking at the shelter every night. Volunteers work shelter hours every morning before heading off to full-time jobs; or go to work all day and then spend all night in the shelter. Volunteers spend holidays in the shelter. Volunteers use vacation days to serve our guests. While caring for elderly parents or young children at home, volunteers make



I love all our volunteers! These Chapel volunteers are planning Thanksgiving week. sacrifices for the blessing of serving. When persevering through their own struggles, volunteers make our shelter guests their priority and offer help and hope.

When the shelter season starts in November, our focus will be 100% on our shelter guests and doing everything we can to meet the needs of these brothers and sisters during the most stressful time in their lives. While some pockets of our community still believe there are no people homeless in Williamsburg, we know there are because we know their names, have fellowshiped with them, heard their stories, and experienced our own lives and hearts changed because our paths crossed with theirs. We have celebrated their victories, and felt the heartache of their loss.

Soon it will be a blessed time of getting back to the business of loving and serving our guests. Until then, I want you to know that I am 100% thankful for you. I am immensely grateful for everything you have done, and I thank you in advance for all you are about to do.

--Ashley Willis, Executive Director

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. - I Corinthians 13:13

Meet the New Executive Director



Ashley Willis joined the COFM staff in August as Executive Director. Her professional background includes social outreach ministry, journalism/public relations, business and real estate. COFM is multi-generational. Ashley's husband, three sons, and parents all volunteer for the shelter program.

Who We Served 2015-2016

105	Individual guests
68%	Percentage male/
32%	female guests
3-73	Age range
27	Return guests from 2014-2015 season
600	Hygiene kits provided
2400+	Volunteers who cooked, served, shared fellowship and offered hope.
5000+	Meals provided
126	Nights of shelter

Welcome New Shelter Partner

Bethel Restoration Center is a new shelter partner. Welcome to COFM!



Save the Date

COFM's Third Annual Warm Up Williamsburg event will be held on Friday, January 27 from 5:15-8:00 PM at Williamsburg Community Chapel. There will be dine-in and carry-out options for enjoying the delicious soups from Williamsburg's outstanding restaurants. All proceeds will support the shelter program's operating costs.

Warm Up Williamsburg

Friday, Jan. 27
5:15-8:00 pm
Williamsburg Community Chapel
3899 John Tyler Highway

If you would like to volunteer for WUW, email Annabelle Socha at annabelle.socha@cox.net

CONT: Sponsor-A-Night Campaign

target the Greater Williamsburg community including: local businesses, civic groups, individuals, the faith community and other organizations. Without the generous support of 34 congregations, this shelter program would not be possible. COFM's annual operating expenses do not include the facilities and more than 5,000 meals that are generously provided by the faith community to shelter and feed our guests. We are extremely grateful for their support!

The \$359 Sponsor- a -Night of Shelter Campaign runs through Nov. 1 - March 19. For more information about the \$359 Campaign, visit our website (after Nov. 1) at www.cofm.info or contact Renee Collins at reneecvt@cox.net.

CONT: October 11 Training

year. We are privileged to have Chief Rinehimer share his insights at this year's training. We value the time of all our volunteers and have streamlined this year's training in an effort to make sure all Key Leaders feel equipped when it comes to best security practices for the shelter. Therefore, we are inviting Key Leaders to bring their Security Volunteers and join us for one informative and inspiring evening.

We have heard your feedback and will offer a casual Meet and Greet time from 6-6:30 PM so that all Key Leaders and Security Volunteers have an opportunity to fellowship with each other and COFM Board Members and Staff. The training meeting will be from 6:30-8:00 PM, with an optional time for questions or extra instruction offered from 8:00-8:30.

Meet the 2016-2017 Shelter Staff



Kris Magnusson, Shelter Manager, 5 nights per week

We are delighted to have Kris return for another season as Shelter Manager. All of the feedback from Host and Partner congregations confirmed that Kris was outstanding in her service to shelter guests and volunteers.



Kimberly Rodriguez, Shelter Manager, 2 nights per week

We are excited to welcome Kimberly to the COFM team. She may be new to COFM, but she has a wealth of compassionate social service experience. She formerly directed the United Way's Community Resource Center and currently works for the State of Virginia.



Josiah Day, Intern

We are thrilled to have Josiah back again this year as our intern. He is currently a Marketing major with a Psychology minor at the College of William & Mary. His technical, marketing and people skills are a blessing to the program.

Announcements

PAPER PRODUCTS

RIVERSIDE PAPER SUPPLY COMPANY in Newport News has graciously agreed to donate the following items again this year:

CUTLERY SETS WITH NAPKINS, PLATES (LARGE AND SMALL), CUPS, and BOWLS

Hosts and partners, please sign-up at the Oct. 11 Training Meeting if you would like to receive the products which will be available for pickup at our AAAA storage facility (near CrossWalk Church) on Nov. 5.

HYGIENE KITS

We are collecting travel size toiletries to assemble 600 kits to include: toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shampoo, lotion, soap and conditioner.

There is a need for all items, with *our greatest needs being tooth-*



brushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Our Hygiene Kit Partner, Wellspring United Methodist Church (4871 Longhill Road), welcomes your drop-offs from 9 am - 1 pm Monday thru Friday.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

All Shelter Hosts and Partners are invited to walk as part of our COFM group. We hope to have one representative from each church. The Annual Williamsburg Parade is Saturday, Dec. 3.

Please contact Kenneth Haywood, kohaywood.cofm@gmail.com, for additional information.