

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 2018 Newsletter



Shelter Schedule 2017-2018

Nov.12-19	Williamsburg House of Mercy
Nov.19-26	Walnut Hills Baptist Church
Nov.26- Dec. 3	CrossWalk Community Church - Kingsway
Dec.3-10	Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Dec.10-17	Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists
Dec.17-24	Williamsburg Christian Church
Dec.26- 31	Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dec 31 - Jan 7	New Town United Methodist Church
Jan.7-14	Chickahominy Baptist Church
Jan.14-21	Williamsburg CommunityChapel
Jan.21-28	St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Jan.28- Feb 4	St. John Baptist Church
Feb.4-11	Bruton Parish Church Parish House
Feb.11-18	Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
Feb.18-25	Williamsburg Church of Christ
Feb.25- Mar. 4	James River Baptist Church
Mar.4-11	Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Mar.11-18	Life Church

Join Us for COFM's 4th Annual Fundraiser



A Soup Tasting Event

SPONSORED BY

Community of Faith Mission

BENEFITING THE

Emergency Winter

Homeless Shelter Program

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018

5:15 – 8:00 p.m.

Williamsburg Community Chapel

3899 John Tyler Highway

Reservations required

RSVP: COFM.info or 757-903-7031

Tickets: \$25

Student Tickets: \$15 between 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Check out our Bake Shop!

Enjoy entertainment by Elderberry Jam!

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

Aromas/The Hound's Tale

Berret's

Carrot Tree

Center Street Grill

Cochon on 2nd

The Coffeehouse

Corner Café

Fat Canary/Cheese Shop

Food for Thought

Fresh Market

Giuseppe's

Paul's Deli

Plaza Azteca

Sal's by Victor

Victoria's

Waypoint



COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Williamsburg Community Chapel

Culinary Institute of Virginia

Phoebus High School Culinary Program



Letter from the Director

During the holidays, many of us are taking time off from school or work and enjoying a time devoted to family, friends and faith. But the festive weeks of December don't resolve the issues of homelessness for our shelter guests or slow the serving pace of our volunteers and staff.

No matter how busy or challenging the special time of year can be, it only magnifies how encouraging it is to serve with Community of Faith Mission and the many people in Greater Williamsburg who are eager to give their time, talents and money to help. I am daily blessed to work with volunteers and other community members who are creative, generous, and operating with a sense of urgency to help the program we facilitate and the people we serve.

One of the collaborative high points this season was COFM's community partnership with the Williamsburg Hotel & Motel Association (WHMA) and faith partnership with Temple Beth El (TBE). Everyone worked together to provide the best possible Christmas holiday for 25 COFM shelter guests.

For Christmas Eve and Christmas night, the WHMA, under the supportive leadership of Ron Kirkland, treated COFM guests to hotel rooms that went above and beyond the physical comfort and respite typically found in the shelter setting.

Seven local hotels shared holiday hospitality and compassion for our COFM guests. We extend our deepest thanks to: the Pineapple Inn and Housing Center; Courtyard by Marriott; Best Western Historic District; Quality Inn Historic; Fairfield Inn & Suites; Holiday Inn Express; and EconoLodge Colonial for their kind generosity.

Because COFM guests are accustomed to receiving delicious meals provided by Host

Partners and Shelter Partners throughout the shelter season, it was important to carry that through and make sure guests had everything they needed during their hotel stays. Therefore, Shelter Partner TBE prepared, assembled and delivered hot meals and other food to ensure that each shelter guest had enough to cover all meals from Christmas Eve through lunch on December 26. Volunteer teams were dispatched to the seven hotels on December 24 and 25, sharing God's love and provision with our guests.

COFM key leader Mike Schulman from TBE shared, "Volunteers reported feeling truly blessed as they delivered meals and met with people who were very thankful for the food, a warm room and bed."

Once again, in God's economy He turns the blessings we share back on us in abundance!

During the holidays COFM gets many calls from concerned citizens wondering what is being done for people experiencing homelessness. They are often shocked to hear how comprehensive our shelter program is and how far in advance we make our plans.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for all of our Host and Shelter Partners who commit in April of each year, and to those who recently blessed our guests during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's: Walnut Hills with Smith Memorial Baptist; Williamsburg Christian Church; Temple Beth El; Grace Covenant Presbyterian; and New Town UMC with King of Glory.

From faith partners to community partners, we need all of you in order to make 126 consecutive nights of COFM shelter a reality!

Blessings, Ashley Willis



Volunteers from Temple Beth El work to prepare meals and snacks for COFM shelter guests over the 2017 Christmas weekend.



Shelter Partners 2017-2018

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

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

Smith Memorial Baptist
Church

Stone House Presbyterian
Church

Temple Beth El

Williamsburg Baptist
Church

Zion Baptist Church

Hygiene Kits Partner*

Wellspring United Methodist
Church (*Primary)



Left: Temple Beth El volunteers on their training night.



COFM Leadership



Top row L to R:

Kenneth Haywood, Kathy Banfield; Todd Van Tassel; Judy Collard; Kimberly Rodriguez

Bottom row L to R:

Renee Collins; Sue Xander; Ashley Willis; Donnie Hines; Ann Baker

Not pictured:

Bill Johnson, Brandon Randall, Annabelle Socha, Jim West

Volunteers Make it Happen! Photos from the 2017-18 Season



Left: Pastor Walter Hudson of St John Baptist encourages volunteer Key Leaders at fall training.

Middle left: Donnie at shelter night check-in at WUU.

Bottom: Employees of Westgate Resorts Williamsburg assembled and donated toiletry kits for shelter guests



William & Mary students with Greater City complete a night of training.





Celebrating \$359 Campaign

COFM Board member Jim West thanks our first \$359 sponsor of the season, Dan Worstell of Pyramid Roofing. The Sponsor-a-Night of Shelter Campaign continues until March. We welcome sponsorships from individuals, businesses and groups. Are you a member of a book club or Bible study group? Consider sponsoring a night of shelter with your group! COFM is thankful for everyone who has sponsored a night so far this season. A complete list of \$359 sponsors is on our website, www.cofm.info

Shelter Update 2017-18

As of the season’s mid-point, COFM has served more than 70 different guests and assisted one family. For much of Season 6, nightly numbers of guests have been at or near capacity. Each week COFM guests are enjoying delicious meals prepared and served by Host and Shelter Partners, and appreciating the safe shelter and bus tickets provided by the shelter program. While some guests have received referrals to area agencies for medical care, rapid rehousing, and even car repairs, one recent guest was blessed by her stay in the shelter and was able to get back to her home, more than 1400 miles away, with the help of COFM and an amazing Host Partner church!

COFM is encouraged by the number of guests who have secured employment while staying in the shelter program since November, and shares their hope that they will soon be able to transition out of the shelter. In the meantime, COFM is privileged to serve people as the bridge between living unsheltered and finding permanent housing.



Checking in guests for a night of shelter.



Left: Timothy Seaman entertains the guests. **Below:** Storing belongings.

