



CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



A LIFE FILLED WITH CARING FOR OTHERS

An Interview with former guest and current volunteer Lori Anne Shirley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David V. Downes
Bryan E. Murfree
Rita A. Plaskon
Jeffrey C. Downes
Carlton W. Bradshaw
Jane A. Hoy
Gus P. Lebois
Mark S. Thompson

Emeritus Ted R. Evans

Executive Director J. Anthony Dickerson

Attorney John C. Seipp

Accountant Robert E. Holloway

Today, at age 55, Lori Anne Shirley can remember her childhood vividly.

"When I was a little girl, I saw small florescent lights floating around and they would sometimes come to me and cover me. I asked my Mee-maw 'What are the lights?' She told me they were angels sent to protect me. All my life I have felt protected, because I love Jesus and I love His people."

Lori, born as a premature baby, was told she died and was brought back to life. Today she believes she was brought back for a purpose: to help people in need. A current volunteer at the Christian Shelter, Lori worked at a local Food Lion for 28 years. For 25 of those years, she left work each day then drove to the Berlin Nursing Home to care for patients.

"When I grew up, I got married and my husband, David, became physically paralyzed only one year after we wed. I took care of him with I-V antibiotics and a catheter while I was working two jobs. He died in 2011, and afterwards my grandmother got breast cancer and I cared for her until she died. More recently, my girlfriend had a malignant brain tumor, and I took care of her and two other cancer patients. I have been taking care of people my whole life."

After her husband died, Lori met a widower named Walt, with whom she could share her grief and his grief for losing his wife. During 2017, a series of unfortunate events left the couple with nowhere to live. In their desperate situation, they found refuge at the Christian Shelter. "While I was here at the Christian Shelter I helped in the kitchen because I love to cook and bake. I also helped with whatever I could while I was here."

After a long stay at the Christian Shelter, Lori and Walt found permanent housing, so they left the Christian Shelter. After moving into their new home, she returned to volunteer. "The Christian Shelter is a wonderful place and I volunteer here five days a week," says Lori. "I love to see the guests getting to know Jesus through

the devotions. The staff is wonderful and filled with kindness. I seek the Lord daily as I read or write in my journal, mostly about the Lord. I read the Bible to guests and just love being at the Christian Shelter."

For someone who has faced so much adversity in her life, it is truly the power of Christ which makes Lori Anne Shirley so giving and caring for others. She recalls her childhood: "Mee-maw said as a little girl I would talk to the Lord while I was in my bed. She would not interrupt me when I was talking to Him. The little florescent lights still cover me at night. It is hard to explain but I still feel His warmth and protection."

She says, "Everything I do comes from my heart and unto the Lord. I owe everything to God. God is good all the time." Like God, we are blessed to have Lori Anne Shirley in our midst.



Lori Anne Shirley

Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:

334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD 21804
Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992
www.christianshelter.org

This shelter
was planned, built &
is provided for by...
GOD
through
His people



When the holiday season rolls around, many of us cherish the time we get to spend with our family and friends. Instead of becoming overwhelmed with gift-shopping, think about how you can give back to those who don't have the same luxuries as you. Giving back is a great way to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I firmly believe that every person, no matter their circumstances, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. I also believe that a person is not defined by where they live.

Homelessness, at its roots, is an issue of brokenness. There is a lot of social shame that burdens someone who is homeless. Our materialistic, appearance-oriented culture makes them feel less about themselves. But every single one of them wants the same thing we desire – to be loved and understood. So here are a few tips about praying for the homeless during this holiday.

Pray for reconciliation: The term “reconciliation” simply means to be brought back together again. It means to renew a relationship and once again be at peace. I will be praying for reconciliation with family and friends. You see, many homeless people have lost the relationships that are most important in their lives. It is not uncommon to meet someone who has had no contact with their family for several years. I will pray for their family relationships to bloom once again.

Pray for provision: When you get involved with homeless ministry, you'll quickly discover that their needs abound. Sometimes the thought of all the needs can completely overwhelm me. If you have never dived in head-first in an attempt to rescue someone, this notion may be foreign to you. But there are mountains to be climbed – steep ones. I have learned that I cannot meet all the needs of a person. As a matter of fact, that's not how God designed it. We are instructed in the Lord's prayer to pray for provision. He alone has everything we will need, and He is well able to meet those needs. This is, without a doubt, a prayer that we can pray for the homeless. We can pray for God to provide everything that they need daily. We can pray that each person looks to God first and finds their every need met through Him.



Pray for encouragement: Loneliness is very common, and depression and discouragement combined make one of Satan's Number One tactics. While we gather with our spouses, children and family, the homeless will feel the deep pain of personal loss. If you have lost a loved one, you know that the holidays can be the hardest time of the year. But I also know that it is possible for burdened people to be encouraged during the holidays.

One more thought: As you pray for the homeless, be sure to listen. You might just hear the whispering voice of the Lord speaking to your heart. He may want YOU to be the answer to one of these prayers



Executive Director
J. Anthony Dickerson

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Sister Ellen Perry

It has been over a year since Ellen Perry was sent to minister and pray for the souls of our homeless guests. As I was talking with Sister Ellen in preparation for this article, I asked “why did you want to serve on the night staff at the Christian Shelter?” This interview question is one that I always ask, and it gives us an opportunity to look inside of the person as to the depth of their faith, and their desire to give of themselves to serve people who are homeless and alone. During the day, Ellen presently provides private patient care, a field that she has worked in for years, so being in contact with and helping others is a wonderful strength that she brings to the night staff responsibilities. When offered the night staff position, she believes that this is what God was calling her to do.

Sister Ellen is an encourager to those who reside at the shelter, always sharing with guests that whatever they are experiencing now will not last. She counsels our residents not to be discouraged about being homeless, but by faith to trust God for a better way. All our staff will be working and praying for each guest, for needed services such as housing, health care, identification and medical cards, and many other services that will sustain their lives.

The Christian Shelter is a refuge for individuals who will be strengthened by the truths found in the Bible. They are God's guests who need to see His miracles in their daily lives and in the lives of everyone serving at the ministry. We're thankful that Sister Ellen is a part of our night staff of Christian Shelter.



THE 2022 SEAGULL CENTURY TEAM

The Rotary Club of Salisbury once again sponsored a bike team to participate in the 2022 Seagull Century Bike ride. The actual event took place on Saturday October 8, 2022 and the team completed the metric century route (63 miles). It was a beautiful day to ride and this year's team had a new rider, none other than our own Executive Director Anthony Dickerson. The other riders included Dan and Maureen Williams, Dr. Elizabeth Burke, Gus Lebois and David Downes. Through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Salisbury, the team raised over \$9,200.00 to benefit the Christian Shelter operating budget. Many thanks to the Rotarians that supported the team as well as the team members that participated in this year's ride. We are truly blessed.



Pictured in the photo are left to right:

Anthony Dickerson, Gus Lebois, Maureen Williams, Elizabeth Burke, Dave Downes, Dan Williams

2022 CHRISTIAN SHELTER OFFICE RENOVATION



Left to Right: Greg Ferrier, Bobby Malone, Jay Pearce, Gus Lebois, Carrol Krueger, Terry Greenwood, Ford Waggoner

This fall 2022, The Rotary Club of Salisbury with the help of the Rotary District 7630, secured a grant to renovate the offices at the Christian Shelter. The office space has not been updated for close to 20 years and was in need of renovation to bring it into compliance with things such as security and the ability to handle confidential guest information as required by law. The renovation included redoing the flooring, painting the office, and adjoining rooms, assembling, and installing new lateral filing cabinets, new desks, new chairs, and new shelving. The grant also provided a new printer and paper shredder.

More than 30 Rotarians and volunteers spent over 300 hours working at the shelter to complete this renovation. A short dedication ceremony is being planned to commemorate the dedication of the Rotary Club of Salisbury to

the needs of the Christian Shelter. The Rotary Club of Salisbury has a very long history of helping the Christian Shelter for much of its 43-year history in Salisbury.

Please stop by the Christian Shelter and see the wonderful newly renovated office.



The newly renovated office space

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED-SEND TO:**
CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.
334 BARCLAY STREET
SALISBURY MD 21804

NON PROFIT ORG.
US Postage
PAID
Salisbury, MD
Permit No. 94



ROTARY CLUB OF SALISBURY



This edition's shout out goes to the Rotary Club of Salisbury for their wonderful support of the Christian Shelter through the Seagull Century bike ride that raised over \$9,200 for the shelter as well as for the Clubs support along with the Rotary District 7630 grant to renovate the Christian Shelter Office space this year. Thank you, Rotary Club of Salisbury!

CURRENT NEEDS

Twin Size Sheet Sets

Breakfast Meats

Lunch Meat

Disinfectant Spray

Coffee, Sugar, Creamer

Cleaners

Laundry Detergent

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
TO RECEIVE ELECTRONICALLY**

**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT
www.christianshelter.org**