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 CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
 334 BARCLAY STREET  
 SALISBURY MD 21804

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## A LONG, HOMELESS SUMMER

Summer vacation isn't much fun for a child who has no home. So it is for the growing number of children that will be staying at Christian Shelter this summer. In the month of August, 2017 the Shelter Housed a record monthly total of 116 homeless people. Fifty one of those (44%) were children. Summer 2018 is yet to come and the number of homeless people housed in March is up by 39% over March last year. The number of homeless children housed is up 62% over March, 2017.

If this is any predictor of things to come, we will have a lot of homeless children here on summer vacation in July and August. We will need volunteers to help lead those children in Bible centered activities for two hours, one or two days each week.

Also would your church be willing to hold its Summer Vacation Bible School at Christian Shelter for a week in July or August and include our Shelter children. We have lots of space in the Shelter dining Room and a large outdoor lot.



## MOST URGENT NEEDS

### Supplies

Laundry Detergent  
 Spray Cleaners (Bleach, Pine)  
 Bleach  
 Cold & Flu Meds  
 Sheets (Queen & Twin Extra Long)  
 8.5 x 11 copy paper

### Foods

Sugar  
 Lunch & Breakfast Meats  
 Cheese (Sliced & Grated)  
 Ground Beef  
 Garlic Powder/Salt  
 Paprika  
 Italian Seasoning

### Finances

Summer Finances are needed

**NOTE: Bills must be paid every month for Utilities, Maintenance, Supplies, Staff, Repairs, Insurance, etc.**

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

# CHRISTIAN SHELTER UPDATE

JUNE 2018

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER IN SALISBURY, MARYLAND

*“For this Son of Mine... Was Lost and is Found.” (Luke 15:24)*

Homeless after 21 years of military service, including Vietnam, Granada and Panama, James Senior is now almost completely dependent on a walker, or a wheelchair and his son James Junior. They came into the Shelter together, James, Sr. and James, Jr. after a rent sharing agreement with two friends fell apart. The two “friends” didn’t pay their share of the rent and ran off and left the two James’s holding the bag. They had just enough financial resources to pay for a week in a local motel before seeking emergency shelter.

James Sr. explained to us that his military career began when, at age 18, he became involved in a bar room brawl. “The Judge said, ‘Son, you can either join the Army or go to jail.’” Twenty one years later, his military career completed, James began a second career as a truck driver until he was forced to retire with diabetes, a herniated disk, verticulis and an abdominal aneurysm. James was able to survive with his limited disability income with help from his sister. When her health began to fail, his Son James, Jr. took over as his care taker. Unfortunately, James, Jr. had a history of unstable employment, alcohol abuse and occasional homelessness, which contributed to the failed housing arrangement with the 2 “friends” that lead them to the doors of Christian Shelter.

Since coming to Christian Shelter some positive things have been happening in the lives of James, Sr. and James, Jr. James, Sr. says that through the nightly devotions services and the witness and ministry of Shelter staff, “I’ve gotten back to God. Things are changing for me and my Son.” James, Jr. has been working steadily since coming into the Shelter. With the help of a local veterans housing program they have been approved for the rental of a mobile home in Salisbury and are saving money toward a security deposit and rent. Please pray that God will continue to guide and protect the two James’s to the safe, stable place He has planned for them.

## IN MEMORY OF BROTHER NORM SCHIMBERG

*“for He guards the lives of His faithful ones.” (Psalm 97:10)*

After a long life of faithful service to his Lord, Brother Norm was called home on May 2, 2018. Brother Norm’s volunteer work with Christian Shelter spans many years. In the early days of the Shelter Brother Norm was there every morning, bright and early, preparing breakfast in a giant frying pan for the shelter guests. When a guest needed transportation to a doctor’s appointment, a job or job interview, he was “Norman on the spot”. He always served with great joy, whether it was breakfast, praying with a guest, giving his testimony or cleaning pots. We remember with much love our Brother Norm.



**Board of Directors**  
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## THE COST OF HOMELESSNESS

A recent study in New York City found that managing one homeless person living on the street for one year costs the City government approximately \$1,000. Costs include emergency medical treatment, mental health services, police response to citizen complaints, cleaning up homeless camp sites in city parks, prison stays, etc.

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness research revealed that each “*chronically homeless*” person (someone who has been homeless more than 3 months in the past year or 12 months out of the last 4 years) uses about \$30,000 to \$50,000 in taxpayer funds per year by cycling in and out of emergency rooms, hospital beds, detox programs, jails and psychiatric institutions.

The cost of housing one homeless person (chronic or not) at Christian Shelter, including safe lodging, nutritious meals and practical and spiritual guidance, for one year is approximately \$250.

## NARCOTIC DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS KILLERS

According to the Maryland Department of Health, from January to September of 2017 **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND ONE** people in the State of Maryland **DIED** from opiate related causes (mostly overdoses of a prescription narcotic pain medicine called Fentanyl.) This is an increase of **48%** over the opiate related deaths in the same period in 2016. A big leap.



## PRAISE GOD FOR VOLUNTEERS!

One of the great blessings here at Christian Shelter is the wonderful variety of people who are willing to volunteer their energy, time and talents to meet vital needs that arise in the work of the Shelter. Some come in to work on a regular basis. For example there are the Pastors and church leaders who come in on a regular schedule to lead our guests in evening devotions, Deb Breda and her newsletter mailing team, Bro Jim Lanzi, who brings an eager group of young people from Salisbury Bible Fellowship, Ms. Peggy Carey with students from Salisbury Christian School, Sister Jane Hoy who pulls together a group called Arms Open Wide, or the Appalachian Service Project youth from Asbury United Methodist Church and Saint Francis Roman Catholic Church, or Vision of Mercy Ministries, or Korean Presbyterian Church, or Grace Baptist Church, or Zion Church. Each of these groups come faithfully every month to do such things as setting up and serving dinner to the Shelter guests, sorting and putting away donated food, moving bunk beds around, yard work, painting walls, cleaning rooms, pulling up and disposing of damaged flooring or carpets, etc., etc.

Shelter records show that in 2017 more than 100 volunteers put in a total of 4,292 hours of service. That is an average of 90 hours of volunteer work a week, and that’s a lot! The principle types of volunteer effort break out into:

General cleaning and maintenance work around the Shelter	2,772 hours
Board of Directors (they do so many things it’s hard to figure)	868+ hours
Devotion Leaders (local church Pastors/Leaders)	700 hours
Special, large volunteer groups	300 hours
Weekend dinner cooking and serving	240 hours
Regular volunteer work groups	190 hours
Newsletter mailing preparation crews	90 hours

The plain fact is that without these beautiful volunteers, we would not be able to keep the Shelter operating. Do you suppose the Lord planned it that way?



St. Francis ASP Group helps prepare & serve dinner for Shelter guests every Thursday.



Volunteers help Shelter children make colorful T-Shirts for Mom’s Day