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 CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
 334 BARCLAY STREET  
 SALISBURY MD 21804

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**PERMIT #164**



## SHELTER STATISTICS January-June, 2018

Month	Single Men	Single Women	Adults w/ Children	Children	Total
Jan	31	18	19	33	101
Feb	27	20	18	24	89
Mar	27	13	24	42	106
Apr	23	15	23	32	93
May	21	14	17	21	73
Jun	17	16	23	32	88

**Note:**

- More than three quarters of the families housed were headed by a single female.
- In March 2018 40% of guests housed were children.
- Average % children housed Jan – Jun 2018 was 33%.
- In April, May and June 2018 the Shelter had to turn away more people than we housed due to all available beds filled. **This was caused both by an increase in the number of requests for housing coupled with some challenges within some of the Family Rooms that made them temporarily unavailable.**

## MOST URGENT NEEDS

**Supplies**

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bar towels for kitchen cleaning
- Spray cleaners (bleach, pine)
- Cold & Flu meds
- Wet/Dry Vac
- Floor polisher/buffer
- Power washer

**Foods**

- Sugar
- Butter
- Lunch & breakfast meats
- Cheese (sliced & grated)
- Ground beef
- Salt, spices
- Italian seasoning

**NOTE: Financial gifts needed during the summer months as bills must be paid every month of the year for utilities, maintenance, supplies, staff, repairs, insurance. Please consider a Financial gift!"**



# CHRISTIAN SHELTER UPDATE

AUGUST 2018

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER IN SALISBURY, MARYLAND

## RICKY'S STORY

*“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” (Colossians 3: 2)*

No stranger to Christian Shelter, Ricky had been abandoned by his parents as an infant, He was handed over to the Foster Care System. Many of his foster care experiences were not good: however, one Foster Father, took a lot of time to read to him, especially from the Bible, and teach him. “When I was sent to Kindergarten,” Ricky tells us, “I told the teacher, ‘I don’t want to play with toys, I want to learn to read and write.’” So one of the teachers started to work with him on reading and writing, which he tells us he “soaked up like a sponge.”



When he left his career at sea, he trained to become a carpenter, then a construction manager, working on some major construction projects for the U.S. Navy. Ricky states that he worked with the U.S. Navy as a special intelligence operator in Vietnam, became a prisoner of the North Vietnamese and eventually escaped and returned to the United States.

After his time with the Navy, Ricky’s life began to drift downhill. For a time he was able to support himself with a variety of short term jobs in construction, landscaping and even law enforcement.

Quick to learn, strong willed and fiercely independent, Ricky says he left foster care and went out on his own at age 8. Making friends with a merchant ship captain, he was able to talk the Captain into letting him come aboard the ship as a cabin boy. Ricky says he worked real hard for his Captain, while taking every chance he got to observe and ask questions of other crew members on the ship. He states that he quickly learned the jobs of machinist, boatswains mate, navigator, etc. After a year on board the merchant ship he managed to convince the Captain to let Ricky work with him on the bridge and learn to pilot the ship. He continued to serve on merchant ships and eventually rose in the ranks to Captain over the next 10 years.

However, growing, chronic medical and mental health problems including diabetes, chronic bronchitis, and kidney problems greatly limited his ability to sustain himself with employment. He became more and more dependent on help from friends, social service agencies and eventually shelters. Ricky has been in and out of Christian Shelter a number of times over the last 20 years.

Since coming into Christian Shelter at age 63 Ricky says, “You helped me get back with God again.” He has since gotten steady, part-time employment, built up some savings in his Shelter account and found a place to live. Pray that Ricky will continue to “set his mind on things above”.

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## REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS

In the face of rapidly rising rental rates and a growing shortage of housing for people with low or fixed incomes in big cities, angry voices in some communities are being raised in opposition to efforts to develop lower income housing. This opposition is based to some extent on the fear of too much change in the character of the community. The cry to, "Let them go somewhere else" or "Not in my back yard" is sometimes voiced and felt within a growing number of communities across the country, according to a recent article in the Huffington Post.



For many people with low or modest incomes this is becoming a crisis, manifested in growing numbers of homeless people living on the streets of America's largest cities. In the past two years there is mounting evidence of this housing crisis spreading to some of the mid-sized and smaller cities across the country, such as Orlando, Jacksonville, Tacoma, Boise, Memphis and other communities. In some cases the average rent has been steadily rising until it is sometimes higher than the local minimum wage earner can afford. Efforts to encourage housing developers to include low income units in their plans are sometimes opposed.

Fortunately the city of Salisbury, which has struggled with some of these symptoms, seems to be working on solutions to this problem. Thanks to Salisbury's Mayor and City Council, for their courage in addressing this difficult issue. Unfortunately, however, until this widespread problem is addressed and cured throughout a much broader area than just the City of Salisbury or Wicomico County or even the Delmarva Peninsula, the Christian Shelter will continue to see a steady increase in the need for emergency shelter for families. The sheltering of these families provides a brief window of opportunity to share the love of Jesus and the hope that only He provides for a broken, lost and hurting population. The Christian Shelter continues to offer the only long term solution to an otherwise unsolvable problem – Peace for a suffering population in crisis – Jesus.

## A VISIT FROM MAYOR DAY – A PLAY YARD FOR SHELTER CHILDREN?

In June Salisbury's Mayor, Jake Day, paid a visit to Christian Shelter. Shelter Board and staff members had a chance to sit down with Mayor Day to explore the possible use of a piece of City owned land directly behind our building for a children's playground. Further exploration is needed, so please pray that God will make a way. Meanwhile, the Mayor paused to thank the Shelter's new Prep Cook, Brother Anthony Johnson for an outstanding peach cobbler made especially for the Mayor's visit.



## BLESSINGS FROM DIVERSE PLACES

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need"* (Psalm 46: 1)

Over the years the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore has been a 'very present help in time of need' for Christian Shelter. Pictured here is a pause for refreshment during a recent visit from the Foundation's President and the Director of Development hosted by a member of the Shelter's Board.



A group of 8 students from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania came to Christian Shelter on a two day mission project. The young students helped lay floor underlaying and paint ceilings and walls in the upstairs apartment, then joined us for lunch each day. The last day they came back and served dinner to our Shelter guests.

