



— 40th Anniversary —
**CHRISTIAN
 SHELTER**
 Salisbury, Maryland



A BI-MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
 DECEMBER 2020



**“IT’S BEEN A LONG TIME COMING,
 BUT RESTORATION HAS FINALLY COME”**

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Heather and Khyree

Heather’s first experience of homelessness started over ten years ago when she became a guest of the shelter for a brief period. Heather admits she has had difficulties following rules and did not like being told what to do, even though if it was for her benefit.

“I realize that change is difficult, but it is necessary if I am going to have a better life for my son,” said Heather. “I do not want him to struggle the same way I have over the years”. As a result of being here, I want to do better at handling corrective criticism. “I had to learn to accept God’s timing because I said over and over, I am leaving this place, I am tired of these people telling me what to do”.

Our challenge is to help people to come to know God through faith in Christ, so they can experience His unconditional, and reconciling love.

1 John 4:8, 16 “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love”. I John 4:16 “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them”

Heather said she knows and realizes that God’s love is everlasting. She is filled with mixed emotions because not only

did she grow and mature while a guest at the Shelter, her son Khyree grew up as well. He was two months old when they came as guests in February and now, he is one year old. As he grew physically, she grew spiritually.

Finally, she has the chance to start anew and glean from her experiences and lessons of the shelter. “I am grateful that the staff did not give up on me because I do not where Khyree and I would have gone if they had asked me to leave”.

Even though Heather and Khyree are no longer guests here at the Shelter, we will continue to follow them since they are a part of the Christian Shelter family. We want Heather to be successful as she starts this new chapter in her life. We want to be there for her and Khyree because it can be a scary time especially without a support network. It is our plan to continue with spiritual counseling, providing household items, and making sure Khyree has a wonderful Christmas and life afterwards.



Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:
 334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD 21804
 Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992
www.christianshelter.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE – SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Common holiday traditions involve spending time with family and friends, exchanging gifts and feasting on lavish meals. Yet, this is not a realistic scene for a staggering portion of the American population.



*Executive Director
J. Anthony Dickerson*

Overall, 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness each year, according to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. These individuals do not have homes to bundle up in during the cold weather; instead, they are sleeping on the street, in their car, in a motel room or a community shelter. Many of them will not get to enjoy a festive homemade meal.

Homelessness comes with a stigma, and an important way you can help combat the stereotypes of those experiencing homelessness is by spreading awareness of the truth.

Many people believe that those experiencing homeless are doing so because of severe mental health issues or untreated substance abuse problems. They believe those experiencing homeless are unemployable and perhaps even beyond help.

In reality, the vast majority of America's homeless population have become homeless due to a life-altering event such as job loss, medical or health emergency, divorce, domestic abuse or the loss of a primary income earner. They are able-bodied and ready to work, but they cannot secure employment without a home address. In spite of what we are going through and are experiencing God has been faithful unto us and we have so much to be thankful for. 1 Thessalonians 5:13 "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". The Apostle Paul reminds us that regardless of what state that we find ourselves we need to be thankful because there is always someone worse off than you. So even in a homeless state we need to find ourselves grateful and we need to praise God while we are in it. Regardless, of what you are going through this holiday season, God wants you to be thankful, for this is the will of God concerning you. What hinders a thankful heart? **Doubt about God...** Doubt about God's wisdom. Doubt about God's love. Doubt about God's Word. Doubt about God's immutability. Doubt about God's power. You are not thankful because you do not believe God can overrule the problems that you have to bring about His glory and your good and **lastly, be thankful because of it.**

The text says, "...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

You should have a praise on your lips because the stuff that has been keeping you down will soon become the things that lift you up. God is about to lift you up to where you belong whether you are sitting around the table with family or alone on a park bench.

For this is the will of God...the will of God doesn't move God closer to me – it moves me closer to God! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!



STAFF HIGHLIGHT – BROTHER DANIEL BACON



Brother Daniel Bacon

Brother Daniel first came to the shelter in 1993, as a volunteer in the kitchen with our Sister Goldie. Later, Brother Daniel joined the Christian Shelter staff in 1994 as a night shift worker for the men's side of the shelter. He then served as the lead night shift man on staff in 1995. Eventually, he came on as the Administrator after Brother Jay Holloway stepped down. He served as Administrator several times until he became Business Associate. He continues to serve in this position.

Brother Daniel is a member of Provident Presbyterian Church; he serves as a deacon and plays the organ. Brother Daniel loves fishing, storm chasing, and toys that make noises



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a wonderful way to connect to your community and make it a better place to live. When we volunteer our time to help an organization, we find that both the organization and the volunteer experience a real blessing. At times, people will hear about volunteer opportunities, especially at a homeless shelter, and think they will not be able to handle the expectations of working with the homeless. Our full-time staff provides multiple sessions of training for new volunteers, and when training is complete, the volunteer will feel comfortable handling the responsibilities required of him/her. The heart of an individual who aspires to volunteer at the Christian Shelter will be blessed as they plant seeds of kindness, respect, caring and love. We believe that in serving the ministry, one can witness daily, God working in the lives of our board members, staff, volunteers and guests.

Some years ago, a couple came to the Christian Shelter wanting to help with serving the men, women, and children who were being housed at the shelter. The ministry needed people who would volunteer their time to prepare breakfast on Sunday mornings. In 2002, God touched the hearts of two individuals, Roland and Kim Finger, to spend a Sunday morning every month to prepare breakfast for our guests. As I spent time with them for this newsletter article, I asked what prompted them to volunteer to help homeless individuals in our community. Their immediate reply was, "it came from the teachings that were ingrained in our hearts by parents and grandparents." They grew up in a close-knit neighborhood in Philadelphia, and their family's instructions were to determine who needed help in the community, to assist them with their needs, and to not accept any pay for their efforts. This principle, along with showing respect for others, became a way of life for them.



Roland and Kim Finger

In our own lives, I feel that we all have had family experiences similar to those of Roland and Kim, and they will remain in our hearts to be used by God to serve others in need. Although Roland and Kim's volunteerism extends beyond the Christian Shelter, we are grateful to them for the time and energy they have given to provide a much-needed service to this ministry. They have made a huge difference in the lives of so many guests. Thank you, Roland and Kim Finger!

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING
A FINANCIAL DONATION**

**PLEASE PROVIDE EMAIL ADDRESS TO
glebois0271@gmail.com
TO RECEIVE THIS ELECTRONICALLY**



MAGI FUND NEEDS OUR HELP!

As we enter into the Christmas season and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we find ourselves in a very uncomfortable and strange situation with the COVID 19 pandemic still controlling much of our lives. For the past 27 years, the Christian Shelter has relied heavily on the generous financial support provided by the Magi Fund through their fundraising efforts during the holiday season. Because of the pandemic, the live event plans that were in place by the Magi Fund for the fall of 2020 to support the Christian Shelter as well as the Joseph House Center had to be cancelled. This was a devastating blow to both organizations that rely so much on these events to help keep their doors open. As a result, The Magi Fund has decided to do a direct mail appeal to all of their many supporters asking for help even though there will be no live event to attend. We are asking you, our donors for the Christian Shelter,

to please respond to this appeal if at all possible. You will be or may have already received the appeal letter from the Magi Fund. Please consider a donation to this appeal as the proceeds do, to a large extent, go directly to the Christian Shelter.

To give of your treasures without expecting anything in return is truly divine and pleasing to GOD! Even though there is no gift -no Magi event- to offer this year, would you still give a gift to the Magi Fund anyway.... a selfless, sacrificial gift to support the work of the Christian Shelter and the Joseph House Center?

GOD Bless you all!

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CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.
334 BARCLAY STREET
SALISBURY MD 21804

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SHOUT OUT TO ONE OF OUR FRIENDS

DIANE GRIER

For our December 2020 newsletter, we would like to do a Shout Out to one of our own. For many years Diane Grier has been a volunteer at the Christian Shelter and has done many tasks. Most recently, she has been doing maintenance and updates to our donor data base called Donor Perfect. Each week, Diane comes in and up-dates the data files and creates for us mailing lists and other needed files as requested by the staff and board. This has been invaluable to the shelter. Thank you Diane, for your tireless efforts to keep the data base updated and current.

CURRENT NEEDS

SUPPLIES

- Laundry Detergent & Bleach
- Toilet & Paper Towels
- Bar Towels (Kitchen Cleaning)
- Disinfectant Cleaning Spray (Pine Sol, Bleach, etc.)
- Cold & Flu Meds for Adults & Children
- Washing Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Sandwich Bags
- Deodorant
- Lysol Spray/Lysol Wipes

FOODS

- Cheese (Sliced or Grated)
- Sugar
- Butter/Margarine
- Breakfast & Lunch Meats
- Cooking Oil & Spices
- Coffee, & Tea
- Water

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

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