

# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



### INSPIRING GENEROSITY: GIVING BEARS A BETTER COMMUNITY

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In today's troubled world – with countless stories of struggle and adversity – the Christian Shelter stands as a beacon of compassion and hope. Our mission is rooted in the principles of Jesus Christ: love, dignity, and respect for every individual, regardless of their circumstances. By offering food, shelter, individualized support, health care services and job search tools, we strive to empower those in need. Through our collective support, we can promote the endurance of our vital calling.

We view our primary goal as one to provide a safe, clean and supportive environment to carry our guests through their difficult situations. Their individual plights are caused by a variety of circumstances, including divorce, personal injury, loss of a job, spousal abuse or substance abuse. Our staff and professionals respond to the adversity by creating a healing environment so those facing recent disruptions can hear the word of God and renew their lives. The world is not perfect, and neither are we as individuals. But the Shelter provides the tools of mending to our community's most vulnerable members, and this creates a better, more compassionate community.

Autumn is a season when our thoughts turn to our own lives and blessings. These thoughts lead to giving thanks, the very purpose of Thanksgiving Day. As autumn begins around the Eastern Shore, we ask you to pray on the many gifts in your life, and consider transforming your thankfulness into acts of giving. Community giving plays a crucial role in lifting up the Christian Shelter and making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. When we come together, we multiply our impact. Even the smallest contributions, whether monetary or in-kind, can go a long way in meeting the needs of others.

Giving to the Christian Shelter benefits those experiencing broken lives, and it also creates a "ripple effect" throughout the community. When we extend a helping hand, we inspire others to do the same. By fostering a culture of generosity, we encourage

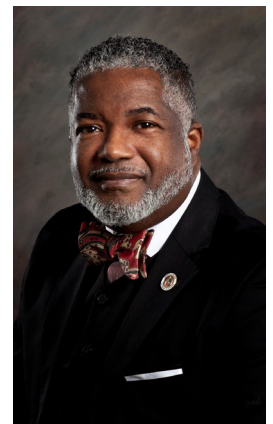
compassion, empathy, and social responsibility. This strengthens communal bonds and revitalizes the collective spirit. Monetary donations can be made through the Shelter's website ([christianshelter.org](http://christianshelter.org)) or by attending our fundraising events. Individuals, businesses and community groups can also donate personal items such as clothing, toiletries, and non-perishable food items. Volunteers are also needed to support the Shelter's operations and provide mentorship to those on their path to independence.

We also have a role to play in *spreading the message of the Christian Shelter's mission*. Sharing success stories, testimonials, and updates on social media platforms can raise awareness and encourage others to become involved. When we leverage our networks, we amplify the call for support and inspire even more people and organizations to get involved!

As always, we thank all of our donors and the community for helping us to become the best Christian Shelter that God has created, because it was planned, built and provided by God through His people! Call us on 410-749-5673 to inquire how **you** can become a soldier in our campaign to help the homeless. Amen.



Bryan Murfree  
Chairman of the Board



J. Anthony Dickerson  
Executive Director

#### Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:

334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD 21804  
Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)





## CHILDREN FACING HOMELESSNESS

**H**omelessness is a complex problem that affects people from all walks of life, including children. The heartbreaking reality is that countless children around the world suffer the harshness of having no home. If we delve into this issue, we should draw guidance and inspiration from the Bible, which can shed light on how we might offer hope, compassion, and practical assistance to these vulnerable youngsters.

The Bible teaches us that every individual – regardless of their circumstances – is created in the image of God, deserving of dignity and respect. As believers, it's our responsibility to uphold *everyone's* worth and value, treating them with compassion and empathy, just as Jesus exemplified.

Throughout the Scriptures, one finds numerous references to caring for the vulnerable and marginalized members of society. This includes children who find themselves homeless. Jesus explicitly stated, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* **Matthew 25:40** His words were a call to action, urging us to provide practical assistance, support, and love to those in need. The Bible encourages generosity and giving to those who lack life's necessities. When we extend a helping hand to these children, we demonstrate the love of Christ in action. We can donate our time, resources, and talents to the organizations and shelters that respond to the needs of homeless children.

The Bible also compels us to advocate for justice and righteousness. As we address the issue of homeless children, let's support policies, engage in conversations, and seek solutions that address the root causes of the problem. By partnering with local churches and community leaders, we can raise awareness and lift the work that might bring lasting change.

Children facing homelessness are the most vulnerable individuals at the Christian Shelter. By adopting a biblical

perspective, we can cultivate compassion and take intentional steps to alleviate their suffering. Let us commit ourselves to the cause of these children, recognizing their inherent worth and the responsibility we have as followers of Christ, to be their voice and offer hope. Please consider making a donation today to help us support the children at the Christian Shelter. Thank you!



*J. Anthony Dickerson, Executive Director*

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE? NO! "MISSION TRACKER" TAKES OFF

**C**hange is happening at The Christian Shelter! During the summer, we told you about a new homeless shelter and volunteer management software named, "Mission Tracker." Today, we're proud to inform you that our staff and the program planning committee have implemented this new software program!

The process of intake assessments – which enables us to know and track our homeless guests – was very cumbersome and inefficient. Now, case notes for a guest can be entered and seen by staff members who are authorized to see them, making our work more efficient and collaborative. The Shelter's board approved the purchase of our new software during last summer. In the months ahead, another software module named, "Volunteer Tracker" will also be launched. This will let us manage in-house projects and improve the way we work with volunteers.

Our journey from a paper system to an electronic system taught us many lessons. We learned that this project was not about simply

launching a new software, but a journey towards being more effective and transparent in ministering to our guests. Guest information will be utilized to link them to resources, and to improve their independence and stability. We will benefit from having improved insights about where a specific guest is succeeding or struggling, and when to intervene. Leadership will be able to evaluate the individual impact being made, and identify any gaps in services that demand staff action/intervention.

Thank you for your prayers that God's continued wisdom, grace, and love guides our team in doing His work. Thank you for your continued prayers, and thanks to those who hear and answer the call to share their gifts by volunteering at The Christian Shelter.



God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

# A Christmas Concert and Veterans Day Tribute

Saturday, November 11th  
3:00 p.m.

Featuring  
**The National  
Christian Choir**  
and The Orchestra  
of the Eastern Shore

**Emmanuel Church Auditorium**  
217 Beaglin Park Drive, Salisbury, MD

**TICKETS: \$20**

Tickets available at all branches of First Shore Federal Savings & Loan  
and at The Country House (E. Main Street, Salisbury)

For more information &  
ticket order form, please visit:  
[www.magifund.com](http://www.magifund.com)  
or call Bonnie Luna at 410-749-1633

The Magi Fund  
To Benefit  
the Christian Shelter  
& Joseph House Center

ONE NATION  
UNDER GOD  
INDIVISIBLE  
WITH  
LIBERTY AND  
JUSTICE FOR  
ALL

## CHILD MENTORING PROGRAM



In our main office, you will find an occupancy board listing rooms as dormitory or family, with the number of men, women, and children residing in each. On a recent visit, the board reports that we served 21 children, 23 women, and 16 men during the previous night. God provided a warm place to sleep, nutritious meals, and a safe place to stay for these fortunate 60. In previous newsletters, we have written about the growing number of homeless children who come from chaotic situations created by the loss of their homes. Parents are challenged to find employment that provides income that will put a roof over their heads and food for their family. As we serve at the shelter, we see the negative effects on children created by unstable living situations. When a family loses their home, it is a loss that effects everyone. A home embodies an intangible feeling of familiarity and security that goes beyond four walls.

To add stability to these young lives, the Christian Shelter developed a "child mentoring program," and we are fortunate to have Casey Flanagan and two additional youth mentors who are very caring and responsible. When children arrive at the shelter, they are usually distant and not talkative. At the beginning of each session, a child will be asked "how was school today?" Games, crafts, and activities for each age group keep their minds active. Gradually the children begin talking more, smiles begin to appear, hugs are given to the mentors, and a noticeable change in behavior becomes evident as children begin experiencing the stability found at the Christian Shelter. Casey Flanagan easily connects with children, and her warm and welcoming personality draws children to her. Relationships with the youth are a direct result of the mentoring



Casey Flanagan, Stacey Townsend and Akela Moales mentors

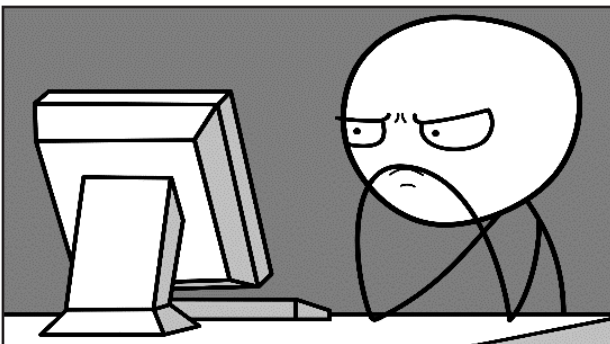
sessions and are most meaningful to Casey and others who work in this program. The team of Casey Flanagan, Stacey Townsend, and Akela Moales work well together, sharing their ideas and bringing their skills and life experiences to the program.

Casey says, "It's so powerful and quite humbling when you realize the impact you're having on their lives". The "child mentoring program" is making a difference in the lives of children staying at Christian Shelter.



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

NON PROFIT ORG.  
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Salisbury, MD  
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**A**s we continue to try and improve our communications to our donors and community supporters, we want to do so in a way that can help defray costs of costly printing and mailing. One way to do this is by being able to send out our quarterly newsletters and annual report electronically. If you can provide an email address, we can switch you to receiving communications electronically. This saves us time and money with costly printing and mailing costs. Please provide your email address to [GLEbois0271@gmail.com](mailto:GLEbois0271@gmail.com) to be added to our electronic mailing list.

Also, stay in tune to all that is happening at the Christian Shelter by visiting our web site at [www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org) as well as liking us on Facebook.

Thank you for your continued support.

## CURRENT NEEDS

Breakfast Meats  
Canned Chicken  
Cleaners  
Coffee, Sugar, Creamer  
Cold Medicines  
Cough Drops  
Disinfectant  
Laundry Detergent  
Lunch Meat  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Sanitizer  
Tuna Fish  
Twin Size Sheet Sets

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

**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)**