



# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024



### A SUCCESS STORY TO BRIGHTEN THE NEW YEAR

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At this time of the year, many pause to think about the past year and the future. Here at the Christian Shelter, I often pause to think about some of our guests, and in particular, the guests who reformed their lives and became productive members of the community. A former guest named Janine Watson came to mind as an example of the Shelter's impact on people's lives. Her story is inspiring.

For Janine, drug abuse led her to homelessness. During a recent interview for this story, Janine recalled, "Nobody plans on being homeless, but when you have no permanency in your life, it becomes extremely easy to travel down a road of bad decisions. Like most who are taking drugs, it becomes the only thing that matters to you. You don't pay your bills and then you begin living a life of doing things you know you're not supposed to do." Her period of drug abuse was accompanied by broken promises to herself and others. She began to doubt her ability to break the drug cycle and live a better life. After much time passed during her trials, she one day admitted, "I just can't do this no more. I'm sick and tired of the life I'm living. I've got to decide and change my ways."

When a single mother and a child are homeless, the odds are stacked against them if they struggle with drug abuse. Conceding her life was in shambles, Janine called the Shelter during 2019 and asked if she could be taken in to make changes to her life. We welcomed

her as a guest. After arriving, she faithfully attended the in-house devotions, and was always willing to assist where needed. She participated in counseling services offered here. Over time, Janine was spiritually revived and made progress with many life skills. The life lessons learned during her time at the Shelter improved her self-esteem and gave her the confidence to make decisions that helped her overcome the problems of her past.

Eventually, we urged her to apply for an opening at the Village of Hope, a valuable organization also located in Salisbury. After waiting for weeks, Janine learned that she was accepted into their program! We believe that God made this accomplishment possible, brightening her future prospects. Today she recalls, "I can't explain it, but I felt like this was the place I needed to be."

As I reflected on Janine's challenges, I began thinking about the parable of the shepherd in the New Testament. The story found in Luke 15:4-6 illustrates our Savior's love and care for all people. The Evil One tempts us with many enticing things, but in the end, those promises leave us empty. As in the parable, the Lord still seeks those who have been lured away by the Evil One, trapped by his devices. I'm happy to say that the Lord went out and retrieved Janine.

During the past two years, with the Christian Shelter and the Village of Hope working in Janine's life, she has been fully employed in the baking department at Krispy Kreme, and more recently has been promoted to a Shift Manager! She attends church regularly and is living in an apartment with family members. She attends a good church, with people who lift her up, never thinking about the mistakes of her past. God has given her a stronger faith, and she is making good decisions for herself and family. It's amazing what God can do in our lives!

"I thank God for a life that was changed at Christian Shelter, and for all the people who share a word of encouragement and uplift the hearts and minds of the many homeless in our community," Janine summarized. "Homelessness is something that can touch every one of us, and it is only by God's grace that I no longer worry about my next meal and where I would sleep at night. Thank you, Lord."

Amen.



Janine Watson & Sister Mary Williams

#### 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)

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



## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

As we bid farewell to the challenges and triumphs of the year past, we stand at the threshold of a brand-new year filled with hope, faith and endless possibilities. The new year is a fitting reminder of God's faithfulness, and an opportunity to reflect upon His unfailing love and providence.

At the Christian Shelter, we have been blessed to witness countless lives transformed through the power of Christ's love and compassion. We have seen broken hearts mended, shattered dreams restored, and individuals finding their purpose and worth. We truly believe that when people find solace in God's embrace, they discover the strength to rise above their circumstances and become beacons of hope for others.

Take encouragement from the words of Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* In the midst of uncertainties and trials, may this verse anchor your souls, assuring you that God is in control. He is orchestrating a beautiful symphony out of chaos and hardship, and we have the privilege of being a part of His divine plan. Let this new year be an opportunity to extend our hands further, to reach out to those in need, and to share the love of Christ with even greater zeal. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling, providing them a safe haven where they can find solace, support, and faith.

Let's not forget to count our blessings and be grateful for all that God has done. Let us cherish the relationships we have formed, the joys we have experienced, and the lessons we have learned. We are all part of this beautiful tapestry called life, woven together by God's grace and love.

In closing, we extend our deepest appreciation to each one of you who has journeyed alongside us within the mission of the Christian Shelter. Your prayers, generosity, and unwavering support have made a profound impact, enabling us to bring

healing, hope and restoration to those who have experienced brokenness. May God bless you abundantly, and may He continue to guide and strengthen us as we faithfully serve those entrusted to our care.



J. Anthony Dickerson, Executive Director



## SISTER KELSHIA HINMON



Sister Kelshia Hinmon

Sis. Kelshia Hinmon came by the shelter a little over a year ago to inquire about becoming a devotion leader and having an outreach service for the community in our parking lot. While here, Bro. Anthony asked if she would be interested in working overnight. Sis. Kelshia said she would be interested but needed to pray about it. "As a child growing up, I always had a desire to help people. My dream was to have a community center that would assist people in every area of life. I had my own personal struggles along the way, but even during those times helping others helped me, and those moments shaped my heart to want to help others." What better way to serve God's people, ministering to people from all walks of life than a homeless shelter. To show the miracle working power of God on someone's life who has had struggled as well is such a blessing. Sister Kelshia reminds us of what it says in Luke 22:32. Jesus said, *"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brother."* Helping others and leading them to the Father himself is the ultimate plan. My motto is to always lead by example in every area of my life.





## SALISBURY MENNONITE CHURCH GIFTS OUR GUESTS

It's been said that it takes many hands to do God's work. Joining those from the Christian Shelter are those from the Salisbury Mennonite Church. A group of thoughtful ladies there provided our guests with homemade quilts last winter. This winter, they assembled and delivered 14 "Baby Bundles" for our guests. Each bundle contains useful infant items including blankets, sleepers, socks, diapers, and toiletry products.

These local Mennonite ladies have blessed a handful of moms in the Shelter with a "bundle" already, and we are certain that more little ones will become our guests as the winter weather sets in. Their time, talents, crafts, and creativity are a continued blessing to the Christian Shelter and to the needy in our community.



*Baby bundles for the mothers*



*The Mennonite ladies putting together baby bundles*



## CHRISTMAS DINNER CELEBRATION



*Santa & Mrs. Claus*



*Christmas party table setting*



*Ugly sweater winner David Downes*

On December 19th, the staff and a few volunteers hosted a Christmas dinner for staff and board members along with a few of our special guests that have been so helpful this year while living at the shelter. The delicious dinner was catered by Alpha & Jeremy Williams along with their helper Marsheila. Ms. Ellene Smith provided some fun and games for the attendees including a rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" sung by participants that Ellene picked out of the crowd. Each person had to sing their assigned

number throughout the entire song. It was hilarious and the singing left a lot to be desired. Ellene also included an ugly sweater contest that was won by popular vote by none other than our own David Downes. All attendees can agree that David won the contest on the merits of his talented stage presence as can be seen in the picture above, but the real winners were Sister Rita Plaskon and her husband Roger for their really ugly sweaters! All in all, it was a very festive and good time for everyone that attended.

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

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Salisbury, MD  
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## DAILY NEEDS TOP 12 ITEMS NEEDED

1. Breakfast meats (bacon, scrapple, ham, turkey, hot dogs).  
Breakfast cereals in large box sizes.
2. Toilet Paper & Paper Towels.
3. Cold, Flu, Sore throat, Heartburn, and Headache remedies.
4. Bottled Waters (small & large sizes).
5. Small juices for kids' lunches, sliced or unsliced lunch meats.
6. BLEACH, Laundry Detergents, Dryer Sheets and Fabric Softeners.
7. Sliced Cheeses, Grated cheeses (for spaghetti meals).
8. Lysol Disinfecting Sprays/Wipes.
9. Non-Styrofoam, Paper Plates, Cups.
10. Baby care items: Wipes, Pampers, Skin care items.
11. Heavy cord (to tie up bundles of waste cardboard for recycling).
12. Cheese, Sliced Sandwich Meats.

## CURRENT NEEDS AS OF: JANUARY 2024

Dish Washing Detergents  
Baby Wipes  
Pampers: Sizes 3 and Up  
Mop and Glow  
Floor Brooms  
Disposable Towel Wipes  
Men's and Women's Deodorants

Bath Towels & Wash Cloths  
Fresh/Frozen Vegetables  
Weed Killer Concentrate  
Toilet Bowl Brush Sets  
Canned Vegetables and Tuna Fish  
Small Hand Sanitizers  
Sandwich Bags

Dust Pan/Brush Sets  
Household, Spray, Cleaning Supplies  
Ground Beef  
Cereals  
Butter Or Margarine, Pancake Syrup  
Pot Scrubbing, Steel Pads  
Sugar (White Or Brown)

**We cannot use *Styrofoam products, dented or out-of-date canned food products* of any kind. We are inspected by State and Local Health Authorities for compliance to Food Service Regulations. Thank you for your interest in helping our homeless shelter provide for its guests. It is a large undertaking, but our God, whom we serve, is greater!**