



CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2025



AGAINST ALL ODDS

We often wonder what happens to our guests after they leave the Christian Shelter. Usually, we send them off with prayers for God's direction and protection, and a few items from our clothing ministry. When families with children have found suitable housing, we also provide several bags of groceries to assist with their transition to their new home. The Shelter's daily guidelines and procedures provided much-needed structure to their lives. Now they leave and have the freedom to make their own decisions. What decisions will they make? Will they make good choices? Did they spend their time wisely during their stay? Or will they return to the bad choices that caused their homeless journey?

Teacher Academy of Maryland Program, which prepares students to advance their education and pursue a career in elementary or secondary education. He will attend college in the fall.

Keonte has an amazing level of maturity for such a young person. He and his family have overcome equally impressive challenges during their time of being homeless. I asked, "When you look back on those days, what are you most proud of?" He replied, "I am proud of being a hard worker. I get up every day and have a positive outlook and I just keep going." He looks for the best qualities within himself and others; qualities that are ideal for a career in teaching.

Keonte Tynes lived in Baltimore's inner-city and was just starting high school. Shootings at his school – and other criminal activities in the neighborhood – were the norm. For his own well-being, his daily routine included attending classes at school and then returning home immediately after dismissal. Stressed by the lifestyle, his mother wanted better for the family, so they moved out.

Keonte stated that his faith was almost non-existent during those early years in Baltimore, and that his time at the Shelter changed him personally and spiritually. Most of the time, when people go through hard times in life, they stay focused on their own emotions. He encourages others "to avoid looking at everything in life as a struggle. You will have struggles but make yourself stronger and better as a result of them."

When we talked with him recently, Keonte shared that he is a graduating senior with good grades at Stephen Decatur High School, and he's held a weekly 20- to 25-hour part-time job. Now he returns to the Shelter every evening to prepare for the next day's class assignments. He is considering a career as a teacher and has successfully completed the

He continued, "Those first days at the Shelter were difficult for me and I was sad, but after getting through them I made several crucial decisions. I started using my time as a steppingstone to make good decisions and find solutions for the challenges I faced. I decided that with God's help and guidance from Shelter staff, I would not allow my present circumstances to defeat me."



Keonte Tynes

God caused many things to happen for Keonte. We thank Him for the protection of his family while living in Baltimore, the blessing of having a wonderful mother who loved and worked hard to provide for them, and the encouragement from his high school teachers. He always has a wonderful outlook on life. It has been wonderful to witness God's work in Keonte's life – a life that has been an encouragement to everyone who serves at the Christian Shelter. We believe that with God's grace and good mentoring, Keonte's future will always be bright.

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REFLECTING ON HOPE: A NEW YEAR AT THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER



The recent holiday season has passed, and the new year offers a time for reflection and renewal at the Christian Shelter. As we consider the joys and challenges of the past year, we are reminded of the ongoing importance of our mission: to provide shelter and support to those experiencing homelessness.

The Christmas season – with its message of hope and compassion – has always held a special significance for us. It's a time when we come together as a community to spread love and kindness to those who are most needy. The warmth and generosity of the season provides a period of respite for our guests, but we are acutely aware that our work must continue long after the decorations have been put away and the last carol sung.

As we move forward into the new year, we are reminded of the challenges that our guests face every day. Harsh winter weather can make life even more difficult for those living on the streets or in inadequate shelter. Winter is a time when the need for our services is even greater, but our commitment to serving our community is unwavering.

We enter 2025 with a spirit of hopefulness. Hope is at the core of our mission at the Christian Shelter, and it is what drives us to continue our work each day. We believe that every individual has inherent worth and dignity, and we are dedicated to helping our guests realize their full potential and move towards a brighter future.

As we look ahead to the new year, we invite our community to join us in our mission. Whether through volunteering, donating or simply spreading the word about our work, every act of kindness makes a difference. Together, we can create a more compassionate and inclusive society where no one is left behind. May this new year bring renewed hope, strength, and blessings to all, as we continue our journey towards a world where homelessness is just a memory of the past.



J. Anthony Dickerson, Executive Director

GIVING ENVELOPES NO LONGER MAILED WITH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS

No one needs to be reminded how inflation has driven up the cost of everything. It has affected everyone, and the Christian Shelter is no exception. In response, we've been looking hard for ways to reduce costs and preserve funding for our core mission: serving the homeless in our community.

Two of the expenses that we felt we could reduce were printing and postage. As many of you have been aware, we have been asking our donors who have an email address to provide it to us so we can send our quarterly newsletters and annual report electronically by email. This reduces our

printing and postage costs. If you have not yet provided your email address, please do so with an email sent to glebois0271@gmail.com

Another step we've taken is to discontinue the practice of including a mailing envelope within each newsletter mailed. By doing this, our printing and mailing costs have been reduced significantly. We pray that this change will not discourage your continuing support. We rely on your generosity and hope you understand the need for this change. With God's blessings to you, we thank you in this new year.



PLEASE HELP US REDUCE COSTS
Register your email address at glebois0271@gmail.com



CHRISTIAN SHELTER HOSTS END-OF-SUMMER PICNIC FOR EMPLOYEES, BOARD MEMBERS, AND GUESTS



The Christian Shelter held an end-of-summer picnic, bringing together employees, board members, and guests for a day of fellowship, fun, and gratitude. This special event was a wonderful opportunity to recognize our dedicated employees for their years of service and to celebrate the meaningful connections that sustain our ministry.

Amid delicious food and smiling conversations, board members had the chance to engage directly with staff and guests, strengthening the bond that unites everyone involved with the Shelter. For our guests, the picnic provided a moment of joy and togetherness, creating cherished memories even during challenging times.

This gathering was a reminder of the importance of community and the role we all play in supporting one another. The Christian Shelter is grateful to everyone who made this day possible and looks forward to many more opportunities to celebrate and connect.



Picnic Spread



Sister Mary Celebrates 22 Years of Service



Brother Jeff & Guest

ROTARY CLUB OF SALISBURY'S SEA GULL CENTURY BIKE RIDE



On Saturday September 28, 2024, the Rotary Club of Salisbury's bike team pedaled through the "Sea Gull Century Metric" bike ride. As in years past, the team's purpose was to raise awareness and funding for the Christian Shelter. This year, the team successfully completed the ride and raised more than \$12,000! The funding came from generous donations collected from all three Salisbury Rotary clubs including the Rotary Club of Salisbury, the Wicomico Rotary Club, and the Sunrise Rotary Club. The five-rider team included cyclists David Downes, Dr. Elizabeth Burke, Dan Williams, Maureen Williams and Gus Lebois.

This ride has raised more than \$70,000 during the past ten years! The money has provided much-needed operating funding during difficult end-of-year periods. Typically, donations to the Shelter flow in sporadically throughout the year, as charitable giving tends to decline during the summer and early fall. This has created some tough financial situations in the past. Also, as fall approaches and schools open, the Shelter often sees an uptick in guests needing a place to stay. As a result, this bike ride event has been a blessing by providing critical financial support when it's needed most.



Left to Right: Gus Lebois, Dave Downes, Dr. Liz Burke, Dan Williams & Maureen Williams.

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THE DELMARVA CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

The Delmarva Conservative Movement (DCM) recently donated \$1,000 to Salisbury's Christian Shelter. DCM is a local conservative group which supports traditional values and local charitable organizations. Because their donation was made through "The Shore Gives More" campaign on Giving Tuesday, the contribution was augmented by a \$500 match from the Richard A. Henson Foundation. Receiving the check is the Shelter's Executive Director, Anthony Dickerson (right). Presenting the check is Jane Reagan (left), DCM president. Also present were Keisha and David James, DCM members and Christian Shelter volunteers.

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.

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

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