



# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025



### RESPONDING TO A NEW SET OF PRIORITIES

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*Kids' trip to see the Harlem Globetrotters at the Civic Center*

An ancient Greek philosopher (Heraclitus) is known for the saying, "The only constant in life is change." Fast forwarding to today, the Christian Shelter has responded to a change that became very clear during the past five years. We noticed that the typical guest profile was shifting from adults to children. Forty-five years ago, when the Shelter first opened its doors to the community, it served as a homeless shelter for mostly single, adult men and a few women. As time passed, our internal intake data showed that the demographics were shifting towards families and single parent households having young children. This trend continues today, as roughly 40 percent of our guests are children – many of whom are less than ten years old.

This transition has created a new set of priorities, as we consider improvements to respond to the influx of children. The new reality requires us to keep these children safe, well-fed, suitably clothed, properly schooled in our public school system, and attended after the school day is done. Caring

for them, while helping the mothers and in some cases the fathers, is a monumental task.

We feel hopeful by announcing that the Christian Shelter has launched a new Youth Mentoring program to work with the children on weekdays. Our approved mentors arrive here on several afternoons and evenings to help the children with after-school activities. Doing homework, playing games, conducting art projects, teaching them about responsibility and kindness are all on the list of options. We also provide musical and mental health therapy sessions. Thanks to funding from some special grants, we can also offer the opportunity to take the children on some field trips or interesting events.

Early last month, 19 resident children and their youth mentors enjoyed a fun evening watching the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters basketball team at the Wicomico County Youth

& Civic Center. The children were able to enjoy a "magic pass experience" as well as an amazing basketball game! They met several players, shot some hoops and got autographs from some of the talented players. It was a wonderful experience for the kids. For some of them, it was their first experience watching the Harlem Globetrotters or participating in a field trip of any kind. The children's laughter and smiles made the trip so memorable.

After the performance, the youth expressed how exciting and "cool" it was to attend such an event while staying at the Christian Shelter. Some of the kids mentioned it was awesome to have a night of fun and to be away. The experience was a fantastic opportunity for our youth to just be kids and for at least one night, not worry about their daily life. The youth and their mentors send thanks to the donors who support these trips with their financial assistance. Your donations help us respond to change as it happens. Thank you!

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

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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



In the book of **Matthew 26:11**, Jesus made a profound statement: *"The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me."* This statement has been a source of discussion and reflection for centuries, leading to debates about its true meaning and significance.

At first glance, these prophetic words seem to imply a sense of resignation to the existence of poverty and suffering in the world. However, deeper reflection about this Scripture reveals a message of compassion, empathy and responsibility towards those who are less fortunate among us. The presence of poverty in the world serves as a constant reminder of our duty to care for the marginalized and the vulnerable in our society. The message calls us to act with kindness, generosity and love towards those in need, following the example of Jesus who reached out to the poor, the sick, and the outcasts.

Christ's statement challenges all of us to examine the root causes of poverty and injustice in our world. It calls for systemic change and social transformation to address the disparities that perpetuate inequality and oppression. As followers of Christ, we are called to be agents of change, working towards a more just and equitable society where all individuals are valued and respected.

His words remind us of the enduring presence of poverty in our world and urge us to respond with compassion and action. Here at the Christian Shelter, we are guided by this message and apply it to our work in supporting those we serve. We strive to do this every day – as we have for the past 45 years. Let us all work together to create a world where poverty is alleviated, justice is upheld, and love prevails.



*J. Anthony Dickerson, Executive Director*

## A SALUTE TO SHANIKA

This month we share our words of gratitude for an employee who truly makes a difference at the Christian Shelter. As her split titles imply, Shanika Manuel "wears two hats" in her roles as our Volunteer Coordinator and Program Administrator.

Since the end of the Covid pandemic, the Christian Shelter has made many facility refurbishments and operational enhancements. Through these changes, Shanika responded to the disruptions by being part of the solutions. She jumped into the process and worked hard to support improvements in the areas of guest services and daily operations. Today she manages the new computer software programs including Mission Tracker, Volunteer Tracker, Donor Perfect and Constant Contact. She also manages the Shelter's website ([christianshelter.org](http://christianshelter.org)) and our social media accounts.

She helps her fellow staff members enthusiastically with the technology and software. Her confident and even-tempered approach are a blessing to our guests, her co-workers and volunteers. She's been a "rock" through the changes! Co-worker Mary Williams says, "She's a good instructor, works hard, and is a blessing to me."

Shanika has good relationships with everyone, welcomes challenges, and makes herself available when work needs to be done. We ask a lot of her, but it means much to her to see a guest's life changed for the better. She says, "One of the things my journey at Christian Shelter is teaching me, is

that ministry does not fit neatly in a box. There are so many ways to minister and be effective in God's kingdom, and He has gifted each of us uniquely to do His work without exception."

Thank you, Shanika! From all of us.



*Sister Shanika*



## Founding History of the Prayer Breakfast

In the year 1934, a Norwegian immigrant by the name of Abraham Vereide, in the city of Seattle, became burdened in his heart for the leadership of that city and its people. His burden was the result of a "dwindling" church influence and a leadership by people not fit to lead. His desire was to bring the city together under God.

God spoke to this Methodist minister in a way he vividly recalled. "At 1:30 in the morning, light came and a voice spoke. I began to write down a plan of procedure." That plan was a simple one based on the scripture John 21: 1-13, which describes Jesus' breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee with His disciples.

This vision continued to grip his life from the first prayer breakfast group meeting with 19 men in April, 1935. Until his death at the age of 82 in 1969, he gave his all to that idea.

To this day, around the world on every continent, men and women are meeting at the breakfast hour to break bread and share their faith in Jesus Christ. This movement encompasses government, business, education, the professions and all citizenry with the desire to deepen the spiritual life and moral fiber of the people through a leadership led by God.

You are cordially invited  
to the 13th Annual  
"National Day of Prayer" Breakfast  
with Guest Speaker



Jedd Medefind

National Leader on Faith and Family Issues  
"Leader, Husband, Father, Friend & Follower of Jesus"

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:00am (Doors Open 6:15)  
Wicomico Youth & Civic Center  
Normandy Arena

R.S.V.P. by April 24, 2025

## MARYLAND HOUSE BILL 93: DEFEATED!

**W**e needed your immediate participation in responding to proposed legislation in the Maryland General Assembly. House Bill 93 (H.B. 93) would have created a new state-run system of governing homeless shelters throughout Maryland. The Bill would burden shelters with onerous reporting and compliance requirements. It would also require faith-based shelters to admit anyone who seeks our services, without regard to our Christian principles. In our opinion, H.B. 93 represented a grave threat to our ability to meet the financial costs associated with state-defined compliance. We also believe that the Bill would have illegally threatened our right to apply biblical beliefs to the Shelter's operation and decision-making.

H.B. 93 did not get to the floor for a vote in the House of Delegates this summer. We thank all that joined in opposition to this Bill. There was enough opposition to this bill sent to the local Maryland House Delegates as well as the State senators that it never made it to the floor for a vote. We are optimistic that it will not get reintroduced again next year and that it is dead. We will

be keeping a close watch on this in case it does get resurrected in next year's legislative session. If it does, we will be asking once again that our supporters get involved in contacting the local politicians to ask for their help again to defeat the bill or to at least to include a religious exemption that would allow a faith-based shelter to operate in a manner that is consistent with its religious beliefs.

Once again, we are truly grateful that this bill did not advance in the house and at least for another year we can breathe a sigh of relief. GOD answered our prayers and is keeping watch over our wonderful Christian Shelter allowing us to continue to minister to needs of the homeless in our community. The Bible tells us *"He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; He will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and He will rescue them."* **Psalm 72:12-13**

Thank you for taking the time to oppose this overreaching legislation!



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CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
334 BARCLAY STREET  
SALISBURY MD 21804

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Salisbury, MD  
Permit No. 94



**T**he Great Gourmet Foodservice Business in Federalsburg, DE recently donated some much-needed food items including fresh cauliflower, veggie burgers and bagel rolls loaded with various types of protein for our guests to enjoy. Thank you, Great Gourmet, for the wonderful gift. Visit their web site for more information about them. [www.thegreatgourmet.com](http://www.thegreatgourmet.com)

## **DAILY NEEDS TOP 12 ITEMS NEEDED**

1. Breakfast meats (*bacon, scrapple, ham, turkey, hot dogs*).
  2. Breakfast cereals in large box sizes.
  3. Toilet Paper & Paper Towels.
  4. Cold, Flu, Sore throat, Heartburn, and Headache remedies.
  5. Bottled Waters (*small & large sizes*).
  6. Small juices for kids' lunches, sliced or unsliced lunch meats.
  7. Bleach, Laundry Detergents, Dryer Sheets and Fabric Softeners.
  8. Sliced Cheeses, Grated cheeses (*for spaghetti meals*).
  9. Lysol Disinfecting Sprays/Wipes.
  10. Non-Styrofoam, Paper Plates, Cups.
  11. Baby care items: Wipes, Pampers, Skin care items.
  12. 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](http://www.christianshelter.org)**