

**December 5, 2019**

**Greetings Partners in Ministry,**

As the Holiday season approaches, my thoughts turn gratefully toward those hosting sites and volunteers that make our Winter Relief Shelter so successful. Please know how much we appreciate all that the community does for our less fortunate friends.

**Site Coordinator Meeting: Tuesday December 10th at 7:00pm at AHOH -**

December's meeting will be an information session with guest speaker Justin Bieler from the Department of Social Services. He will be presenting information on the two housing projects in the county for which he manages the waitlist - Permanent Supportive Housing and Permanent Housing and will discuss criteria for receiving vouchers, how rent is calculated, inspection requirements, case management support, etc.

The **Longest Night Memorial Service** will be held on December 21st at 4:30pm at Whitmore Park in Annapolis.



**The Mod Squad:**

So far this season we haven't sent out an SOS to the Mod Squad, but we appreciate those that have volunteered to be part of the group. If you haven't signed up, we would love to add you to our list - here is what we are all about... a program birthed from an AHOH Board member:

*The Arundel House of Hope has a new program that will provide volunteers who can backstop teams when the need arises. These are experienced Winter Relief volunteers we can reach out to, knowing that they will be ready, willing, and able to help us. The program is called "the Mod Squad." For years there have been individuals who were available on short notice, but it's now time to expand (and formalize) this small group of volunteers.*

*The Mod Squad can work for **our** team only if all Winter Relief sites ask their teams for volunteers who can be available to fill in at **the other sites**. And so, I'm asking you – can we put you on the list of volunteers who may be able to fill in at other Winter Relief sites on short notice? We need you!*

*Please sign up by emailing Pam Biddlecomb at [pbiddlecomb@arundelhoh.org](mailto:pbiddlecomb@arundelhoh.org). Let Pam know your name, affiliation, and how to get in touch with you, by phone, text, and/or email. Please also tell her which tasks you have helped out with – meal prep, transportation, etc. And put MOD SQUAD in the subject line.*

*I know that having the Mod Squad up and running will bring a great sense of relief to all of us, knowing that "they have our back."*

### **William "Ronnie" Smoot:**

It is with sadness that I bring news of the passing of Ronnie, a long time friend of AHOH who participated in Winter Relief for many years. There will be a memorial service to honor his life on Thursday December 12th at 9:00am at the Emmaus Center located on Crain Highway in Glen Burnie.

### **Showers:**

We are hopeful to have access to the public schools for showers shortly. I will keep you updated as I receive additional information. Meanwhile if the temperatures remain above freezing our shower trailer will remain operational.

Many thanks and best wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled season!

In His service,

~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb  
Director, Day Center & Winter Relief Program  
Arundel House of Hope