

Greetings Partners in Ministry,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! It has sure been a difficult journey through the last 9 months, but I remind myself every day that in the midst of this pandemic there is much to be grateful for...

- An incredible staff that has worked around the clock since COVID broke out – supporting one another day after day...
- Winter Relief hosting sites who continue to contact us to see how they can help our less fortunate friends ...
- Good health – we have kept COVID at bay at the hotel! We are grateful that guests and staff remain healthy and safe at the hotel...

Alternate Shelter Update:

We will continue to run the Alternative Shelter at the Red Roof Inn in Annapolis until the end of March. This aligns with our normal Winter Relief season. The good news is that we aren't seeing as many of our friends out on the streets as we have in the past. The Department of Social Services Outreach Team is doing an amazing job of locating those out in the elements and assisting them with connecting to the resources available to them. Part of the screening process this season is to encourage those who are couch surfing to stay where they are, as well as prioritizing shelter to those who receive benefits within Anne Arundel County. This also assists in keeping the numbers down.

Here are some of our latest statistics:

- We currently have 67 guests at the hotel.
- We have served 290 guests since we began May 1st.
- Of those 290, 50 have obtained permanent housing.
- 52% of our guests have been between the age of 25 and 54.

Moving Forward:

- I would like to introduce Shova Shrestha Moktan as our new Program Manager at the hotel. In better times, I know you would enjoy meeting her! She is smart, full of energy and has a huge heart... all of these make her well equipped to handle the day-to-day operations at the hotel. I am not going anywhere – just redirecting my focus back to assisting clients, thinking ahead to next season's Winter Relief Program, and catching up on everything I have pushed to the side since March.
- Starting January 1st, we would like to extend an invitation to our Winter Relief hosting sites to provide 55 bagged lunches each day. We will continue to cater dinners through the Light House Shelter Bistro. With over 70 hosting sites and many additional places of worship assisting with various aspects of Winter Relief, we are hopeful that we can cover lunches every day through the end of March.

We have a SignUp Genius page set up specifically for lunch donations. A typical bagged lunch would contain a sandwich, chips, fruit drink (or water), and a sweet snack (cookies). All lunches should be dropped off by 11:00am on your donation day – we do not have refrigerator capability to have drop offs ahead of time. For the trial run, we are going to see how it goes for the month of January. The link to sign up is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0448AFA72CA02-alternate>

May the gifts of hope, love, peace and joy be yours this holiday season. Be safe and stay well!

In His service,
~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb
Director, Day Center & Emergency Shelter Program
Arundel House of Hope