PACEM
Community Homeless Shelters

Winter 2017

Almost every night of the season, our volunteers feed the PACEM guests home cooked meals. The personal approach to cooking is one way of making our guests feel welcome. Occasionally, area businesses pitch in, too, giving our volunteers a well-earned break (remember how happy your mom was when dad took everyone out for pizza?). Chick-fil-A has been a consistent contributor the last few seasons with donations of their delicious chicken sandwiches. Other restaurants like Miller's and Moe's BBQ have also donated meals in recent years.

Now we are excited to have a regular partner in Whole Foods. Halfway through last season, the grocery chain approached us about feeding our guests pizza once a week. This season, they have continued to do so, offering a scrumptious treat for our guests and whoever else (volunteers or staff) is lucky enough to grab a slice.

Once a week, one of our sites picks the pizzas up from the Charlottesville location and delivers them back to the shelter where they are warmed up and served for dinner. Please thank Whole Foods for their graciousness with our guests.

Hosting Congregations to whom we are deeply grateful:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
All Souls Charlottesville
Beautiful Gate Church
Belmont Baptist Church
Broadus Memorial Baptist Church
City Church
Charlottesville Friends Meeting
Chestnut Grove Baptist Church
Church of the Incarnation
Church of Our Saviour Episcopal
Congregation Beth Israel
First Baptist Church, West Main
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Ivy Creek United Methodist Church
Laurel Hill Baptist Church
Maple Grove Christian Church
Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church
Olivet Presbyterian Church
Peace Lutheran Church
Portico Church
Sojourner's United Church
Spring Hill Baptist Church
St. Mark Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy
St. Paul's Memorial Church
TJMC Unitarian Universalist
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Spring Hill Baptist Church
University Baptist Church
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

PACEM

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Call 434-973-1234 x121 or address inquiries to:

PACEM
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Charlottesville, VA 22902

Email: ed@pacemshelter.org
Visit us at www.pacemshelter.org

All contributions to PACEM are tax deductible. Donations from the community are what make this program possible.

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Adriana Nicholson, Program Director
Liz Nyberg, Case Manager/Advocate

MISSION
To bring together the faith community of the greater Charlottesville area in providing temporary shelter, compassionate support and access to services to individuals who are homeless so they can move to a stable housing solution. This work can only be achieved by forging partnerships in the larger community.

Dear Friends,

Hello, and welcome to PACEM's 14th shelter season. For those of you who don't already know me, I am the newly hired Executive Director of PACEM. Ten years ago, while writing for a local paper, I spent the night at PACEM's men's shelter for a story. That evening, I witnessed the incredible atmosphere created inside one of our host congregations.

As I got to know the homeless guests, I realized these were people like you and me. They simply needed a little help.

Seeing PACEM in action inspired me to join the effort as a staff member. Season after season, I've seen firsthand the difference PACEM makes in the lives of our homeless guests.

All these years later, it is an honor to continue to play a role in PACEM's large family of more than 80 congregations and community groups, the more than 3,000 individual volunteers whose work interweaves with our own and of course you, our supporters whose financial contributions allow us to do the work of our ministry.

Thank you for all the important work you do. *We couldn't do it without you!*

A SEASON OF GIVING … AND JOY!

We have a lot to celebrate, and a lot to be grateful for!

For a full 13 years PACEM has provided a shelter of last resort for our neighbors experiencing a housing crisis. Everyone needing shelter has not only received shelter but food, safety and compassionate support. We offer assistance in application for affordable housing, for jobs, for health care, and for continuing education. Not everyone avails themselves of all opportunity, but what a proud history! A proud history that continues to this day. And that history would be unwritten were it not for <u>you</u> and your history of giving.

As the busy months of shelter begin, I am humbled by the work you—our stalwart friends, volunteers, staff and supporters—have accomplished so far and of course, all of the work yet to be done.

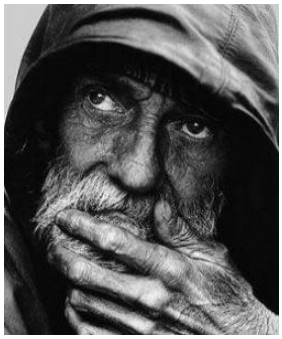
Here's to you! And to us! And to a community that has chosen to embrace its most vulnerable neighbors, for a short while at least, until they are able to do for themselves. It's what we'd want for any one of us. Your time and your dollars make this community a better place. Together, we can do this!

PACEM provides each of its guests with:

- Handicap accessible transportation both to and from our shelter sites.
- Nutritious, often homemade dinners prepared by volunteers.
- A warm and safe night's sleep.
- Showers and laundry service (at many locations).
- Morning coffee and continental breakfast.
- Access to case management support.
- Application for more permanent housing options and other mainstream social services.
- Access to multiple faith communities of support.

The cost is only $30/night thanks to the generous in kind donation of space, food and time given by congregations and volunteers. For every $1 in donation or grant income, PACEM's congregations provide approximately $3 in donated space meals and labor.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of the Charlottesville/Albemarle faith community.



A PACEM Success Story

Mr. Sands came to us early last season from out-of-state, after a visit with family in Virginia didn't go well. Struggling with alcohol abuse and mental illness, he had quickly run out of his medications and ended up in the hospital.

Although Mr. Sands had Medicaid, it doesn't transfer from one state to another which left him in a quandary. He could cancel his current coverage, and apply for Medicaid here, but the risk of not qualifying was too high. For a while, he managed his illness by going to UVA's Emergency Room while we regularly talked about whether he should go back to his home state.

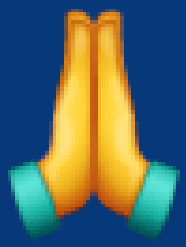
One February day, he came in and said he wanted to go home, after the ER refused to refill his medication. He was in tears, struggling to keep himself together. Not taking no for an answer, I went down and advocated directly to the head pharmacist who relented, given the importance of this medication to our friend's mental health.

Next, we turned to Mr. Sands' desire to go home. After I shared his story, the Haven agreed to purchase his ticket. We packed Mr. Sands some food, took him to the bus station, and saw him off that evening.

A month later, a social worker from his home town called. Mr. Sands was getting his own home! He is now stable medically and housed because we built a relationship, allowed him time in our shelter to create his own plan, and acted upon his desire to go "home."— *Adriana Nicholson*

Words of Gratitude

"During the winter months, you're in a really bad place if you're homeless. If it weren't for PACEM, a lot of people would probably be hospitalized for frostbite… some nights it's so cold. Several of their staff members have gone out of their way to support me, and it means a lot. The help you receive humbles you, because when you do get back to where you want to be, as far as a productive citizen and back into your own home, you really appreciate things much more because of the situation you were in. PACEM helps a lot of us get back to that place, and that's such a blessing."



Welcome Liz!

Meet PACEM's Guest Advocate!

Please help us welcome Liz Nyberg, PACEM's new case manager. Liz hails from Newport News, and attended the College of William & Mary for both her BA and MA. In 2010, she moved to Charlottesville to work in a small research office on the downtown mall, bringing her close to the guests of PACEM. She served as a front desk volunteer for the Haven for the last four years. These relationships with guests and staff led her to apply for a full-time position with PACEM. We are excited to have her on the team! In her spare time, Liz and her husband wrangle two pups with personality by giving them chores in the garden and the kitchen, or running them ragged on the Rivanna Trail.

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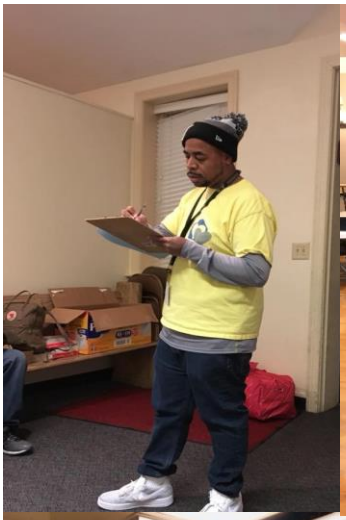
Thank You