



Christ
House

HEALING AND HOPE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

VOLUME XXXVII, NO. 2 | SPRING 2022

Day by Day

“Creating Space for Healing”



National Nurses Week:
May 6-12

Christ House prides itself on providing 24-hour clinical care for men experiencing homelessness with acute medical needs in DC. This care would not be possible without our dedicated nursing staff. Nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and nurse assistants work in tandem to support our patients' recovery process. Services provided by our nursing staff include support in activities of daily living, medication management, wound care, pre- and post-operative care, health promotion, facilitating referrals to specialists, performing tests, and providing immunizations. The compassionate hands-on care

that our nurses provide is critical to the healing environment of Christ House.

May 6-12 is Nurse Appreciation Week, and we couldn't think of a better time to highlight our incredible nursing staff.

Want to show your appreciation for our nurses?

You can make a gift to Christ House online or via check in honor of our nursing staff. If you have any questions, please email development@christhouse.org.

The following notes have been provided by Christ House's nursing staff and patients.

“I want to thank all you guys. You've made my recovery easy and speedy. You encourage me that I'm always doing better than I was the day before. Their attitude is infectious. I'm feeling like I can do it now because of the nurses.”

-Allen, Christ House patient

“I'd like to thank all of the nurses, and I appreciate everything they've done for me. I couldn't ask for better nurses.”

-Oscar, Christ House patient



The mission of Christ House is to provide comprehensive and compassionate care for people experiencing homelessness with acute medical needs in DC and to offer assistance in addressing the critical issues to help them break the cycle of homelessness.

“When I was trying to figure out what I wanted to ‘do when I grew up’ there was something that kept jumping out at me from my Bible. Over and over, I read that Jesus would teach and preach and heal. I figured that if those were the things that Jesus found important, then maybe they would be good ways for me to spend my time also. I’m not much of a teacher or preacher, but healing has always been a beautiful idea to me. As a nurse I get to see patients experiencing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual healing here at Christ House. Jesus performed instantaneous miracles of healing, but I believe that the slow and steady healing that takes place here is just as miraculous.”

–Melissa Jantzi, Nurse

“I’d like to thank all the nurses for the wonderful, compassionate job that they do in helping my healing. They make sure all of my medical needs are met. They encourage me to get better and support me mentally.”

–Michael, Christ House patient

“I like Mari Lowe. She’s sweet and kind and makes sure you get everything done with your doctors.”

–James, Christ House patient

“I love the nurses...they’re family. They’re very special. Everybody greets me wholly, every single day. Nobody criticizes me. They’re honest and straight with me.”

–Michael,
Christ House patient

“Nursing is an embodied profession. It requires one to use their eyes to assess patients, ears to listen closely, intuition and intellect to respond to needs before they become problems, hands to tend to patient care, and feet to be ready to jump in response to an emergency. I love working as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner at Christ House because the model of care celebrates this embodiment, creating space for healing even when not all ails can be cured.”

–Mari Lowe,
Nurse Practitioner

“I’d like to thank the nursing staff for all the love and respect they show us.”

–Antoine,
Christ House patient

15 Years of Welcoming Patients...

Join us in congratulating our wonderful receptionist, Yolanda, for 15 years at Christ House!

As the receptionist at Christ House, Yolanda is the first person a patient sees when entering our facilities. She provides a warm and welcoming presence, and never fails to treat everyone she meets with kindness and respect. Yolanda’s role is an essential part of our work at Christ House; every day she connects individuals in need of support with the correct resources and staff members.

When asked what she likes about Christ House, Yolanda shared, “I like Christ House because I get to meet all types of different people and listen to different stories. I enjoy listening to patient stories, and it’s a pleasure working here at Christ House.”

If you are blessed enough to see Yolanda in the coming weeks, please join us in congratulating her on 15 years at Christ House!



Reopening Our Doors

Christ House Will Reopen Our Clinic and Shower Program by June 2022

Since Christ House's founding, the first floor outpatient clinic and Shower Program have been part of our services, operating separately from our respite floor. Anyone in need of support – whether it be a medical or social need – could come to the clinic and be seen by a physician and case manager. Thanks to our partnership with Unity Health Care, this outpatient clinic served roughly 100 individuals each month on average.

Alongside the clinic, Christ House operated a Shower Program as a way to build trust with individuals and invite them into our facility. Through this program, individuals could take a shower while they were here for their clinic appointment. Christ House provided toiletry items and a fresh set of clothing for each individual. Our first Kairos Permanent Housing Member, Henry, ran the shower program since 1997.

In March of 2020, when COVID-19 hit the US, Christ House was

faced with a difficult decision and ultimately chose to close the outpatient clinic and Shower Program for the safety of our 2nd floor medical respite patients. Two years later, we are happy to share that we will be reopening the clinic and Shower Program in June of 2022. Keeping in mind the safety of our patients, Kairos Permanent Housing Members, and staff, individuals visiting the clinic will undergo a symptom check before entering our facility.

“We’re excited to reopen the clinic and provide this service to unhoused individuals in the community,” says Executive Director Mary Jordan. Christ House’s halls have been quiet the past two years, and we look forward to welcoming more individuals in need into our facility.

The clinic and Shower Program typically operate four days each week during the afternoons. More information will be made available on our website in the coming weeks.



National Poetry Month

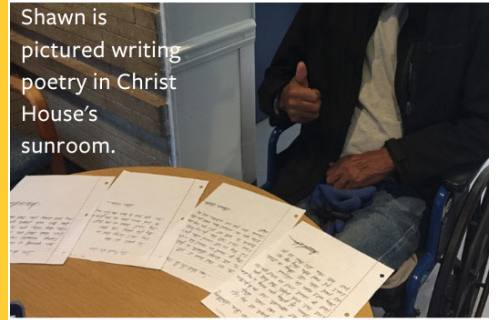
Patient Poetry Spotlight

Love is the Key to Success

*Love yourself if no one care
Always remember who has been there
Never think that you are alone
When they realize you are gone
Share love with people you don't know
They will always come back when they are low.*

by: Shawn

Shawn is pictured writing poetry in Christ House's sunroom.



Spring

*SPRING! SPRING! SPRING!
SPRING! SPRING!*

Captivating is what the birds do...

*They sing, sing, sing.
Thanking God.
They were blessed to sing for Him in another spring.*

by: Richard

Compassion in Action: Christ House's 2nd Annual 5k Fundraiser

Save the Date: August 20th, 2022

This summer, Christ House will host its second annual 5k fundraiser: Compassion in Action. This event will raise funds for our mission, allowing us to continue providing holistic care to our patients day after day. It will also provide an opportunity for our community to gather with both virtual and in-person options to celebrate and spread our mission.

Sponsor this event!

As a 5k sponsor, you'll be supporting our mission of providing comprehensive and compassionate health care to men experiencing homelessness in DC. Sponsors will receive positive media attention via Christ House's social media platforms, print and digital publications, and website. Interested in sponsoring? Learn more about sponsorship opportunities and benefits by scanning this QR code ----->

Questions? Email Development & Communications Manager, Kira Venturini at kira.venturini@christhouse.org



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