



## Christ House in Bloom



Patients and staff members enjoying the cherry blossoms.

*“I’ve been in DC for 24 years and I’ve never been to the cherry blossoms.”*



*“We went out, enjoyed ourselves, and had fun. If I could I would do it again!”*

Earlier this spring a few of our patients, along with two staff members, took a field trip downtown for a classic DC tradition — seeing the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. For many, despite living in DC for several years, it was their first time going to see the blossoms up close. One of the patients, Theo, remarked, “I’ve been in Washington, DC my whole life and I’ve never been down there!” They spent the afternoon walking around, taking pictures, and enjoying the blossoms which were in peak bloom.



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 critical issues to help break the cycle of homelessness.

Throughout the trip, the patients joked with each other, reminisced, and stopped to take in the beauty of the buds gracing the edge of the water. Devon, a Christ House patient, took photos during the entire trip, often coming up with his own angles and poses. Afterwards, he shared, “This was a nice treat with nice people. I enjoyed the whole trip.”



## Celebrating our volunteers

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month; a chance to honor the dedicated volunteers we have at Christ House. Our volunteers help to support our mission in a variety of ways, whether it's cooking and serving meals in our kitchen, leading patient activities such as art classes or chair yoga, or assisting at the nurses' station on our medical respite floor.

Heidi Mills, our Volunteer Manager, notes, “It has been a joy and a pleasure to get to know our wonderful volunteers and learn from their faithful presence in our community. I am consistently amazed at their generosity, consistency, and passion. Thank you to our volunteers for all that you do for our community!”

Throughout the month we've spotlighted our volunteers with weekly social media posts, as well as a blog highlighting their indispensable contributions to Christ House. We look forward to celebrating our volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Tea held on April 27 at the Festival Center. For more information and to register for the event, please visit the Christ House website under 'Events.'



*A volunteer group from St. Thomas Episcopal Church with our cook, Micah.*



*Volunteers from Grace Capital City, after helping with maintenance work at Kairos House.*

## A Journey Toward Healing: Mr. Ethan's Story

Mr. Ethan is a gentle soul whose journey to recovery embodies the spirit of resilience and perseverance. His path to Christ House began with a sudden heart attack that caused him to face the daunting challenge of navigating his new health struggles while living on the streets. He found solace and support when he arrived at Christ House. "I came to learn to regulate my heart properly," he shared with determination in his voice.

Having spent four years in DC after moving from Philadelphia, Mr. Ethan found himself drawn to the warm embrace of Christ House and was able to relax once off the bustling streets. Amidst the fellow patients and caring staff, Mr. Ethan has discovered a new sense of belonging and purpose.

Anyone who speaks with Mr. Ethan is inspired by his unwavering optimism and genuine kindness. Despite facing great adversity and health challenges, he exudes a warmth that puts others at ease. He speaks fondly of his interactions with other patients and cherishes the moments he shares by the sunroom window engaging in heartfelt conversations. "Something I like about Christ House is that it's a place which is helping people get better," Mr. Ethan remarked as he smiled. While uncertainties lie ahead for Mr. Ethan's health and housing situation, he remains steadfast in his pursuit of improved strength in the meantime. As Mr. Ethan continues on his path of recuperation, he inspires us all with his resilience and positivity.

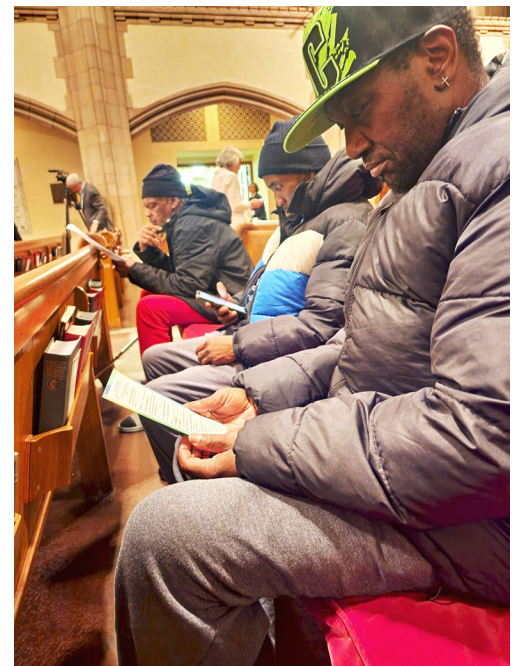


## Helping in Harmony

In March, Christ House patients, Kairos Members, and staff gathered for the 32nd annual Sing Out for Shelter, an a cappella charity concert that fundraises for organizations supporting people experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the local singing group, the Augmented 8, the concert features an array of a cappella groups from across the nation. This year, the Augmented Eight were joined by Whim n' Rhythm, Yale's all-senior soprano-alto acapella group, the Maret School Grace Notes, and a surprise appearance by the Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest collegiate a cappella group from Yale University.

Since its inception in 1992, Sing Out for Shelter has raised over \$400,000 for local non-profits. This year the event raised over \$32,000 through ticket sales and donations, with all proceeds going toward Christ House, Friendship Place, and the National United Methodist Church Mission Center. We're proud to have been a recipient of Sing Out for Shelter for the past twenty-three years, and we look forward to this continued partnership for years to come.

**Fun fact: Some of the students from the Maret School volunteered at Christ House last year!**



Christ House patients attending Sing Out for Shelter this past March.

## Turning Toward the Sun

### *Save the date for Christ House's fall gathering and fundraiser*

Join us on September 26, 2024 at 6:00 pm for Turning Toward the Sun, a celebration of Christ House's history, present initiatives, and future. This event will be an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past 39 years, recognize the incredible individuals who have sustained our mission along the way, and envision the possibilities that lie ahead. The evening will include inspiring stories, music, a delicious meal, and the chance to connect with fellow supporters who share a commitment for making a difference in the lives of Christ House patients. A special event for former year long volunteers will take place on September 27. Additional information to follow. Reserve your spot today by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website.

### Scan to learn more!



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