



Christ  
House

HEALING AND HOPE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

VOLUME XXXVIII, NO. 2 | SPRING 2023

# Day by Day



## Flushing Away Inaccessibility

Christ House is located in an old apartment complex, which had been abandoned for a decade before we purchased it in the 1980s. The building predates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Like many older structures, the original building was not built for accessibility, which poses navigation challenges for our patients who use mobility aids. Last year, more than half of our patients required the use of wheelchairs, walkers, or canes.

Facility upgrades to improve accessibility at Christ House are necessary for the provision of quality medical care and promotion of patient safety and independence.

Earlier this spring, Christ House wrapped up a two-year project supported by the CDC Foundation in partnership with the National Institute for Medical Respite Care. Through this project, Christ House was able to make necessary facility

upgrades to improve accessibility in two showers and a full bathroom and shower on the respite unit and most recently, a complete renovation of the primary bathroom on the first floor of our building.

The small first floor bathroom had been poorly configured for accessibility. The toilet was

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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.

located next to the sink with a dividing wall providing little to no space for transfers to and from the toilet. This configuration also limited the placement of grab bars to meet ADA compliance. The door swung into the bathroom, further limiting the navigable space inside the bathroom. The new layout was chosen to optimize the space next to and around the toilet as well as improve navigation in and out of the bathroom. Changes included removal of the wall between the sink and toilet, relocation of a smaller sink to the opposite corner of the room, and a new door that swings open into the hallway. The bathroom was also outfitted with new, ADA-compliant grab bars around the

toilet and the door handle was updated from a knob to a lever, the preferred style for accessibility. We are excited to make this new bathroom space available to our patients, Kairos supportive housing members, and visitors!

We are grateful for the funding provided by the CDC Foundation and the technical assistance and ADA consultation provided by the National Institute for Medical Respite Care over the past two years. These renovations will help us continue to provide a safe and welcoming space for individuals in need of our services.



## Freshening Up



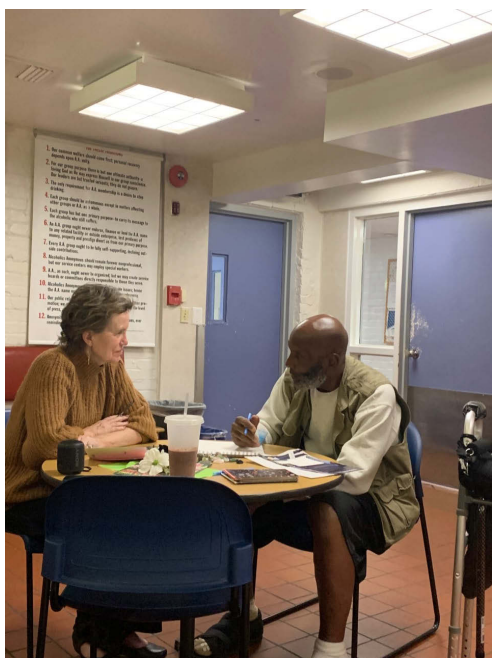
Kairos House has also undergone renovations recently. Last month, all four laundry rooms received an upgrade. Each room was freshly painted and outfitted with improved lighting and new tile flooring that is much easier to clean. Each laundry room was also equipped with a table for folding clothes, which was a specific request from residents.

Our Facilities Engineer, Henry Kabaghe, has been hard at work replacing the carpet flooring in some of our studio apartments with a wooden flooring.



# Spring into Activities

Now that spring is here, we want to highlight the fun activities our patients and Kairos members have been doing! Local volunteers have facilitated chair yoga, board game events, and writing classes for our patients. Matthew Hinderberger, our Patient Activities Coordinator, organized March Madness watch parties and coordinated with Kelley Reed, our Kairos Program Director, to watch a baseball game with our patients and Kairos members. Then the Kairos members celebrated the cherry blossom season with an arts and crafts project. It's been an active season and we can't wait to see what else we get up to!



## Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month

In April, we are excited to celebrate the contributions of our many excellent and dedicated volunteers. Every week, local volunteers serve in our kitchen, assist our clinical team at the nurses' station, and lead patient activities like chair yoga and writing classes. On the weekends, meal group volunteers from local churches provide and serve delicious meals to our patients. It is a joy to see so many new faces after temporarily closing our doors to outside volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. For anyone who has ever volunteered with us, thank you!



[domore24.org](http://domore24.org)



## Save the Date

DoMore24 is the DMV's largest 24-hour online fundraiser that benefits numerous nonprofits, including Christ House. If you want to increase the impact of your giving, consider donating during this time! You can go to [domore24.org/christhouse.org](http://domore24.org/christhouse.org) for more information or scan the QR code to your left. We hope that you will join us!

**May 17, 2023 from 12:01am to 11:59pm!**

The Advance #381215  
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CFC #34256 | UW #8385

Return Service Requested  
[www.christhouse.org](http://www.christhouse.org)



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