



Day by Day

The mission of Christ House is to provide comprehensive and compassionate health care to sick and homeless men from the District of Columbia, and to assist them in addressing the critical issues to help them break the cycle of homelessness.

ON THE ROAD TO HEALTH

Our transportation program makes medical care and community resources accessible

Christ House patients spend the majority of their stay in our building where our nursing and case management staff work with them to improve their health and strive for independence. We also provide a bed, clothing and toiletries, three meals a day, and uplifting activities.

There are certain services and treatments, however, which we cannot provide on site. These include medical and social services such as chemotherapy, optometry, surgery, and granting IDs. In order for patients to most easily access the care and resources they need, we provide door-to-door transportation for many of them through our patient transportation program.

Thanks to a group of generous donors who know the value of this important aspect of our work, we

recently purchased a brand new Kia Sedona. It replaces our old van which logged many thousands of miles around the city over eight years and carried patients to countless appointments. The new van will allow us to continue this key piece of our mission even more efficiently, effectively, and safely.

— THE NEED —

Navigating public transportation can be a challenge for even able-bodied city dwellers. Many

of our patients can neither walk long distances nor maintain their balance easily. Some must use aids such as wheelchairs or walkers. Others live with mental illness which can make catching the right bus, getting off at the right stop, and remembering appointment times and addresses a major challenge.

Additionally, patients sometimes attend medical appointments like chemotherapy or surgery from

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“ We try to relieve this burden by offering the **simple gift of a comfortable and friendly ride** to and from important appointments. ”



Marquita Barnes assists a patient getting into our new van

We're Going Places

- **150** = approximate number of patient transports each month
- About **90%** of trips are to medical appointments
- About **10%** of trips are for social services
- **7** = average number of trips made each day
- Frequent destinations include:
 - local hospitals
 - Community for Creative Non-Violence
 - Washington Radiology
 - Prevention of Blindness Society of Metro Washington
 - Social Security Office

Continued

which they leave drowsy, in pain, or nauseated. Riding a train, bus, or walking long distances in these conditions would be extremely unpleasant.

We hope to lighten these burdens with the simple gift of a comfortable and friendly ride to and from appointments.

We also take patients to social service agencies around the city. Our Case Management Assistant, Sarah Hopkins, says that “we couldn’t make the amount of progress that we do with each patient without the van.” Many of the agencies that patients need to visit are difficult to get to from our neighborhood.

For instance, the Social Security office is a mile walk and Metro train ride away. To reach the Addictions Prevention and Recovery Administration – where patients must go to be assessed for programs throughout the city – requires taking a bus and train.

The nearest DMV – where many patients go to get new IDs – is only accessible by taking two different buses.

“When trying to coordinate multiple appointments for a patient,” Sarah says, “saving an extra hour by not taking public transportation can mean the difference

between making or missing an important appointment.”

— THE OPPORTUNITY —

We are incredibly thankful to have a Patient Transport Driver who understands the needs and difficulties our patients face on a daily basis. Our driver, Marquita Barnes, previously transported homeless individuals to area shelters in extreme cold weather for the city government. Through that experience, Marquita learned just how many people were experiencing homelessness, which deepened her desire to do more. In fact, some of our patients recognize her from those rides and are happy to see a familiar face.

“A big part of what I do is listen,” Marquita says. “When we’re driving around the city, some of the patients will get really honest about what they’re dealing with and how they’re feeling. They just want someone to hear their story, so I listen.”



Our new patient transportation van arrives at Christ House

A WEEKEND FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

The Kairos Program is a community for men with chronic illness who have committed to recovery from substance abuse. During their house meeting each week, they reaffirm their commitment: "We support each other. We are responsible for our actions and our brothers."

To be refreshed and encouraged in this mission, eleven Kairos Program members traveled to Ocean City to attend "Surgery of the Spirit," a regional Narcotics Anonymous convention. The conven-



A few of the Kairos attendees gathered between sessions

tion brought thousands of people in recovery together to hear inspirational speakers, share fellowship, and to encourage one another.

For our men, who pour back into the Christ House community and their own Kairos community with their presence and service, this gathering and weekend away was a special gift.



Attendees stayed at a house near the beach for the weekend, a welcome retreat from city life

JOIN US FOR BBQ



You're invited to our beach-themed Memorial Day BBQ!

Monday, May 28th

12:30 PM

Christ House
1717 Columbia Road NW

Patients, staff, volunteers, and the larger Christ House community will come together for food, fun and games!

Please RSVP by May 21st:
Marisa.Pashkin@Christhouse.org
or (202) 328-1100

2017: A BRIEF RECAP OF YOUR IMPACT



235 patient admissions
9,606 patient-days of care
41 days = patients' average length of stay
49,953 meals served



2,611 donors (individuals, churches, community groups, foundations & corporations)
5,104 financial gifts
\$78,226 = estimated value of in-kind donations



2,649 individual volunteers
46 Kairos volunteers
51 meal groups
53 work groups
31,541 total hours volunteered



IT'S A NEW DAY

These four men graduated from our New Day Addictions Recovery Program, a 12-week class which identifies difficult emotions, explains abuse-associated behaviors, and teaches healthy habits.

Each graduate gets the chance to share a little bit about his story during the ceremony. One exclaimed:

“ I'm feeling better than I've ever felt in my life. ”

JOIN THE CIRCLE

Monthly giving is one of the best ways to support our work. By joining our monthly giving program - the Circle of Healers - you:

- Join a community of donors who care deeply about sustaining the Christ House mission
- Provide Christ House a steady, predictable source of income which makes long-term planning and budgeting easier
- Save postage, save time, and rest assured that your support continues even when life gets busy

Set up your monthly gift at: www.christhouse.org/donate



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