



Christ
House

HEALING AND HOPE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

VOLUME XXXIX, NO. 1 | WINTER 2024

Day by Day

Welcoming our new Executive Director, Jim!

Please join us in welcoming Jim Lindsay as Christ House's new Executive Director! Jim, who is joining our staff after an inspiring journey spanning nearly four decades in faith-based nonprofit administration, brings a wealth of experience and a passion to his new position.

Jim first became a part of the Christ House community in 1987 as the Administrative Director. During his time here, he felt deeply moved by the patients and inspired by the founders as they worked tirelessly to serve our patients with the best possible care. We were lucky to have him as a member of our team for nine years before he continued his journey in nonprofit administration.

In the past two decades, Jim served as the Executive Director of the Catholic Volunteer Network, where he supported programming to place thousands of volunteers both domestically and internationally. His most recent role as the Director of Administration for Christian Brothers Conference further enriched his leadership skills and deepened his commitment to the principles of justice and compassion.



Jim Lindsay photographed outside Christ House during his time on staff in the 1990's

Despite the time that has passed since Jim was last a member of our team, he shared that he feels like he never really left the Christ House community, *"Being a part of Christ House is something that sticks with you, sometimes forever."*

When asked what excites him most about taking on the role of Executive Director at Christ House, Jim shared his passion for offering the best possible care and ensuring that the staff feels valued for their dedication and hard work. Jim is proud to be a part of an organization that values a holistic

approach to serving our patients, including comprehensive nursing care, and the attention given to the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of our patients and Kairos Permanent Housing Members. Jim's genuine love for Christ House, nurtured over the 28 years since he was last on staff, is a testament to his commitment to our mission.

As we welcome Jim back to the Christ House team, we are confident that his leadership will guide us into the years ahead. We invite you to learn more about Jim by visiting the blog on our website.



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.

Year in Review: 2023

With your support, we were able to achieve impactful results in 2023 as we work toward providing comprehensive and compassionate care for men experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. Each of our 208 patient admissions received personalized and 24/7 care during their 29-day average stay. Remarkably, 100% of our patients presented with three or more health needs and over 65% of our patients arrived directly from the hospital or from the streets, emphasizing the ongoing critical gap for comprehensive medical care for unhoused persons that Christ House fills. As we reflect on the previous year, we are inspired to continue providing a space for healing and hope as we enter our 39th year of operation.



**208 patient
admissions**

100%

**Sobriety rate
of Kairos
Members**



**3,433 patient
appointments**



**Average
length of
patient stay**

We Knead Your Help!

Nutritious and comforting meals have the power to uplift spirits and foster a sense of community. Providing three meals a day to our patients is no small feat and our kitchen stove range is in need of essential upgrades. We're 80% of the way toward our goal, but we knead your help to raise our last bit of dough. Will you help us purchase a new range to not only improve the efficiency of our food services operations, but more importantly, to allow us to serve timely and nourishing meals to our patients on a daily basis?

Your financial support will contribute directly to the purchase and installation of a new range for our kitchen. Donations can be made online by mentioning "oven" in the comments section of our donation page or by check with "oven" in the memo line. Additional funding received beyond this expense will go toward supporting our Food Services Program.



Christ House's kitchen staff (from left to right): Khylin, Micah, and Kevin

Building Trust: Martin's Story

While the start of a new year is often known as a time for fresh starts and resolutions, for someone experiencing homelessness it also brings concerns of dropping temperatures. Earlier this month, a homeless outreach team became acquainted with Martin, who was vulnerable to the elements and dressed in wet clothes. The team discovered his blood pressure was critically high and he was experiencing distressing mental illness symptoms. Based on the team's recommendation, Martin was admitted to Christ House for further evaluation and treatment.

By chance, the team's lead physician had been a Year Long Volunteer at Christ House in the 1990's. She accompanied Martin to our facility where he was given clean, dry clothing upon his arrival. Though he now had a warm place to sleep, his feet were macerated from being outdoors, and his body showed evidence of frostbite. Our clinical team learned that he had been hospitalized several times from ailments he received while living on the street, and he expressed distrust of medical professionals. Despite this challenge, Martin began taking blood pressure medication to help stabilize his condition. Daily blood pressure checks allowed our providers to make adjustments to Martin's medication and obtain optimal blood pressure control. From there, he was connected to a psychiatrist who confirmed his mental health conditions and assisted him in obtaining the proper medication. In the three short weeks since Martin's admission to Christ House, his mental and physical health have improved with the care that he has received.

More recently, Martin indicated that he is having difficulty with his vision, and is now scheduled to meet with a provider for an eye exam. He also welcomed treatment for a previous hand injury after bringing it to our awareness. With every small act of care, our staff has built trust with Martin to voice his concerns and advocate for his health. The changes in Martin's well-being are a reflection of the warmth offered by the Christ House community. Thank you for your support this winter and for helping us keep more patients out of the cold.



Thank You for Making the Season Bright

The holiday season at Christ House is one that's always full of special traditions. We decked the halls by hanging fresh garland and red velvet bows throughout the facility, adding to the festivity of the season. Volunteers gathered over tea and cookies for wrapping parties, preparing gifts for patients and Kairos Members to open underneath the tree on Christmas morning. Throughout the month, we had several volunteers stop by to spread holiday cheer with caroling, sweater parties, and live music.

Of course, nothing compares to Christmas morning at Christ House, where the community gathers to have a hearty breakfast, open presents, and share in holiday joy. The Christmas magic that happens at Christ House would not be possible without the generosity of our volunteers, donors, and staff.

Thank you to everyone who helped us make this holiday season one to remember and cherish. We are so appreciative.

Mark Your Calendars

Christ House has some fantastic events planned for 2024! Stay tuned and save the following dates!

Saturday, April 27, 2024: Afternoon Tea, in celebration of our wonderful volunteers

Thursday, September 26, 2024: Turning Toward the Sun, a gathering to celebrate Christ House's history, community, and future

Scan to learn more!



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