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Carpenter's Shelter

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March e-News

— *A Note of Thanks From the Executive Director* —

It's Because of You!

A year ago, Covid-19 began to change life as we knew it and how we conducted shelter operations to keep our doors open and to keep our residents, volunteers and staff safe. We scrambled to find to masks, gloves and other PPE while implementing the CDC's guidelines for social distancing. We opened satellite sites, moved our families and women residents to hotels, leaving the required spacing for the men still in shelter. For the first time in our history, our in-shelter volunteers had their active roles suspended requiring staff to assume duties outside of their normal routines.



But we made it through. We couldn't have done it so successfully without you! Thank you for all of your unwavering support through in-kind and financial donations, your email notes and letters of encouragement. We look forward to the day when we will be able to say 'thank you' again in person and welcome you in to tour our brand-new shelter.

Shannon Steene
Executive Director

We had a great visit with former Governor Terry McAuliffe!

He had some questions, he did some touring, serving, and a lot of listening!

March 2021

Donate Now

Tell A Friend

Quick Calendar

March 14th: Daylight Savings time, Spring Forward one hour.

March 16th: Volunteer Orientation! Please join us for our monthly volunteer orientation. If you would like to attend, join our Community Relations Manager Jamila Smith between 6:00-7:00 pm on Zoom by [clicking here](#).

March 17th: Saint Patrick's Day, a day of revelry and a celebration of all things Irish. **Don't forget to wear green!**

March 20th: The Spring Equinox, the official beginning of Spring!

March 27th: Passover begins at sundown 7:22 pm.

Here are a few items that we need!



Former Governor Terry McAuliffe, Jon Frederick, and Shannon Steene, pictured in front of the Carpenter's Shelter entrance on N. Henry St.

Former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe took some time out of his busy schedule to visit Carpenter's Shelter on February 17th. Met by Shannon Steene, Carpenter's Shelter Executive Director and Jon Frederick, AHDC's (The Bloom) President and CEO, he was escorted to our conference room for a detailed Q&A session. He was really excited to take a tour of our new building and expressed pleasure at seeing how bright and open the floor plan was. He stopped and spoke with residents and staff along the way and remarked how hard it must have been to accomplish completing the building, especially during the pandemic. He thought it was truly awe inspiring, a brand-new shelter and 97 affordable apartments for our low income and homeless neighbors.

After the tour, former Governor McAuliffe didn't stop there. He donned a Carpenter's Shelter apron and rubber gloves and joined Nadine Goff, (pictured at right) one of our dedicated volunteers to serve lunch to the residents. As a meal provider, Nadine prepares her meals from scratch so the residents can have a little taste of home cooking. Only, the former governor was trying to take credit for the meal. The pair made a great team and the residents were thrilled to be so close to a government official.



He took notes, listened intently and every so often had a good laugh from some well-placed jabs about his lack of cooking skills. We enjoyed his visit and we appreciated his desire to listen and his offer to help where he could.

If you want to help others and lend a hand, take minute and join Team Carpenter's by [clicking here](#).

...And Counting!

Mailed a Check to Carpenter's Recently?



We always are in need of items to help our clients time here in shelter and in their new homes. Here are a few of those items:

- Individual boxes of cereal
- Individual coffee creamers
- Individual packets of condiments of all kind (bbq, ketchup, mustard, creamer, honey, mayo, salad dressing, etc.)
- Large Ziploc bags
- Neosporin
- Reading glasses from the dollar store
- Gift Cards, grocery stores, CVS, Target

If you would like to make a monetary donation please email our Development Associate [Sienna Brown](#).

Thanks so much for your continued support of the children, women, and men, we serve!

Need Help?



Here are some important contact #'s

In crisis? The City of Alexandria's Services are available 24 hours a day.

[Emergency Mental Health Services](#)

703-746-3401



Currently, we are experiencing a delay in mail due to a variety of factors. At Carpenter's Shelter, we process checks as soon as they arrive and pride ourselves on getting the acknowledgement letters out to you within 48 hours! As mail carriers continue to undergo a slow down and we experience the re-routing of mail to our new address, many letters are taking longer to receive via mail than typical. If you have sent a check that has not yet been received, fear not! We are continuing to receive held up envelopes every day.

If you are sending a donation check by mail, please ensure that you use our new permanent address: 930 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and not our old Duke Street address. Or, if you prefer, you can donate safely online at <https://carpentersshelter.org/give/>.

If you have any questions about whether your donation or check has been received, please contact Sienna Brown, our Development Associate. Due to the slow down of mail, acknowledgement letters may also be taking longer to receive.

If you need an acknowledgement letter from a recently donated gift, contact Sienna Brown and an electronic version can be sent. She can be reached by email SiennaBrown@CarpentersShelter.org or by phone: (703) 548-7500 ext. 204.

Helping with Chronic Homelessness!

This past month saw a major accomplishment for David's Place. Six chronically homeless clients found permanent housing! Each of the six had been homeless for more than 10 years!

Chronic homelessness is a complicated issue and requires a great deal of patience and compassion to assist these individuals.



Chronic homelessness describes men and women who have experienced homelessness for at least a year — or repeatedly — while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance abuse, or physical disability.

Today these formerly homeless men and women are now living in the community and are happy to be finally home. They're working with their case managers and they're proud of their accomplishments and we're proud of them. We wish them good fortune as they settle into their

[Substance Abuse Services](#)
703-746-3636

[Sexual Assault](#)
703-683-7273

[Domestic Violence](#)
703-746-4911

[Child Protective Services](#)
Alexandria: 703-746-5800

[Adult Protective Services](#)
703-746-5778

It's Official!
Carpenter's Shelter gets a new front door sign!



It's hard to miss! Our name emblazoned on a bright bronze colored bar. It's over the door on N. Henry St. and it marks an exciting point in time for us. That point in time being, that we've almost finished moving in!

He Loves to Draw and Michael Jordan is his Hero!



Pictured here is Mr. James B. He's a typical guy, he enjoys

new lives
and homes!

Just One More Thing!

Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's Giving Day is the time Alexandrians come together to support nonprofit organizations online. Celebrating its 11th Anniversary, it will be held on Wednesday, April 28th. More information will be provided on how to participate in next month's eNews and on our website. Here's another way you may support Carpenter's Shelter in April!



sports, he's a basketball fan, and loves the Cowboy's, but we'll forgive him for that!

After 7-years of living on the street he found a home here in one of our Permanent Supportive Housing Units. He was overwhelmed by all the kindness he was shown when he moved in. We were there and Mr. B wanted us to make sure that everyone knew **"How thankful I am for this help, and for all of the support I've been given"**

We wish him well!

930 N. Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Tel: (703) 548-7500
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