

CARPENTER'S SHELTER MOMENTUM 2022



Carpenter's
Shelter

A N N U A L R E P O R T

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Dear Friend,

When a big group pushes in the same direction together, they can move a very large object. Getting that object moving initially feels like the hardest part. Progress after that seems easier when you just keep at it and see the pace increase.

Momentum—that's what we feel when we look back at the past year living out our mission in our new building. The hard work and dedication of our clients is combined with our big team of volunteers, a small army of financial supporters, our award-winning board of directors, and our talented and dedicated staff, who altogether serve as a powerful, collective force.

This annual report's cover shows a rocket. To play on that motif, each of the contributing groups listed above serves as rocket fuel. The following pages speak to each of those momentum-building elements fueling the movement from homeless to housed for those we serve. No single element can achieve what we all can do together. That is the beauty and the power of our collective force for good. Hopefully, as you review this report, you will feel the same appreciation and wonder for what we are doing, motivating us to do even more to end homelessness in our community.

With needle-moving optimism,



Jim Taylor
Chair, Board of Directors



Shannon Steene
Executive Director



MISSION

Carpenter's Shelter supports people experiencing and at risk of homelessness to achieve sustainable independence through shelter and housing placement, guidance, education, and advocacy.



VISION

To be the community leader in preventing and ending homelessness.



CARPENTER'S SHELTER SEED VALUES

In 2015, a dedicated team of staff members collaborated to recreate the Carpenter's Shelter's core values, which we now proudly refer to as the SEED Values. These values embody the mission and vision of Carpenter's Shelter.

Our goal is to share these values across all aspects of the organization including staff, residents, volunteers, donors, and the community as a whole.



Solutions
through collaboration

Empowerment

Education

Dedicated
to serving with respect

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Taylor, Chair

Jonathan Wolcott, Vice Chair

Simone Putnam, Treasurer

Jennifer Poersch, Secretary

Willie Bailey

Nicole Bradley

Edith Bullard

Masharia "Shay" Holman

Mike Lyden

Katherine McCarron

Michelle Millben

Kisha Perkins

Tracey Pilone

Ankur Shah



STAFF LEADERSHIP

Shannon Steene
Executive Director

Mary-Parker Lamm
Deputy Director

Monise W. Quidley
Director of Development

Lawrence Smith
Director of Programs



THROUGH A COLLECTION OF FORCES

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

EMERGENCY RESIDENTIAL SHELTER

Our sixty-bed temporary shelter provides individuals and families with safety, meals, and a variety of support services to help them navigate this deeply challenging moment in their lives. Each family works with a Housing Stabilization Case Manager to identify potential barriers and to create and implement a tailored plan for the residents to achieve permanent housing. The shelter provides a community room, computer lab, classroom, private outdoor courtyard, laundry facilities, indoor and outdoor play areas for children and teens, and living quarters where families can stay together. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our shelter has remained open 24/7, and we continue to maintain health protocols to keep clients, volunteers, and staff safe.

**Served 115 individual adults and
27 families with 60 children.**

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

While systemic causes for homelessness predominate, we provide ample education and employment services to help people increase their income and take advantage of opportunities for better employment and permanent housing. Some of the skills courses and trainings we offer include job coaching, resume building, financial literacy, computer skills, and GED preparation. Through our Lee Fifer Jr. Educational Scholarship Fund, current and former residents may apply for assistance to access a wide range of academic and job training programs. All these programs enable our clients to increase their resilience against the forces causing homelessness.



THROUGH A COLLECTION OF FORCES (CONTINUED)

RAPID RE-HOUSING

We move families and individuals as quickly as possible from homelessness to stable, independent, affordable housing. Our Housing Locator Team identifies permanent housing opportunities and advocates for our clients during the leasing process. We also ensure community clients receive rental subsidies that gradually decrease as their income increases. Housing Stabilization Case Managers continue working with residents after they transition from the shelter to help them address new challenges and to encourage their ongoing housing stability.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WINTER SHELTER COLLABORATIVE

In collaboration with the City of Alexandria, we operate an overnight seasonal hypothermia shelter to prevent injury, illness, and death. The Winter Shelter operates daily from December through March, and as needed on cold nights in November and April. We offer support services to help connect clients to community assistance.

Served 187 clients.

DAVID'S PLACE

Alexandria's only day shelter is open six days a week, providing a safe facility to meet the basic needs of men and women who are chronically homeless. Guests have access to warm showers, snacks, laundry facilities, private lockers, phone and voicemail services, Wi-Fi, a mailing address, and referrals to additional services. We saw a 34% decrease in individuals using David's Place this year, in part due to the success of more Permanent Supportive Housing units being available for those experiencing chronic homelessness.

Served 74 clients.



THROUGH A COLLECTION OF FORCES (CONTINUED)

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Our full-time Therapeutic Services Director offers on-site evaluation and care for adults and children. Residents have access to in-house support and connections to long-term, community-based treatment which can continue after transitioning from the shelter. Our therapist also conducts training for staff on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Served 138 clients.

CARPENTER'S CLINIC

A weekly on-site medical clinic is staffed every Thursday evening by a volunteer doctor, physician's assistant, and nurses who provide routine medical exams, prescription medications, and referrals to community healthcare partners. Also, a psychiatrist joins the team and coordinates with Finnie Caldwell, our Therapeutic Services Director. By providing ongoing access to healthcare for uninsured shelter residents and uninsured community members experiencing homelessness, we help to stabilize diseases and improve the health conditions that can often contribute to a cycle of homelessness.

Served 51 individuals with 113 visits.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

We provide housing and support for individuals who have experienced homelessness for many years and have long-term barriers to achieving independent, stable housing. We began serving our first ten residents in November 2020 when we moved into our new facility. Recognizing the continued need, we have since expanded this program to include four additional scattered-site Permanent Supportive Housing units.



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, CARPENTER'S VOLUNTEERS CAN BE FOUND:



preparing and serving
850 meals annually to
our residents

staffing our front desk for
more than **6,000 hours**

engaging the children in shelter
in activities

hosting over **700 hours** of life-skills
courses and job coaching

providing medical and mental health care
in Carpenter's Clinic

leading a variety of service projects

decorating the shelter for all major holidays

providing special services like haircuts

designing spaces for graduates as they move
into their new homes

assisting with Carpenter's Shelter special events

giving thousands of in-kind donations

and so much more!

OUR MOMENTUM

IS CARRIED BY THE HANDS AND HEARTS OF OTHERS

VOLUNTEERS

A year of reflection...

Over the past thirty-four years, Carpenter's Shelter has evolved from a small group of concerned Citizens to a community of over

1,200 volunteers

dedicated to our mission. Volunteers provide the many services that help keep the shelter running efficiently and give staff the ability to focus on residents and clients.

Thank you, we greatly appreciate our volunteers!



ALL MOVING IN ONE DIRECTION

RACIAL EQUITY

As Carpenter's Shelter looks forward, we will continue to actively and consciously work against the multidimensional aspects of racism as it relates to homelessness. Based on 2022 Census information,

**BLACK RESIDENTS MAKE UP
22% OF ALEXANDRIANS, YET
THEY MAKE UP 73% OF THOSE
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

When we include other racial minorities, that is approximately 80% of those we serve. Our focus will remain on the diligent examination of data to inform our programs and practices as we seek to mitigate the current racial disparities.



IT STARTS WITH A NUDGE

A SUCCESS STORY

"She Never Gave Up; We Never Gave Up."

For nearly twenty years, Robin struggled with chronic homelessness, mental illness, and a hesitation to trust the housing options presented to her by various people in Alexandria's homeless service community. While she remained unhoused, she became a familiar face to many of the staff at Carpenter's Shelter, including her future Housing Stabilization Case Manager, Wakeena Corbin, pictured to the left of Robin. When we moved our facilities temporarily to the vacant Macy's building while our new Henry Street location was being built, Robin remained a presence at the interim location as well. And when we re-opened on Henry Street, Robin was one of the first guests to greet us at the new David's Place day shelter entrance.

As temperatures began dropping in late 2021, Wakeena implored Robin to check in to the hypothermia shelter that Carpenter's Shelter operates in coordination with the City of Alexandria. Although she resisted at first, Robin eventually did check in to the Winter Shelter. During her time there, Robin regularly worked with Wakeena and Denise Ziegler, our Winter Shelter Coordinator, to complete her re-housing applications, which she attended to occasionally as she remained ambivalent about following through with the re-housing process. As the holidays approached, she confirmed her desire for permanent housing and began living in her own private apartment in January 2022.

Robin recently celebrated a full year of independent living in her new apartment. She maintains an active relationship with Carpenter's Shelter staff, who helped her set up an aquarium for fish when she moved in, which she continues to care for and enjoy. She decorates her apartment with a minimalist aesthetic that includes beautiful stone arrangements she designs using stones sourced from a local pond.

Everyone at Carpenter's Shelter is incredibly proud of Robin's ongoing success and excited to see how she continues to grow as an individual with a strong foundation of independent permanent housing.



TO REACH GREAT HEIGHTS

CARPENTER'S SHELTER 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

WALL OF HONOR AWARDEES

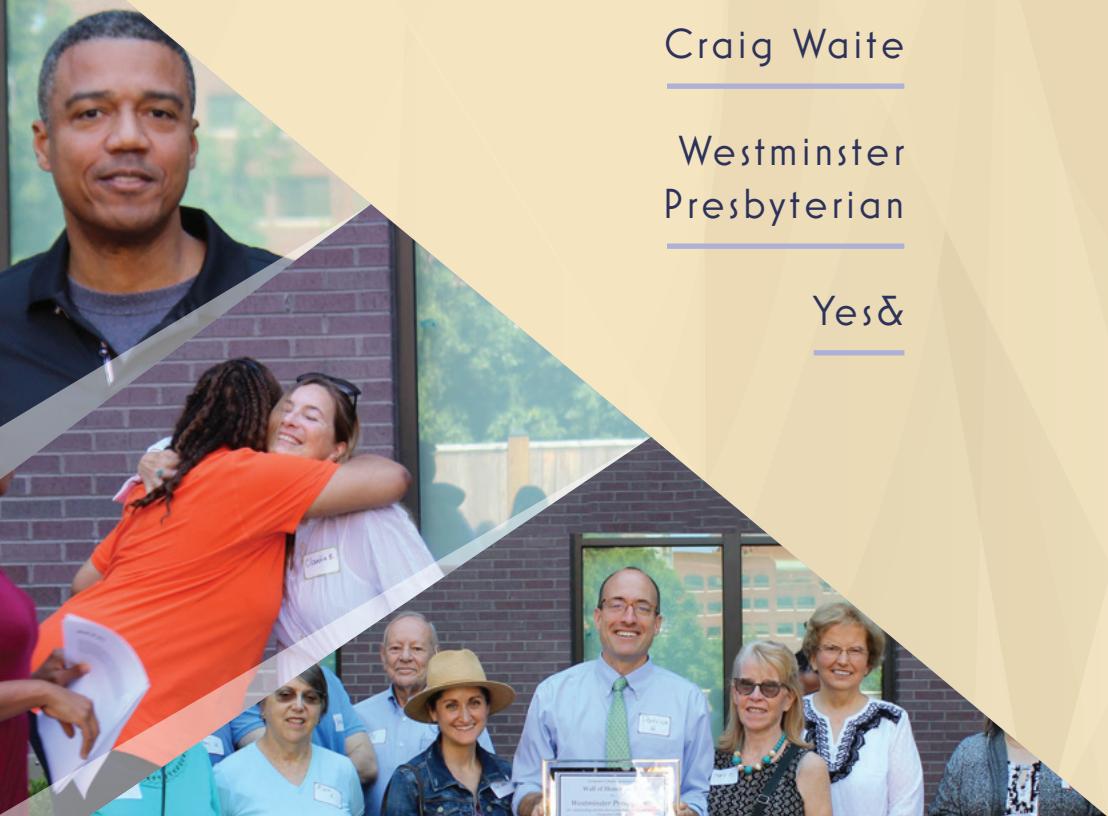
Craig Waite

Westminster
Presbyterian

Yes&

Beth El
Congregation

Immanuel
Church on
the Hill



TO REACH GREAT HEIGHTS

CARPENTER'S SHELTER 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

BOB DOUGLAS AWARDEES



Maggie
Smith



Esther
Belenker



POWERED BY TREMENDOUS SUPPORT

2022 FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

\$3,706,286

44%

Individuals, Organizations, & Events

41%

Government Funding

08%

Grants & Foundations

07%

In-Kind Donations



POWERED BY TREMENDOUS SUPPORT

FINANCIALS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$4,075,733

80%

Program Services

14%

Fundraising

06%

Management & General



FISCAL YEAR 2022 DATA



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY:

Families 68 days
Individuals 76 days

Five clients received the Lee Fifer Jr. Educational Scholarship Fund for a total of \$21,725.

Images courtesy of Carrie Keene Photography and Tim Devine. Designed pro bono by Yes& Agency.



