

November Shelter Committee Report for the December Newsletter

In the midst of uncertain political times, civil unrest, and a resurgent pandemic, the shelter committee has demonstrated resilience and adaptability. Since the beginning of the pandemic, some of the REACH shelter managers and social workers have been working to assist the housing deprived at the COVID Hotel Initiative- a collaboration with House of Mercy and Open Door Mission. Guests are still being safely sheltered (No positive COVID Cases), obtaining needed benefits/supports, and moving into permanent housing. From the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the REACH Shelter Committee “leaned in” and got to work. That work has not stopped and is taking on new forms.

The REACH Shelter Committee is now supporting a new walking support service team called the “Outreach Zone”. A collaboration with the Father Tracy Advocacy Center (FTAC) on North Clinton, the Southwest Area Neighborhood Association (SWAN) at Montgomery Center in the Jefferson/Plymouth area, and MC Collaborative has taken to the streets to serve people “where they are at”. The Outreach Zone Team brings basic need supplies (hats, gloves, socks, food, masks, etc.), as well as access to benefits, treatment, housing, etc. in a manner that is focused on the individual’s wants and needs. Currently, REACH is providing critical supplies to the Outreach Zone and will be expanding its support as the program builds momentum. In November, the Outreach Zone Workers met with well over 300 people facing issues of extreme poverty.

The REACH Shelter Committee is excited about the development of the 720 West Main Street Building as a place for community members to drop-in to access many different supports. REACH Advocacy is working closely with the Coptic Christian Community and St. Peter’s Kitchen to develop this project. More to come....

Thank you all for your support as we continue the work of supporting the housing deprived in our community.