



CARITAS Shelter



 **We can do it.**

CARITAS and its partner agencies believe that we can break the cycle of homelessness in Richmond. Together, we transform lives and restore dignity.



**We can end homelessness.
This is how:**

Housing First Model

The only way to end homelessness is with housing. The CARITAS Shelter does not provide housing. Shelter is a necessary step for many on their way to housing, but it is not a permanent solution.

Partnerships

CARITAS is a part of the Richmond continuum of care designed to end homelessness. CARITAS is not the final stop; it is the first step. With the help of local congregations, CARITAS plays a critical role as one member on a team, temporarily sheltering clients on their way to permanent housing solutions. We provide case management services to guide our clients as they navigate their way back to stability.

Prioritization

Everything we do at CARITAS, we do with the understanding that it is possible to end homelessness. CARITAS is a low-barrier shelter that serves the hardest to house clients. As a continuum partner, we work together to serve the most vulnerable clients. We do not give up.

Support The Shelter

Volunteers from local congregations, financial contributors, local businesses, other service providers, and our staff work together to change the lives of our clients. You can help by making a financial contribution, hosting a collection drive, or volunteering as a host congregation. If your congregation would like to host a shelter week or a collection drive please call Anna Hardin, Director of Shelter Operations, at 887-1595. To make a financial contribution, please call Clara Stokes, Chief Development Officer, at 887-1571.

Bound for Housing: A Story

I moved to Richmond from Colorado with my teenaged son, Grayson, fleeing a bad marriage. We knew absolutely no one, so we had no choice but to move into a hotel that cost \$237 a week. I still remember it to the dollar. At an employment office, at the end of my rope, someone told me about CARITAS.

What I found wasn't a scary institution, but a loving family of congregations, CARITAS case managers, and other clients. While my son made friends, I was getting help to get back on my feet.

I found a job within one month of connecting with CARITAS. I was able to save almost everything into an escrow account because I didn't have to worry about food and shelter. When I started looking for housing, my case manager came with me, helping me avoid some pitfalls that could have jeopardized my stability.

Today, I work as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the housing authority, and I decided to give back to those experiencing homelessness by working as an overnight shelter staff member for CARITAS.

When CARITAS clients say: "You don't know what I'm going through," they are shocked when I respond "Yes, I do. I was a client. I know exactly what you're going through."

I carry that knowledge and that empathy with me every day.

- Carol



What kind of housing solutions exist for CARITAS clients?

CARITAS focuses on serving the most vulnerable. People are prioritized for services this way (think emergency room). The most vulnerable clients will be assisted with Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive housing, but most will find it necessary to stabilize on their own with the help of the case manager and understanding landlords.

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid Rehousing is integral to ending homelessness. It provides a short-term subsidy for a person to get their own name on a lease in a market-rate apartment. Once a client achieves stable housing, it becomes easier to provide other needed services to that client. As more Rapid Rehousing funding becomes available, the average length of stay in emergency shelters decreases.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Virginia Supportive Housing offers income-based housing through a permanent voucher system for low-functioning individuals that need immediate access to permanent case management services. Occasionally, these clients can work toward independence and eventually move on from supportive housing to financial subsidy only.

90%
of shelter beds
available to single
women in Greater
Richmond are provided
by CARITAS.

15k
Volunteers make this
work possible.