



 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 in our community.

Our goal is to offer our neighbors a safe bridge between a moment of crisis and a pathway to self sufficiency. That means much more than safe place to sleep. It includes effective case management. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, our emergency shelter served 1,970 adults.

During a six-month period, we help residents resolve their crisis in many ways. For example:

**37**

obtained employment

**28**

successfully applied for Medicaid

**25**

scheduled mental health service appointments

**14**

successfully applied for SNAP benefits



 CARITAS Shelter

### 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. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Director of Community Engagement, at 887-1594 or [volunteer@caritasva.org](mailto:volunteer@caritasva.org).

To make a financial contribution, please contact our Chief Development Officer at 887-1571 or [development@caritasva.org](mailto:development@caritasva.org).

# The Problem: Affordable Housing

At any moment a person can find themselves without a home and in need of emergency shelter. The loss of a job, an illness, or a car repair can quickly create a financial crisis.

- 40% of Americans don't have the savings to cover an unexpected \$400 expense, according to Federal Reserve data released in 2018.
- Here in Richmond, more than 51,000 people had incomes below the poverty level in 2017.

Compounding these challenges, affordable housing is hard to come by:

- A recent report by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition noted that out of every 100 people who required low-income housing, there were only 40 dwellings available.
- That is true here in Virginia, where the Commonwealth ranks 13th in the country for high housing wages.

The lack of affordable housing has a dual effect: it pushes more people into the homelessness system, while also making it more difficult to help people exit into housing. Our neighbors need somewhere to turn during a crisis.

40%  
The percentage of affordable housing available for those who need it.



## The Solution

CARITAS is here. We have friends who are helping, too.

We're part of a coordinated system called the **Greater Richmond's Continuum of Care** that includes street outreach, diversion, emergency shelter, financial housing supports like rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and data measurement. Our partners include organizations like **Homeward, Housing Families First, HomeAgain, Virginia Supportive Housing, and The Salvation Army.**

At CARITAS, we're home to the largest adult emergency shelter in the area, **providing 50% of the beds to men and women experiencing homelessness.** For more than 30 years, our low-barrier shelter has served the hardest-to-house clients in our region. The hard work of volunteers, case managers, and partner agencies help our shelter guests find not only the necessities for survival — they find the tools for success. Guests get the help they need to get off the street, back on their feet, and on the path to self-sufficiency.

