

# Get to Know Our Sober Living Community



**CARITAS**  
Recovery Residences

## *A quick resource for referral partners*

### **What are the CARITAS Recovery Residences?**

We invite men and women at any point during their personal recovery journey to live in one of our safe and affordable apartments. Here in the newly opened [CARITAS Center](#), residents can become part of a sober living community that meets the highest state and national standards. During their time here, they will save money, foster independence and make plans for their future. Our team will connect them to resources that will enhance their support networks, employment opportunities, self-awareness, and self-esteem.

### **This is a VARR Certified Residence. What is VARR?**

Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR) is the state certifying body for recovery residences in the state of Virginia. Per the VARR website: VARR members provide the highest level of service to their residents and clients throughout Virginia. Members have been accredited through VARR's rigorous screening process, thus ensuring top-notch services. VARR also presents a collaborative voice for recovery residences throughout our Commonwealth and works ensure that everyone in recovery is able to access programs that offer high quality recovery residences.

### **What is the application process?**

Applicants come to us through several routes. You may transfer from The Healing Place (for Women or for Men). You may enter as a referral from one of our community partners. You may apply personally if you are seeking a safe and sober living arrangement for your personal recovery. No matter the route, each person is handled by our property management office who will guide the prospective resident through the process.

### **Do I need any furniture?**

The apartments are move-in ready and furnished. Individuals only need to bring their personal belongings, clothes, toiletries, etc. There is no on-site storage for personal furniture outside of what is already there.

### **Is there a lease? What kind of financial commitment is expected?**

Residents are responsible for paying rent on a week-to-week basis. There is no lease other than a signed agreement to pay weekly. We request a 30-day notice prior to moving out so the necessary arrangements can be made to fill the space and prepare it for the next resident.

### **What other commitments are expected of residents?**

Residents are expected to adhere to the rules and guidelines outlined in our handbook. [You may download it here.](#) Our staff will also work with residents to establish an individualized recovery plan to help them maintain sober living. There is no set timeline for the duration of a resident's stay. Residents should expect to be able to successfully transition to independent living within a two-year time frame

### **Can residents choose their roommates?**

Several factors are taken into consideration for placement at the residences. This includes evaluating the space available and which room arrangement is chosen by the resident. Accountability is the next deciding factor. We find solitude to be detrimental to personal recovery. We avoid placing individuals in an apartment by themselves. We work hard to develop the community aspect of the Recovery Residences, which means residents may often be placed with strangers to foster new relationships. There is no policy in place that says friends can't live in the same apartment, but we don't place people based on these friendships.

### **Can visitors stay overnight with me?**

There are no overnight guests allowed at the residences. Visitors can only meet with residents in common areas. Many people in recovery are victims of trauma. For the safety and security of all of our residents, anyone not residing in an apartment should be met with in these common areas outside of the actual residence.

### **I get paid bi-weekly/monthly. Can I pay my room fee when I get paid instead of weekly?**

Arrangements can be made through the property management office to pay bi-weekly or monthly, but the fees are accrued weekly on Mondays at 9 a.m. for the following week. In order to avoid any late fees, the resident must pay in advance. For example, if arrangements have been made to pay bi-weekly, the resident must pay one week ahead so there is never a negative balance. A negative balance would lead to a late fee of \$10.

### **Can I bring my car?**

Residents are allowed to park on property and allowed to have one vehicle per resident. Residents are required to register their vehicle with the property management office and have the vehicle properly registered and tagged. Individuals are also required to have appropriate licensing and insurance as required by law. A parking decal will be issued for the vehicle and the vehicle must be parked in the appropriate locations. Any unregistered, untagged or improperly parked vehicles are subject to being towed.

### **I have a family or payee that will be paying my rent. Is this ok?**

Third party payments are accepted and the resident will be notified of any payments made on his or her behalf. There are no refunds issued by CARITAS for overpayment. If a resident is asked to leave the property for any reason, any funds would be forfeited. If the individual moves into another VARR certified resident after leaving, in certain circumstances, this balance may be transferred.

### **Is there a credit check or background check?**

There is no credit check, however there is a background check. This is not to deny access to anyone, but rather to help tailor their individual recovery plan so that we may assist in helping to overcome any legal issues or obstacles that may be present. We do not harbor individuals who are actively being sought by any federal, state, or local government, or any office of the Department of Corrections, but a criminal record, probation/parole or an ongoing case do not prevent anyone from residing with us.

### **Where can I see what the apartments look like?**

Please visit our website to learn more. We have a virtual 3-D tour available. Here's a link: <https://www.caritasva.org/live-with-us/>. We have also shared images below.

