



D O W N T O W N
D a i l y B r e a d



Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness

**NEWS INFORMATION FROM
CAPITAL AREA COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS &
DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD**

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE

25 JULY 2018

**DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD TO AGAIN OPEN
OVERNIGHT WINTER SHELTER**

Harrisburg, PA. Downtown Daily Bread and the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) today announced that Downtown Daily Bread will again open a Night Shelter for men from December 1, 2018—March 31, 2019, and if fundraising is successful, December 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020, with a goal of increasing the number of men moved into long-term housing from the shelter. There will be 40 beds available for homeless men who would otherwise be unsheltered, located at Pine Street Presbyterian Church's Boyd Memorial Center, 234 South Street, Harrisburg.

Planning, programming, and fundraising for both winter overnight shelters and services to help get homeless men into long-term housing is being done through an ongoing collaboration with CACH, Downtown Daily Bread, Bethesda Mission, and Christian Churches United. In addition to the shelter at Downtown Daily Bread, 23 winter beds for men are provided at the Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, run by Christian Churches United. Bethesda Mission opens up additional beds for men when the temperature drops below 20° or if there are other dangerous conditions such as snowfall or ice conditions.

Downtown Daily Bread seeks donations of \$100,000 to assist with the cost of running this shelter for the next two winters. If you are interested in donating, visit www.downtowndailybread.org or send a check payable to Downtown Daily Bread, mailing address: 310 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. In addition to Downtown Daily Bread's fundraising effort for the shelter, Christian Churches United is also seeking funding to provide additional staffing at both of the winter shelters to help connect the men with long-term housing opportunities.

If you are interested in applying for an overnight position, volunteering, or discussing a donation, please use the above contact information.

Since 1983, Downtown Daily Bread has served the hungry and homeless of Harrisburg, providing a daily lunch, lockers, bus passes, transportation, photo identification resources, haircuts, laundry tokens, mail delivery, food vouchers, and more. Counselors assess needs, and provide basic assistance, emotional support, and access to community resources. Downtown Daily Bread is a mission project of Pine Street Presbyterian Church, a 501(c)3 organization.

More information about the collaboration for this effort can be found in the information below.

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DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD COLLABORATES TO BUILD ON WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM

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The Night Shelter at Downtown Daily Bread opened for the first time on December 1, 2017, and it operated through March 31, 2018. During that time, 222 men utilized the shelter. The shelter was at capacity on 35 nights during that period, and on those nights, a total of 49 men were turned away and, with our assistance, sought shelter elsewhere. The average attendance per night by month was as follows:

December – 25 January – 36 February – 39 March – 37

The expenses related to opening and operating the shelter totaled approximately \$50,000, and consisted of the following:

Staff	\$35,000
Equipment and Supplies	5,000
Utilities	7,000
<u>Administration</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL	\$50,000

The Night Shelter opened in direct response to the announcement by Bethesda Mission in the fall of 2017 that it was changing its winter shelter protocol. Bethesda’s goal was to focus on its core mission of encouraging long-term recovery, and the change is having a positive effect. But this change created a need for winter shelter beds for men, as the winter overnight beds at Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven have generally been at near capacity for many years and could not absorb the large numbers who had stayed at Bethesda Mission in previous winters.

Bethesda Mission reports that in the previous winter (2016 - 2017) it had 4,115 individual visits due to hazardous weather (average of 34 per night). For the same period during this past winter, it recorded 450 individual visits (average of 4 per night) on the nights their hazardous weather beds were open. This dramatic decrease is directly attributable to the opening of the Night Shelter at Downtown Daily Bread.

The fewer number of men seeking shelter from hazardous weather allowed Bethesda Mission to more effectively serve its clients. Those coming to the shelter were expected to commit to long-term recovery. During the winter months of December 2017 through March 2018, of the 63 short term guests (deciding in 20 days if willing to try recovery), 24 entered the long- term recovery program, or 38%, up from 10% during the same period the previous winter. The results of this have been heightened through the summer months as these men begin to reap the results of their efforts due to staying longer in the program and receiving more services. More intensive support from Bethesda's Life Coaches increases the chances of major personal life changes, resulting in fewer homeless people on the streets, fewer police calls, fewer prisoners, fewer emergency room visits, and fewer families in stress. This is good for our city, its people and its businesses. The social and economic benefits cannot be overstated.

In order to continue this positive momentum, Downtown Daily Bread seeks donations of \$100,000 to assist with the cost of running the Night Shelter during the winters of 2018 – 2019 and 2019 – 2020. That is about \$12 per night for a man to stay at Downtown Daily Bread. If there is not the financial support to do this, then the Night Shelter will not open. If the Night Shelter does not open, the effect in the City of Harrisburg will be real, and people will suffer.

Also this winter, Downtown Daily Bread and Christian Churches United plan to work together to make a more concentrated effort to help those staying in winter shelters get into long-term housing. Funding is being pursued for a staff member who would rotate through the winter shelter locations and other places where unsheltered individuals congregate, helping them get connected to rental assistance and other housing programs available. Christian Churches United needs to raise at least \$15,000 to assist in funding this position over the next two years.

Your support is needed for this collaborative effort! See below for contact information on how you can also support the winter shelters and long-term options provided by Downtown Daily Bread, Bethesda Mission, and Christian Churches United. Together we can make a difference for those dealing with hunger and homelessness in our region.

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