

Winter Shelter Ministry: Well Done, Bruton Volunteers!

Lianne & Douglas Boller

Once again, Bruton Parish volunteers enthusiastically stepped forward to provide food and shelter to the homeless in our community. Our week as host this year was February 4 to 11, representing the thirteenth week of this season's Williamsburg area Community of Faith Mission (COFM) Winter Shelter program. Lewis Hall provided an inviting respite from the wintry rain and chill while our guests received a warm welcome from our volunteer teams.



Over the seven days, the number of our guests accommodated each night varied from a low of 15 to a high of 23, although we were prepared for more. More than 35



individual guests, both women and men, were served during the week; this year there were no children. Upwards of 330 hot dinners and breakfasts were served while at least 108 bag lunches were given out.



What can one say about the rapidity with which Bruton parishioners signed on when the Winter Shelter call first went out! It was heartwarming to see how some volunteer slots filled up so quickly. "And sign me on already for next year!" was a cry



heard more than once. We had 175 separate slots to fill and over 130 people generously offered their time & talents. Clearly there is a pretty large volunteer group that looks forward to this early February opportunity for participation in this very active Christian service.

We're in our sixth year now, so the word has evidently gone forth that this is a great time to do something really meaningful for the community, to work alongside friends and get to make new ones in the congregation. Of course not all volunteer slots were so readily filled; those who handled the wee small hour shifts were much appreciated. Our guests came from a wide variety of life experiences, but their appreciation of the genuine warmth and hospitality they found here at Bruton was expressed many times over.

It was a joy to work and plan with a very talented, dedicated and hard-working Steering Committee. Please join us in thanking them for their leadership, and for the many long hours they put in to ensure our week ran smoothly.

Volunteer Recruitment:	Sue Spooner
Logistics Team:	George Rice
Check-In Team:	Steve Holm
Dinner Team:	Steve Fitton
Overnight Team:	Jim Mundy
Breakfast Team:	Sue Wagner
Check-Out Team:	M.J. Freeman
Security Team:	Judy Collard
Weather Guru:	Dick Estes
Clergy Liaison:	Lauren McDonald

Our week was enlivened with several happenings: a screened Super Bowl, thanks to a Canterbury contingent who also graced us with a scrumptious "make your own taco" dinner; complimentary haircuts provided by Salon Gia and Serenity Spa; mouth-watering donations from "Extraordinary Cupcakes"; a Thursday evening "Sing-a-Long" with Jack Wagner at the piano; and a very elegant Saturday night dinner graced with beautiful decorations by Susan Moorman, flower centerpieces by Marcia Hibbitts, music by Jack Wagner, and tenderloins, all donated, skillfully prepared by Michael Thompson and his team.

To support our Shelter Week there were many clothing and monetary donations and all of these were greatly appreciated. We thank these donors and also every single volunteer in all of the various teams who gave so willingly of their time and effort. It has been a privilege to work with you. Now we pass the baton to Sally and Bringier McConnell to chair the 2019 Bruton Shelter Week. They will be outstanding leaders!



Pictures on page 8 & 9:

- 1 Unloading the GodPod on Sunday, February 4.
- 2 Co-Chair Douglas Boller bringing in COFM bins
- 3 Overnight & Security Team
- 4-5 Canterbury Check-In & Dinner Teams for Super Bowl Sunday
- 6 Friday Night Youth Dinner Crew
- 7 Saturday Night Beef Tenderloin Special Dinner Team
- 8 Tuesday Night Dinner Team
- 9 Saturday Morning Breakfast Crew
- 10 Sunday Morning, February 11 Check-out team
- 11 2018 Winter Shelter Co-Chairs, Douglas & Lianne Boller, and 2019 Co-Chairs Sally & Bringier McConnell
- 12 Loading up the GodPod on Sunday, February 11, bound for the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church