

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2017

Friends Meeting of Washington

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 26 – Potluck with Undocublack, newly formed group for African Immigrants

Nov. 29 – Orientation/Training Session DC Detention Visitation Network,
kelleybell21@comcast.net

Nov.25, Dec 23 – Christ House Suppers, handleygr@niaid.nih.gov

Dec. 9 & 10, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm – Shoebox Weekend

SANCTUARY AT FMW

“Sanctuary at FMW is a work in progress,” says spokesperson, Jim Bell. The Sanctuary Task Force, STF was approved by Meeting for Business in March, 2017. Since that time the 15 members have been hard at work:

1. **educating** themselves on the legal, financial and property issues around sanctuary;
2. **meeting** with other established groups, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Sanctuary DMV; AFSC-DC; Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church; Council on American Islamic Relations; DC Detention Visitation Network;
3. **lobbying** on DACA, US Senators Kaine, Cardin, Van Hollen, Sasse, Toomey;
4. **accompanying** immigrants to Immigration and Customs Enforcement check-ins;
5. **visiting** detainees at MD detention center;
6. **conducting** meetings at FMW, Washington Lawyers Committee; FCNL Lobby training, Metropolitan AME training listening to immigrants
7. **discerning** whether FMW can provide sanctuary to an immigrant at risk of deportation, cost, liability, space.
8. **Growing** a STF fund, presently, \$1,000.

What is the greatest need now? To understand the problems faced by detainees from the detainees' point of view. The STF is planning an area-wide orientation/training session on Nov. 29th facilitated by the DC Detention Visitation Network to qualify members and attenders to visit detainees in DC,

CHRIST HOUSE

Christ House opened its doors in 1985 with a dual mission of addressing immediate illness and chronic homelessness. The 24-hour staff includes medical workers, caseworkers, addiction counselors, meal providers, activities director, and pastoral workers to provide a holistic approach to up to 34 clients referred from hospitals and other care facilities.

In 1996 **Christ House** opened 37 apartment units for former patients, adding 15 more units in 2010. This program, called **Kairos**, accepts individuals with chronic illness who have made a commitment to personal recovery, spirituality, and community. Current capacity is 52 residents.

For 25 years, through the FMW Hunger and Homelessness Task Force, Gray Handley, Rose Mary Romano, Grace and Mollie Handley and other dedicated volunteers have provided supper on the fourth Sunday of each month. The group plans the menu, purchases food, prepares and serves the meal, dines with the residents, and helps with cleanup. The FMW group is one of 27 groups who offer one or more meals a month to 60 people. “It has enriched our lives to get to know both clients and staff at **Christ House**, seeing so many seriously ill individuals on the road to physical and spiritual recovery.”

How can you help? E-mail Gray,handleygr@niaid.nih.gov. Contact **Christ House** at volunteers@Christhouse.org for other opportunities. For inspiration, view **The Opportune Time**, at www.Christhouse.org. Special request – turkeys for Thanksgiving