

Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter



CARITAS is a program where people help meet the basic needs of others. The men, women, and families in the CARITAS program are grateful for this help. But at **Christ Church** the difference is this...we want to meet not just their basic needs, we want them to know that we value them and see them as Christ's own, just as we are. We use real plates, cups, and silverware, even though it means more clean up...*and they notice*. We ask our dinner crews to serve the meals instead of making it self-service. We do laundry every day, even though it means more volunteers, so that the man with three pairs of pants to his name doesn't have to worry about what he is going to wear. *And he noticed*. Christ Church has created this amazing Garage space that allows us to offer them air-conditioned sleeping and warm showers on-site so they don't have to travel elsewhere...*and they notice*. We ask them to wear name tags so we can get to know them and greet them by name. We worship and receive Eucharist with them. Our youth group shared music, fellowship, games, and treated our guests with respect...*and they noticed*. We have volunteers that sleep here, mend clothes, make and serve meals, set up, clean up, drive to the dentist, lead Bible Study, cut hair, donate food and supplies, and so much more so that we can try to not just meet their needs but be the hands and feet of Christ...and they notice.

That is the difference. Thank you to everyone who has helped in big or small ways during CARITAS week to be the difference in someone's life on Christ's behalf.