



 **CARITAS**
IMPACT REPORT 2023

R O O T E D I N C O M M U N I T Y



Dear friends,

As I reflect on the past year at CARITAS, I am filled with profound gratitude for our shared journey. As you flip through the pages of our impact report, you'll witness the remarkable growth and impact your support has made possible.

CARITAS is currently in a pivotal moment. While we continue to address the escalating needs in our community, we also recognize the importance of nurturing our roots. This period of consolidation allows us to strengthen our foundation, ensuring we can sustain our efforts for years to come. In the pages of our report, you'll see the vibrant roots of our initiatives in full bloom, nourishing our programs and their impact. These roots represent the interconnectedness of our community - volunteers, partners, supporters, and advocates like you - who have tirelessly championed our cause for nearly four decades.

Together, we have nurtured these roots into tall, sturdy trees that now provide essential shade to those seeking refuge and support. Our participants find safety, resources, care, connectivity, rest, and joy under the canopy of our programs, thanks to your compassionate care and unwavering support.

As we look towards the future, our exceptional team is ready to embrace what lies ahead. But we cannot do it alone. Your continued support is vital to ensuring our roots remain steadfast and resilient, ready to weather any storms that may come our way.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to making a difference. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership on this journey.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Karen O'Brien
President & CEO

Housing & Homeless Services

16,475
Nights of emergency shelter



27%
Shelter participants who found stable housing



446
Men and women received shelter

65,900
Shelter meals provided



Recovery Services

197,499
Hours of Recovery Education



65,833
Nights of shelter

92%
Enrollees graduated from Works



888
Adults served by The Healing Place

92%
Works graduates gainfully employed



192
Individuals lived in the Recovery Residences built and recovery capital

263,332
Meals served

Partnership

1,462
Donors

1,000+
Volunteers

2,900
Hours of volunteer services

450
Community partners

326,133
Pounds of furniture saved from the landfill

656
Households received furniture

R O O T E D I N C O M M U N I T Y

Rooted in Housing & Homeless Services

Our region's level of homelessness continues to rise. Compounded by the end of pandemic relief funding and a lack of affordable housing, the need continues to outpace the capacity of human service agencies. Locally, Richmond's January 2024 Point In Time Count revealed a 9.6% increase in unsheltered homelessness since January 2023. The low-barrier emergency shelters at CARITAS provide warm beds, hot meals, showers, laundry service, and compassionate case management with our specialized shelter team.



Valda Mason grew up in Virginia, and following the passing of the relative she had been staying with, she suddenly found herself homeless. Valda had a job, but overwhelmed by debt and facing a highly competitive housing market, she had no option but to live on the street. "I had nowhere to go." For the next five years, Valda struggled with the harsh realities of homelessness, until one day when she called the Homeless Connection hotline and heard news that would change her life - there was an open bed at the CARITAS Emergency Shelter.

"I came into the shelter with a plan of what I wanted to do." From the moment she stepped through the doors, Valda was met with support and guidance. With a job already in hand, Valda worked tirelessly, driven by her goal to pay off her debt and purchase a car to make getting to work easier. She left the shelter each morning at 3:00am and wouldn't return until 11:00pm - working exhaustingly

long days. But the CARITAS staff supported her each step of the way and found ways to accommodate this grueling schedule while making sure she had time for case management support and other resources.

During her time in the shelter, by saving, working incredibly long hours, and working with case managers, she was able to pay off nearly \$10,000 in debt and purchase her first car. Despite facing health challenges along the way, including a hip replacement while living in the shelter, Valda persisted, eventually securing a housing choice voucher and moving into her own apartment in April 2023.

That first year out of CARITAS was hard, but she still had all the support she built through her time at the shelter, and she continued working and paying off her debts. Reflecting on her journey, Valda says "I can't tell you how appreciative I am for how many things they did for me." With dreams of purchasing land and building a legacy for her family, Valda's future vision is one of stability and independence.

"I love the staff at CARITAS. They're caring," Valda emphasizes. "They went above and beyond for me." Her message to others facing homelessness is one of encouragement: "If you're homeless and can get to CARITAS, they will help you. As long as you're motivated and willing to do your part, they will do theirs."

Valda always had the skill and determination to reach her goals, and she found that the safe and supportive environment at CARITAS was instrumental in transforming her goals into a tangible reality.

"If you're homeless and can get to CARITAS, they will help you. As long as you're motivated and willing to do your part, they will do theirs."

--Valda Mason



R O O T E D I N C O M M U N I T Y

Rooted in Recovery Services

We continue to see the staggering toll of addiction on our community. From 2021--2022, the prevalence of substance use disorder diagnoses doubled for both adults and youth in Virginia. Today, Fentanyl is a leading cause of adult death. The Healing Place, a residential recovery program, allows time and resources for individuals to create pathways to sobriety, employment, and wellness. To address major barriers to employment, CARITAS Works provides job-readiness skill-building, job placement support, and ongoing assistance.



In a hotel in Los Angeles, broke, drunk, and ready to die, the only thing on my mind was getting back to CARITAS and The Healing Place." DaQuan Jennings, who goes by Quan, had been on a rollercoaster for years - in and out of recovery, struggling with alcohol addiction, moving from place to place, and desperately searching for healing.

Quan originally began at The Healing Place in 2014 and went through the entire program, commencing from Works in 2015. After graduating, he received a job opportunity at Luck Stone, a company which has been a key partner of CARITAS' workforce development work, often hiring program alumni after they commence. Unfortunately, Quan relapsed, beginning a years-long whirlwind of jumping from job to job, city to city, and dropping in and out of various recovery programs. This cycle led Quan to that hotel room in L.A., where he knew that his last shot at life was

getting back to Richmond and to The Healing Place. "I had put myself through the ringer. If I didn't get it right this time, I was going to die."

Quan rejoined The Healing Place in 2021 and started the entire program again from the beginning. "By this point I'd had some success in life, I'd lived in nice cities, but getting back to that top bunk at The Healing Place, I had the best sleep of my life." While back for the second time, Quan decided to join a running team that was preparing for the Monument Ave 10k. He had never run more than 2 miles, but as he trained, built up endurance, and expanded his mileage, he saw the undeniable connection between his running journey and his journey towards sobriety. "As I matured as a runner, I was maturing in my recovery. I found friends, a community, and deepened my faith."

Quan completed the Richmond Marathon in 2022, the same year he commenced the second time - and a new idea was born. Having lived all over the country, he made a pact with himself to return to every city where he had relapsed, and run a marathon. Honoring his recovery journey while gaining closure: "each time I completed a race, I felt a huge sense of accomplishment - I had done what I came to do and was leaving all that negativity from my life behind."

Now living in St. Louis after being recruited for a job in his industry, Quan is surrounded by a strong community of friends and support - and he's continuing to run. He was back in Richmond in April 2024 to run the Monument 10k again with The Healing Place running team - the place where it all began. When reflecting on his journey at CARITAS, Quan says "When you're in deep with addiction, it is dark, embarrassing, and scary. CARITAS is a safe place where you can go and say 'I messed up and I need your help.' They will receive you in a way I've never experienced anywhere else, and they will respect the courage it takes you to walk through those doors."



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—DaQuan Jennings, THPM Alum

R O O T E D I N C O M M U N I T Y

Rooted in Partnership

Thanks to you, we were able to continue our unwavering commitment to people experiencing addiction and/or homelessness in our region. Your contributions enable us to make a meaningful difference, one person at a time, and one day at a time. Thank you for being here with us.



The Reverend David Comeau, Assisting Priest at All Souls Anglican Church, first heard about CARITAS when he moved to Richmond 7 years ago. “Honestly, it sounded like the type of place that Jesus would spend his time. He would see hope there and he would enter into the lives of the women and men serving and living there - both in their joy in their suffering.”

All Souls opened in 2022 about a mile away from The CARITAS Center. “From the beginning, we were committed to being an outward facing church with a desire to practice both service and hospitality that took seriously the particular place in which we were planted. I began walking the community, wondering what needs and opportunities there might be in our neighborhood and in this process we discovered how close we were to CARITAS. On

Christmas Eve, 2022 a gentleman from The Healing Place walked to our evening service and a friendship began that has led to a deeper relationship with both CARITAS and The Healing Place.”

Father David started volunteering - teaching the occasional Works class, participating in morning motivation, dropping in on a class, and coming weekly to eat lunch with the men in the shelter. More recently, his work has evolved. “Over the past couple of months, gentlemen from The Healing Place have asked if I would hear their Step 5’s - part of AA’s Twelve Steps - with them over at All Souls. Sitting with these men and hearing their stories and helping them see they are loved and forgiven and even begin to help chart a path forward has been transformative in my own understanding of love and forgiveness. As a whole, I’ve been challenged by the men at THP to grow in honesty and vulnerability with people closest to me. I’ve also benefited from simply seeing the miracle of recovery first hand through the lives of some of these men.”

Father David’s deep involvement allows him to see the power of CARITAS’ programs, and this impact has spread beyond the walls of The Healing Place: “As I spend more and more time getting to know The Healing Place, I think one of the greatest gifts it offers participants is that they don’t have to invent their own recovery process. I’ve seen that when participants lean in to the structures and staff of THP (curfew, steps, service, community, etc), they are provided a safe and organized space to enter into the deep work of recovery. We have even had others in our congregation take steps in addressing their own recovery thanks to the influence of THP. Our church loves and prays for The Healing Place and for all who suffer addiction regularly thanks to their impact.”

“Sitting with these men and hearing their stories and helping them see they are loved and forgiven and even begin to help chart a path forward has been transformative in my own understanding of love and forgiveness.”

--The Rev. David Comeau,
Assisting Priest, All Souls
Anglican Church

R O O T E D I N C O M M U N I T Y



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Financials

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Income

Contributions and Grants	\$6,273,363
Investment Income	188,731
Program Fees	\$1,324,133
Other*	-\$363,609
Total	\$7,422,168

Expenses

Administration	\$1,037,564
Fundraising	\$697,784
Program Services	\$6,706,730
Total	\$8,442,078

Assets

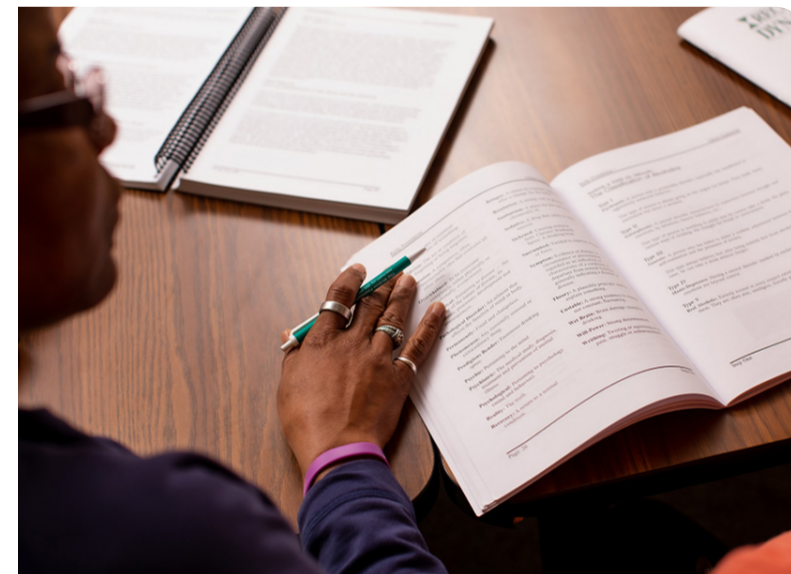
Cash & CARITAS Center Investments	\$19,278,386
Inventory	\$152,589
Property & Equipment	\$2,114,684
Endowment	\$791,071
Other	\$1,941,220
Total	\$24,277,950

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Liabilities	\$3,983,913
Total Net Assets	\$20,294,037
Total	\$24,277,950

*This loss was attributed to New Market Tax Credits and related entities, distinct from CARITAS's operating results.

**990s for CARITAS and The Healing Place can be found at www.caritasva.org.



SHELTER
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