

## ***Community Of Faith Mission Winter Shelter 2020/2021***

St. Martin's has a strong and long-standing experience supporting COFM's effort to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for those needing shelter. This year is no exception; however, as in almost all segments of our society, COVID-19 has forced COFM to reevaluate its practices and procedures and seek creative alternatives to sheltering our brothers and sisters in need.

In past years, St. Martin's has served as a one-week shelter site, and parish volunteers have provided temporary residents delicious meals, prayers, and comforting conversation. Due to the ever-changing nature of the ongoing pandemic concerns, and in observance of governmental guidelines, St. Martin's will not be serving as a shelter site this year. But to supplement government and grant funding, we would like to cover the costs of providing one week's shelter in hotels for up to 25 guests, about \$5000.

We ask all who would ordinarily have volunteered to give generously to this effort, starting with our October Cloak Offering. You may write a check to St. Martin's with COFM in the memo line, or use our online payment system.

Here are some other ways to help:

1. Offer prayers of support and encouragement for COFM members, shelter guests and volunteers
2. Donate food and supplies
3. Volunteer at shelter sites, mid-February through mid-March, as you are comfortable and able. COFM has developed procedures in accordance with CDC and VA Health Department response to the pandemic, such as a modified check-in, procedures for serving meals, and supervision of guests. If you volunteer it would be independent from St. Martin's as in past years.

Thank you in advance for your sacrificial giving in the spirit of St. Martin of Tours.

Gratefully,

Ken LaLonde, Winter Shelter Coordinator  
Bruce Ebersole and Florence Downes, Outreach Commission Co-Chairs

**\*Additional information on donating food, supplies and volunteers will be passed along as it becomes available.**