

Bethesda/Old First Church Shelter

Written by John Owens

Please list the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team.

- ❖ Myself, Alesha Thomas, & Michael Caine

Please list what the goals of your group or ministry were for 2017.

- ❖ Serve a disenfranchised population displaced due to poverty, addiction, recovery, etc during the months of November thru April.

Were you able to achieve your goals for 2017? Please be as specific as possible of your successes and failures.

- ❖ We served a max of 34 men in 2017.
- ❖ Of those 34 men, they received housing for six months and generous donations from a variety of donors and in-kind donations.
- ❖ Old First was able to continue to fulfill their mission to serve a population in need from the harsh environment of living on the streets.
- ❖ We established relationships with men living on the street or transitioning to further our understanding of Homelessness, Housing, and Addiction.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? What is your group or ministry area pondering?

- ❖ Dedicated space.
- ❖ Dedicated funds to improve the conditions of where the men sleep.
- ❖ Having constant issues with heating in the winter.
- ❖ Volunteers too concerned about men showing up for dinner.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming 2018 year

- ❖ Moving away from sub-standard "shelter" housing to proper recovery housing and social services.
- ❖ Improving Church relations to outside organizations to partner with

What are the ways that the church can support your team?

- ❖ Better understand the needs of the homeless populations of Philadelphia.
- ❖ Move away from the traditional church shelter and push for a recovery housing facility.
- ❖ And lastly, push the Church leadership to authorize the 501c3 to dedicate time, funds, and policy towards solving the issue of Homelessness of Philadelphia.