



By providing safe shelter, support and resources, Christian Care empowers the homeless to make positive changes in every aspect of their lives.

July, August, September 2018

"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at." - Stephen Hawking

A few years ago, Odis Roberts found himself in a very difficult situation. After losing his job, he was no longer able to afford his housing and found himself homeless and resorted to living out of his car.

Odis had been sleeping in his car for weeks before a family friend suggested Christian Care Rescue Mission as a shelter for him to call. After Odis became sheltered at Christian Care's facility, he still had other hurdles to overcome: due to health issues, Odis was no longer able to find work in the field that he had been in for years, leaving him with very limited income options.

So Odis focused his efforts on becoming employable. After nearly a dozen attempts and some tutoring from his client advocate, he earned his GED, and he completed a retail certification program through Good Will.

Despite his best efforts, Odis was not able to maintain a job and felt as if he had come to a standstill. His stay at Christian Care had become longer than most. While Odis became a mentor to many new residents and even played a role in starting programs at the Mission, he was now growing to fear living on his own.

"I'm not ready, I'm so used to being surrounded by people now," Odis said.

However, Odis decided to apply for an apartment through his local Housing Authority. After a few weeks of waiting, Odis was at the top of the wait list and would soon have his own apartment waiting for him. The reality of it was almost overwhelming, but with the encouragement of Christian Care staff and some of his fellow residents, Odis felt confident to accept the offer and move into his own apartment.

Now living on his own, Odis still contributes to Christian Care's mission through regular volunteer work with the agency, as well as other community nonprofits.



You're Invited . . .

Join us on **Saturday, August 25**
from 2-5pm at Christian Care for
our Donor Appreciation Picnic!

Come enjoy some good food, hear some great stories, take a brief tour, and see for yourself the difference your gifts are making in the lives of the least, the last, and the lost in the Quad Cities.

Please RSVP at
banderson@christiancareqc.org.

The rain date is September 8 from 2-5.



What's New at Christian Care

A Great New Look

Christian Care got a much-needed upgrade in May- some desperately needed new flooring in our kitchen and some of our bathrooms. The meal site had to be slowed down significantly during installation, but the floors look great! If you haven't had the chance yet, come on by to take a look.

Food Handler Safety Class

Christian Care provides intensive case management services for all our residents, which includes focusing on needs, education, and training related to future employment. Blackhawk College recently came to provide an on-site food handler safety course for residents and staff who work in our community meal site. This helps us stay safe at Christian Care while also providing training for men as they seek new jobs. The money to sponsor this was generously donated by Rock Island Rotary. Thank you, Blackhawk College and Rock Island Rotary!

Mark Your Calendars



Mark your calendars for February 2, 2019! Christian Care will be hosting **Have a Heart for the Homeless 2019**, a fund raiser luncheon at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. More details to come, so stay tuned!

Christian Care is honored to once again take part in the **CROP Hunger Walk** on October 7, 2018. For nearly a half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources.



Thank you!

Vegatable Garden



In April, volunteers with the 2nd Saturday Group came to Christian Care and built 4 new garden beds. We've been busy planting and caring for our cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, and so much more. This will help ensure we have fresh produce at our meal site, and we will give away any excess to those in our community who are in need. Thank you to Theisen's Community Grant to sponsor this garden, and thank you to the volunteers who helped build, plant, and care for our garden to make sure we have a bumper crop!

Trivia Night 2018 Success

On May 4, Christian Care hosted its annual Trivia Night at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rock Island. We were blessed that approximately 200 people came out to play, have fun, and support our shelter and meal site. The money we raised will go directly towards ensuring that we continue to provide services for those in our community who are vulnerable and less fortunate, just as we have for over 100 years.



People who have been coming to Christian Care's Trivia Night for a long time said that there was something special about this year's event. Thank you to all who were able to join us for such an exciting evening! If you weren't able to make it, stay tuned for future Christian Care events coming your way.

Thank You for Your Donations

Thank you to First Presbyterian Church (left), Faith Lutheran Church (center), Beulah Presbyterian Church (right), and to so many more churches, organizations, and individuals who gave generously in the past quarter to help ensure Christian Care can continue to provide for the least, the last, and the lost in the Quad Cities!



"Chip In" for Christian Care!



The John Deere Classic is once again kicking off its **Birdies for Charity** campaign and it's never been easier to "*chip in*" and make a difference! Call us or email us at sgottcent@christiancareqc.org to request a pledge form and then simply make a one-time flat donation OR pledge one cent or more per birdie you think will be made during the John Deere Classic this year. Be sure to put Christian Care as your charity and #1390 as our bird number!

Completed forms can be dropped off at Christian Care located at 2209 3rd Avenue, Rock Island or mailed directly to Birdies for Charity, 15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244. Pledge forms are due not later than August 12.

Going Green

Christian Care is **GOING GREEN** with our quarterly newsletters. If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy or wish to go green, please email Steve Gottcent at sgottcent@christiancareqc.org and let us know! We want to ensure you continue to receive our correspondence.



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