



**CCU** Christian Churches United  
of the Tri-County Area

# The Current Comment

SUMMER + 2021  
413 S. 19th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104 + (717) 230-9550 + [www.ccuahbg.org](http://www.ccuahbg.org)

## Street Outreach Team and Compassion Action Network Making a Difference Helping Our Neighbors on the Street Weather Life's Storms

*By Steve Schwartz, Director of Development*

Shaina and Jesse (not their real names) are no strangers to the street. They've often lacked strong supports and have found themselves in transient living situations. Jesse has been battling homelessness for 6 years. Shaina had a previous experience of homelessness about 10 years ago, and then this spring found herself on the street again.

*"We're so thankful for the help getting our own place." - Shaina*

In each other, they found a supportive partnership. Its hard to be alone when you are living on the street.

This summer they were living in a tent on a sidewalk in downtown Harrisburg next to Market Square Presbyterian Church and were thankful for the welcoming nature of the church amidst difficult circumstances. "The pastor told us if we ever need anything to let him know," Shaina recalled warmly.

She also talked about how she got to know our Street Outreach Team at CCU: "Aisha [Mobley] would come by regularly and see how she could help people that were staying by the church." So our staff had been building a relationship with Shaina, Jesse and others when word came that they must move. With no warning or communication, in mid-July a local judge said everyone staying downtown around Market Square Presbyterian had to vacate the premises within three hours or face arrest.

Some could not move in time due to being at work—which illustrates the plight of many working poor folks—so thankfully a short extension was given so they could move their belongings. Aisha Mobley sprang into action. Aisha leads our Compassion Action Network (CAN), a network of grassroots groups, churches, and other homeless agency representatives. She called our friends at Family Promise and they lent their van. Aisha then quickly helped Shaina, Jesse and others relocate to different homelessness encampment areas. Shaina and Jesse ended up *(Continued page 2)*



*With the support of our Street Outreach Team and Compassion Action Network, Shaina and Jesse went from a tent downtown (top) to another encampment (middle), then to a hotel and eventually... (see next page).*



Helping Our Neighbors... *(continued from page 1)*

in a nearby encampment for a few days. Aisha then worked with our HELP Ministries staff to get them into a short-term hotel stay.

Shaina and Jesse each have significant mental health and physical challenges, so while in the hotel Aisha helped them each obtain mental health support. She connected them with UPMC’s Contact to Care office to get support for their medical needs and find a primary care physician. She worked with each to update their identification, helped Jesse obtain his birth certificate, and encouraged Shaina to reconnect with her lawyer to discuss her social security benefits.

Aisha connected Jesse with a tax advisor so he could complete paperwork to receive his stimulus benefits and accompanied him to his bank to straighten out an identity theft issue. Jesse hadn’t been taken seriously on his first bank visit. Aisha’s advocacy got his banking issues resolved and his account was again accessible.

Finally, Aisha and our staff helped Shaina and Jesse find a room to rent in the city. They are happy with the space, the room includes a kitchenette and seating area, and can afford to maintain living there. Their place is steps from a corner store and on a local bus route. They are two blocks from their bank, a food pantry is down the street, and grocery store is two blocks away.

Shaina and Jesse are grateful for Aisha and the entire CCU team of staff and Compassion Action Network volunteers and agencies. “We’re so thankful for the help getting our own place. If there is anything we can do to help others, let us know,” Shaina added before we concluded our conversation.

By working together, we were able to help this couple weather a difficult time in their life. Thank you for your love and support in making this work possible.

*If you would like to learn how you, your church or your agency can support people on the street through the Compassion Action Network, please contact Aisha Mobley, Community Mobilization Coordinator, at [amobley@ccuhbg.org](mailto:amobley@ccuhbg.org) or (717) 963-5985.*



*From living in a tent to their own place in a few weeks. Shaina and Jesse are thankful for everyone’s support.*

**Chat and Chew**

The **Race and Unity Action Coalition** invites you to the next Chat and Chew gathering via Zoom...

**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:30pm  
**Register:** [www.ccuahbg.org/chatandchew](http://www.ccuahbg.org/chatandchew)

We will be discussing Critical Race Theory, sorting through the facts and myths that have made this a polarizing topic in our communities.

*The Race and Unity Action Coalition is a wonderfully diverse group of people from congregations on the East and West Shore interested in continuing the conversation on race and the local impact of racism.*

**WE ARE HIRING**

**Full-Time Emergency Rental Assistance Case Manager**  
 Process Emergency Rental Assistance Program applications and provide follow-up case management as needed. Associates degree in human services or related area preferred, a minimum of two years’ experience in human services and/or customer service required, as well as the ability to use technology to track client data and outcomes. Please submit letter of interest and resume to Leah Payne, HELP Ministries Program Manager, at [lpayne@ccuhbg.org](mailto:lpayne@ccuhbg.org) or mail to CCU, 413 S. 19th St., Harrisburg, PA 17104. EOE. [www.ccuahbg.org/jobs](http://www.ccuahbg.org/jobs)

**Join us for worship on the river!**

Most Sundays, now through mid-October, you can worship with us on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat. Worship is typically led by a different local pastor, church or group each week. The cruise which leaves from City Island starts at 10:00am and lasts about an hour. There is no cost to board but seating is limited so please arrive by 9:45am. A freewill offering is taken as you depart the boat to support the Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society and HELP Ministries.

Schedule: [www.ccuahbg.org/riverboat](http://www.ccuahbg.org/riverboat)



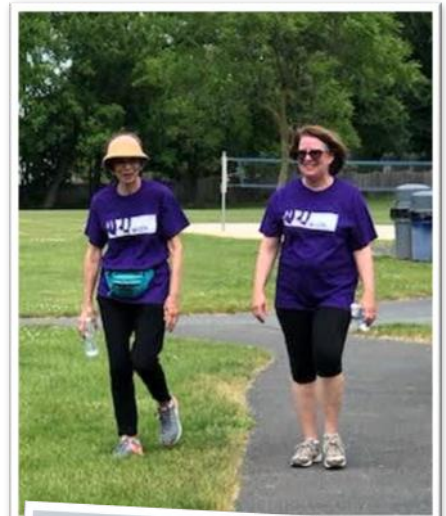
**CCU Highmark Walk 2021  
 TOP INDIVIDUAL WALKERS**

Pastor Nancy Brody.....	\$1,100
Kevin Smith .....	\$860
Steve Schwartz.....	\$490
Beth Bard .....	\$415
John-Luis Schwartz.....	\$290
Carlos Schwartz.....	\$290
Buster The Dog Schwartz .....	\$270
Aisha Mobley .....	\$250
Deborah Port.....	\$205
Donna Speelman.....	\$200
Michelle Thomas.....	\$200
Wendi Wright.....	\$150
Elaine Saum.....	\$150
Jerrold Tidwell.....	\$130
Jean Dankosky.....	\$130
Phyllis Schell.....	\$125

**TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS**

The <b>SHOWmen</b> (Schwartz Family and Friends) .....	\$2,060
<b>Team St. Michael</b> (St. Michael Lutheran Church, Harrisburg).....	\$1,665
<b>Reinford Ramblers</b> (Reinford Family and Friends).....	\$1,625
<b>Camp Hill Presbyterian Church</b> .....	\$1,532
<b>CHUMS on the Move</b> (Chambers Hill United Methodist Church) .....	\$1,104
<b>Inspired By God and Others</b> (Messiah Lutheran/St. Peter's Lutheran, Halifax) .....	\$1,100
<b>Compassion Action Network</b> .....	\$1,080
<b>St Thomas UCC, Linglestown</b> .....	\$1,000
<b>Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg</b> .....	\$885
<b>HELP HighSteppers</b> (HELP Ministries Staff and Friends) .....	\$820
<b>Heart Sisters</b> (Beth Bard and Friends).....	\$815

6 group walks plus 1 mountain hike and 1 kayak adventure across 3 counties over 8 weeks. 17 teams and 96 human walkers along with several canines, all leading to over \$17,000 raised to support homelessness outreach efforts in the capital region. **Thank you everyone for making this a tremendous year...our biggest year ever!**



**2021 HELP Ministries Golf Tournament Results**

88 Golfers gathered at Sunset Golf Course on June 7th for our 44th Annual HELP Ministries Golf Tournament. Their efforts netted over \$10,500 for the work of HELP Ministries in supporting our most vulnerable neighbors! Thank you to our golfers and sponsors for making the event such a big success, and to the Rotary Club of Harrisburg for their volunteer help!



- 1st Place Team:** Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, Team #1 (pictured left)
- 2nd Place:** Renewed Hearing Solutions
- 3rd Place:** Trinity UMC, New Cumberland



*HOPE and HELP Presenting Sponsor*  
**CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
[www.christchurchcamphill.org](http://www.christchurchcamphill.org)

*Rapid Rehousing Sponsor*  
**L.B. SMITH ESTATE FOUNDATION**

*Homeless Prevention Sponsor*  
**EPISCOPALIANS SUPPORTING CCU MINISTRIES**





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HARRISBURG, PA

*Your Support is  
Making a Difference!*



**Save The Date**

**UNITED  
IN LOVE**



Christian Churches United • Celebration Banquet

**November 9, 2021, 6pm**

At The Wesley Center,  
Camp Hill United Methodist Church,  
417 S 22nd St, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Auction, Dinner and Joy To The Burg  
Album Pre-Release Party

Join us in-person or  
via streaming broadcast

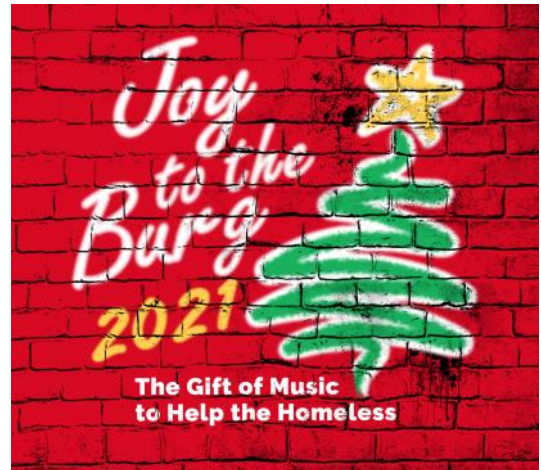
**Watch for more details:**

[www.UnitedInLoveBanquet.org](http://www.UnitedInLoveBanquet.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ccuahbg](https://www.facebook.com/ccuahbg)



Featuring special  
guest speaker **The  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey  
Scanlan**, Bishop of  
the Episcopal  
Diocese of Central  
Pennsylvania

**Coming This Christmas**



**Local Artists Unite to Help The Homeless**

**Album Release:  
November 10, 2021**

**ABC27 TV Special:  
December 9, 2021**

**Music Festival at The Englewood, Hershey:  
December 12, 2021**

[www.JoyToTheBurg.com](http://www.JoyToTheBurg.com)