



Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM)

The Harbor, set to open in October 2015, is a project of the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM), a coalition of 22 local faith groups.

The Harbor provides a drop-in/day center to provide the area's homeless with a place of temporary respite, and an opportunity to receive a shower and a warm midday meal. The Harbor will provide access to computers, stations to charge cell phones and flashlights, and a secure place to keep their belongings.

The Harbor will be co-located at the St. Bede Outreach Center. The Outreach Center currently serves as a low/no barrier Homeless Entry Point, providing coordinated intake and assessment, and compassionate human services to all people. The Outreach Center is an ideal location because of its proximity to the transportation center. Our area homeless neighbors know this to be a welcoming place to receive services, providing the Harbor access to an often-reclusive population.

The Harbor will be staffed by volunteers drawn from GWOM member churches. A minimum of 5 volunteers will be needed to staff the Harbor each day. The volunteers will supervise showers, operate the kitchen, and interact with guests. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer please contact your GWOM representatives, Pete Haines or Dave Hartsough. Training opportunities will be available on September 21 from 5-7 pm or September 23 from 9-11 am.

The Harbor will utilize the Outreach Center food pantry, stock of hygiene kits, and personal care items such as socks, underwear, and undershirts. Our church is encouraged to have occasional drives to restock supplies and support our partnership of service.