

Working together until Metro Richmond is...
TRANSFORMED



Dream On

Each January and July the cities across the nation are required to perform a "Point in Time" (PIT) count to help track the number of homeless individuals in their area. Homeward (www.homewardva.org) is the organization that conducts this count for Richmond. According to Homeward, the January 2022 PIT count recorded 739 people experiencing homelessness within the Richmond region. This includes only the homeless individuals they could locate who participated in the count. The actual number is most likely higher.



Homeless Ministry at Oregon Hill Baptist Center

individuals staying outdoors or in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, a tent in the woods, or on the streets

What else characterizes the homeless individuals and families in our area? The January 2022 PIT count showed the following:

- 41.0% reported their age as 55 or older
- 61.8% reported their race as African American/Black/African
- 28.7% reported their race as White
- 9.5% reported their race as multi-racial or another race

The PIT count of 739 in January increased by 6% from the July 2021 PIT count of 699. Of the 699, 425 were one-person adult "households" and 274 lived in "family" units of two or more persons (e.g., two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption).

What factors contribute to homelessness? In the July 2021 PIT, more than one in four had experienced a breakdown of their family or a relationship. The cost of housing (11%) and eviction (9%) added up to one in five. Unemployment accounted for 13%.

(continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

Dream On	1, 3
Executive Director Search	2
Camp Alkulana Corner	4

NOTEWORTHY DATES

Executive Search Committee
April 7
2 p.m. at RCFN Office

CAST Meeting
April 12
6:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Easter Holiday– Office Closed
April 18

SRBC Support Team Meeting
April 30
3:30 p.m. at SRBC Satellite

Camp Alkulana Silent Auction
April 30 at River Road Church
5 p.m. (See Page 4 for details)

RCFN Open House
May 1 (See details below)

MINISTRY OF THE WEEK

- 4/3 Central VA Raceway Ministry
- 4/10 Derbyshire Baptist
- 4/17 Dover Baptist Association
- 4/24 First Baptist

NEW DATE!!!

**RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK
70 RICHMOND, VA**

Dedication Service at 3 p.m. in the Chapel

MAY 1, 2022
OPEN HOUSE & DEDICATION
2:30-4 P.M.
2828 EMERYWOOD PKWY
RICHMOND, VA 23294

River City Faith Network (RCFN) Executive Director and Missions Strategist

River City Faith Network (RCFN) is a Christian, multi-ethnic, multi-racial association that includes Anglo, African American, Cambodian, Chinese, Deaf, Korean, Portuguese, and other international congregations.

RCFN seeks an Executive Director and Missions Strategist to lead our network with its three inner-city community mission centers and Camp Alkulana, oversee RCFN staff and administration, and work closely with the pastors and churches, all in the city of Richmond, Virginia, and the surrounding metropolitan area.

The EDMS will focus on three main roles:

- Role of leadership in fulfilling the network's mission by providing strong and effective strategies to support and develop local missions and to encourage and assist the collaborative and mutually supportive efforts of network churches.
- Role of leadership in ministering to RCFN churches and church leaders through high visibility and contacts, developing and sharing network resources, and consultation as available and needed (e.g., during times of change, internal conflict, or other instability).
- Role of leadership in managing RCFN network office and staff, providing good oversight of network assets, and managing the network's financial program.

RCFN will receive resumes through May 16, 2022.

E-mail resumes to: search.rcfn@gmail.com.

Need a summer job?

WE ARE
HIRING!

You might be the one
we are looking for!

Camp Alkulana is seeking active, creative, and enthusiastic young adults to serve as summer camp counselors for children and youth from the Richmond, Virginia area. Camp counselors are at least 18 years old.

Camp Alkulana is a faith-based overnight summer camp located in Bath County, Virginia with a focus on low-income, at-risk youth.

Contracts are negotiated for full or partial summer commitments.

Apply now at www.alkulana.org.



Contact:
campalkulana@gmail.com
804-329-1701 ext 114
www.alkulana.org

CAMP ALKULANA



FBC WMU Tours RCFN Offices

WMU members from First Baptist Church toured the new RCFN offices, met Jo Ellen Schneider and Steve Allsbrook, and learned more about RCFN and its ministries. They and other RCFN WMU members pray for, give to, and volunteer with RCFN and its ministries. WMU, we thank God for you!

RCFN will hold an Open House and Dedication Service on May 1 (see Page 1). We hope you can join us then and invite you to visit us with your own group too.

Dream On (*continued from Page 1*)

Taken together, housing issues and unemployment make up about one third of the people who participate in the survey. Nearly one in ten had some mental health problem that contributed to their homeless experience.

Are there other reasons our neighbors experience homelessness? Yes. Those reasons include fleeing from domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse, and legal problems.

What stands out to you? The reason one in four homeless individuals gave stood out to me. A fourth of the persons experiencing homelessness reported the lack of significant and supportive human relationships!

At the Oregon Hill Baptist Center, our volunteers and I work closely with dozens of homeless individuals. We hear stories of broken relationships and "bridges burned" with families and friends. We pray with men and women who feel unworthy of respect or love and who lack confidence due to their homelessness, joblessness, past failures, mental illness, substance abuse, or other circumstance.

We tell them God loves them and try to show that we love them too. We share that everyone has ultimate worth simply being a creation and child of God. They hear us say our Creator wants a deep, meaningful relationship with us! That is the Good News given to the Body of Christ along with instructions to share it by word and deed, isn't it? Through its churches, centers, and camp, RCFN has a solid history of this for over 70 years!

About 20 years ago the Oregon Hill neighborhood began to transition as family households moved. The ministries of Oregon Hill Baptist Center and its host, Pine Street Baptist Church, began to change to reach the growing homeless population in the area.

The first connection to our homeless neighbors came through the OHBC food pantry. Homeless individuals came requesting food. As more and more of them came, we realized we did not have enough food nor the right kinds of food in our pantry to meet their needs. We set up a room where people could sit inside out of the weather during our food distribution hours. They might have a cup of coffee and a light snack or read the newspaper. The word spread among the homeless community. Their numbers grew, and so did the snack table! Before COVID changed things in 2020, our RCFN church partners helped us serve 80-90 homeless and food insecure people a hot dine-in breakfast! The pandemic challenged all of us, but the number of people we serve has started moving back to pre-pandemic numbers.

As we worked with our homeless neighbors, we learned about other needs we might help meet. Today our ministry offers a clothing closet, personal lockers, a mailing address, help with laundry, weekly snack bags, plastic sleeping mats, and more! We also support these

neighbors as they seek documents like birth certificates and identification cards. Sometimes we help them with medication needs. Part of our ministry involves sharing information such as making referrals to other organizations around the city that assist homeless individuals.

Look at all that has changed at the Oregon Hill Baptist Center! What else does the future hold? Someone else said, "If you want to know what people want, ask them; if you do not want to ask them, observe them." Get to know them. Observe them. Ask God to show you what you might do as you wonder about, imagine, and dream of new and innovative ways to build relationships, build confidence, and share God's love!!

CAN YOU HELP DREAMS BECOME REALITY?



We are dreaming of a new Hair Cutting Ministry! We want to find volunteers and businesses with those skills (or people who can help us find people with those skills), people God might lead to help begin and continue this ministry.

If you feel better when you get a haircut, imagine the confidence a new haircut or shave might give a person as they prepare for a job

interview or apply for housing. Do you have the skills of a stylist/barber? Do you know someone who has those skills? What about a school that teaches stylists or a business that might allow its staff to volunteer their skills in this ministry?

Maybe you do not trust yourself to cut hair. Would you help sweep up, schedule appointments, greet those who come for a haircut, or visit and pray with our neighbors as they wait? Perhaps you could give a gift or invite others to give so we can buy ministry supplies like shampoo, scissors, clippers, or even a barber chair.

I would love to talk with you about this dream for a new ministry to our homeless neighbors. Maybe you have a ministry idea or dream to share with me. I imagine we might find ways to work together. Contact me and... DREAM ON!

—Jennifer Turner, Community Missionary
Oregon Hill Baptist Center

The logo for The River City Faith Network, Richmond Baptist Association. It features a stylized city skyline silhouette against a blue gradient background. The text 'THE RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK' is in a serif font, with 'RICHMOND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION' in a smaller sans-serif font below it. To the left of the text is a small graphic element consisting of three vertical bars of increasing height.

RCFN Week of Prayer and Missions
Offering will be May 8-15th.
More information coming soon.

River City Faith Network
Richmond Baptist Association
2828 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294
Phone: 804-329-1701
office@rbaonline.org
www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

*Working together until
Metro Richmond is...*

TRANSFORMED April 2022



THE River
City FAITH
NETWORK
Richmond Baptist Association

Camp Alkulana Corner.....

SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT CAMP ALKULANA

RESERVE AND PAY ONLINE AT
WWW.ALKULANA.ORG



APRIL 30, 2022 • 5:00 PM
RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
8000 RIVER RD, RICHMOND, VA 23229

QUESTIONS? CAMPALKULANA@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL 804-329-1701



CAMP ALKULANA

WORK DAYS

May 21 and June 4

For more information email Beth!

*Silent Auction & Dinner
to benefit Camp Alkulana*



DONATIONS NEEDED!

*Can you contribute or recruit donations for any of these items?
All items must be in hand by April 15.*

- Handmade Goods: original artwork, wooden crafts, hand-sewn creations
- Restaurants: gift cards for local restaurants and dessert bars
- Vacation Rentals: rentals at the beach, Wintergreen, resorts, etc.
- Family Experiences: tickets to theme parks, museums, movie theaters, arcades, go-karts, etc.
- Local Services: house cleaning, meal preparation, hair salons, photography, yardwork, technical supports
- Art Experiences: tickets to the symphony, theater, or ballet
- Recreation: tickets to sports games, golf passes, or rafting trips
- High-End Goods: 31 bags, Norwex, Young Living, furniture, etc.

Contact Beth at campalkulana@gmail.com