

## **Justification Statement**

The Town of Vienna granted a conditional use permit in 2014 for Vienna Presbyterian Church to serve as a host site for Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program. Various churches around the county help to support overflow guests from local shelters. Our guests come from the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter. That first year, we welcomed approx. 35 guests for one week. The following year, VPC requested to extend our conditional use permit all 50 guests for to two weeks for a five year period, which was granted. For the past 4 years (the program shifted due to Covid last year, and we responded by delivering 3 meals per day for 60 guests for a two week period), VPC has enjoyed housing our guests. We welcome them at approx. 5 PM with a hot meal, and various programs each evening - from therapy dogs to complimentary hair cuts. Two staff members from our partner and county facilitating agency, New Hope Housing, stay overnight with the guests. They are provided a hot breakfast (by volunteers that arrive to cook and serve at 4:30 each morning), and the shelter provides transportation back to the shelter for the day. Each guest is provided a custom prepared bag lunch for the day.

We conduct safety training for all volunteers, with a strict sign in/sign out policy so that we're aware of who is in the building at all times.

We believe this is an important service for VPC to provide. Our facility is uniquely suited to this program, as we allow the guests to take hot showers in our rest rooms - a true luxury for a person experiencing homelessness. Our congregation has responded in a generous fashion, providing a min-clothes closet and a variety of essentials (personal hygiene items, over the counter medications, hand warmers, etc.), and they've allocated budget to hire outside cleaning services so as not to overtask our custodial staff. Many look forward to greeting and getting to know our guests. This is a hallmark event for the Mission Ministry at VPC and we look forward to resuming actually housing our guests once again.