



TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

More Than a Shelter...

SHELTER STABILITY SUPPORT SUCCESS

2025 - 2026

Annual Report

Talbot Interfaith Shelter is dedicated to fighting homelessness on the Mid-Shore of Maryland by providing Shelter, Stability, Support, and a path to Success for local families and individuals in need.



A message from our Executive Director...

Dear Team TIS,

As I look back on the year, my deepest feeling is one of profound gratitude. In a year defined by shifting economic realities and an escalating demand for housing security on the Mid-Shore, the Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) community did what it does best: you stepped up with unwavering compassion and generosity.

Because of you, TIS remains far more than a temporary roof over someone's head. Together, we are an engine of permanent life change.

Through our unique S4 Program (Shelter, Stability, Support, Success), we didn't just manage homelessness this year—ours was a mission of transformation.

- We successfully maintained and operated **22 transitional apartments in Easton**, providing the vital stepping stone families and individuals need to bridge the gap between emergency shelter and permanent independence.
- This year saw a heartbreaking **surge in seniors on fixed incomes facing homelessness**. Thanks to your nimble support, we adapted our infrastructure—adding services to ensure our elders are cared for with dignity.
- **Beyond housing**, our guests logged hundreds of hours in clinically driven case management, mental health counseling, financial literacy courses, and workforce training partnerships with Chesapeake College.

As a matter of mission and independence, **TIS relies almost entirely on the philanthropy of local individuals, corporate partners, faith communities, and foundations** rather than government funding to run our \$1.6 million program each year.

While rising operational costs and inflation forced us to lean into our strategic reserves earlier this year, **our community's response to that deficit was nothing short of miraculous**. Your investments ensure that 100% of our guests receive comprehensive, uncompromised care without bureaucratic delay. We are so very thankful!

While we celebrate the many families and individuals who graduated into transitional and permanent housing this year, our waiting list remains long, and affordable housing on the Shore is increasingly scarce.

But if this year proved anything, it is that Team TIS does not back down from a challenge. **Every success story in the pages of this Annual Report belongs to you**. Thank you for being the foundation upon which our neighbors rebuild their lives.

With deepest gratitude,



Julie Lowe, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 - 2026

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KEY STAFF 2025 - 2026

Julie Lowe **Sadé Howard**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Laura Richeson
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

DeWayne Camper
CASE MANAGER

Ke'Shaune DeShields
CASE MANAGER





Your 2025-2026 Impact!



DAYS OF SHELTER & SERVICE



4,299	AT EASTON'S PROMISE FAMILY SHELTER
4,525	AT EVELYN'S PLACE SINGLES SHELTER
12,202	IN TIS TRANSITIONAL APARTMENTS
21,026	TOTAL DAYS OF SHELTER & SERVICE



127	TOTAL GUESTS IN THE S4 PROGRAM
47	SINGLE ADULTS
8	SENIORS (AGE 60+)
24	FAMILIES WITH MINOR CHILDREN
38	CHILDREN
NEWBORN	YOUNGEST GUEST
70	OLDEST GUEST

WHO YOU HELPED

GUEST SUCCESSES!



2	GRADUATED FROM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
9	GRADUATED FROM SHELTERS TO THEIR OWN HOUSING
13	MOVED FROM SHELTERS TO TIS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
7	ACCEPTED INTO SUBSIDIZED HOUSING PROGRAMS
16	SECURED EMPLOYMENT
2	PROMOTED AT WORK
65	IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS OBTAINED
47	COMPLETED FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES
4	PURCHASED TRANSPORTATION
7	FAMILIES RECEIVED CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE
ALL	ENROLLED IN INCOME ASSISTANCE & MEDICAL COVERAGE

THE S4 PROGRAM

S4 (Shelter, Stability, Support, Success) is an innovative, long term, comprehensive program designed to guide guests step-by-step from homelessness to self-sufficiency. This is accomplished by providing safe shelter, rigorous case management, life skills training, connection to necessary services, and transitional housing.

Case managers work closely with guests and partner with local service providers to help them with:

- **OBTAINING LOST DOCUMENTATION**
- **SECURING EMPLOYMENT**
- **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**
- **FOOD STAMPS**
- **TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE**
- **RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE**
- **CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **SSI DISABILITY APPLICATIONS**
- **RECORD EXPUNGEMENT**
- **....AND MUCH MORE!**



CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING HELPS ENSURE SUCCESS!



Guests are required to participate in a variety of life skills programs, including:

GETTING AHEAD IN A JUST GETTIN' BY WORLD

Understanding poverty, utilizing resources to lift out of poverty, and maintaining independence.

TIS CORE VALUES

Created by TIS Case Manager, DeWayne Camper. This course utilizes Character Counts and the 6 Pillars of Character to help guests address the challenges they may face in the S4 Program. It also incorporates basic life skills training.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

A 2-part Money Fundamentals Course, combined with input from local bank managers and a budgeting master class developed by TIS Director of Operations, Sadé Howard.

PARENTING WORKSHOP

Led by the Talbot County Department of Social Services. Parents learn about coping mechanisms developing healthy parent-child relationships.

UNTANGLING RELATIONSHIPS

JOB READINESS



Your Support Changes Lives!



Waldo moved to Easton to live with his brother, only to find out that his brother had moved away before he arrived. He was connected to TIS through one of our local faith partners, and threw himself into the S4 Program. Waldo found a job in the kitchen at Legal Assets, where his talents have been shining ever since.

"Waldo made my job easy," said Case Manager DeWayne Camper. "He showed how to be successful in the TIS program and was always at the ready to help others."

Waldo was living in one of our transitional apartments when he made the decision to find his own housing so that he could make room for someone else to have the life-changing opportunity he was given.

"Words can't really describe how I feel about TIS helping me get my life on track," he said. And words can't describe how grateful we are to YOU for making Waldo's Success possible!



Niki and her son, Zane, came to TIS on a mission to become self-sufficient. She found work at Capriotti's and was soon promoted to Assistant Manager.

Over the holidays, Niki requested a laptop so she could attend school online and study Sterile Processing. This certification qualifies her to prepare instruments needed for surgery, a career that offers her flexibility to be there for Zane, who is on the autism spectrum.

Niki and Zane are now in transitional housing, and making exceptional progress towards her goal of self-sufficiency. Niki shares that she is grateful for her time at TIS, and is learning, *"how to get ahead instead of just staying in survival mode."*

This sweet family is thriving, and it's all thanks to YOUR support!

We are incredibly proud of Paige, Semia, and Sany'e, who graduated from Easton High School this year! They say their time at TIS helped them reach this milestone.

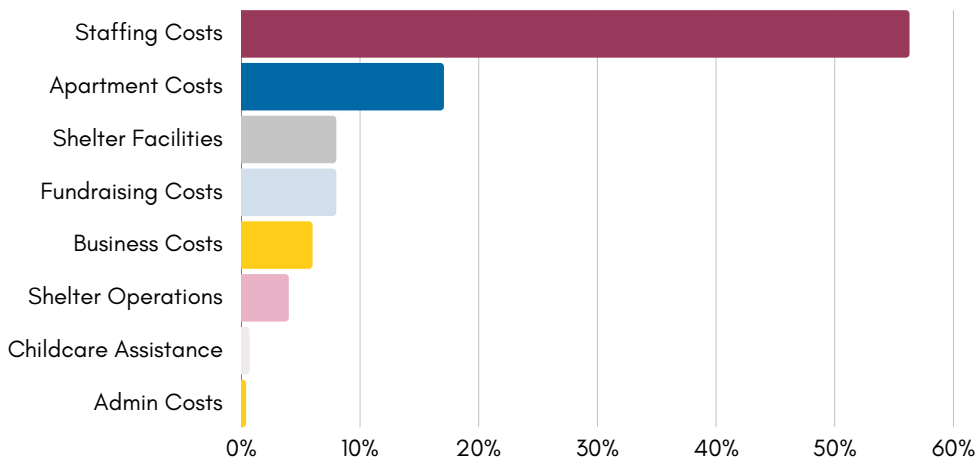
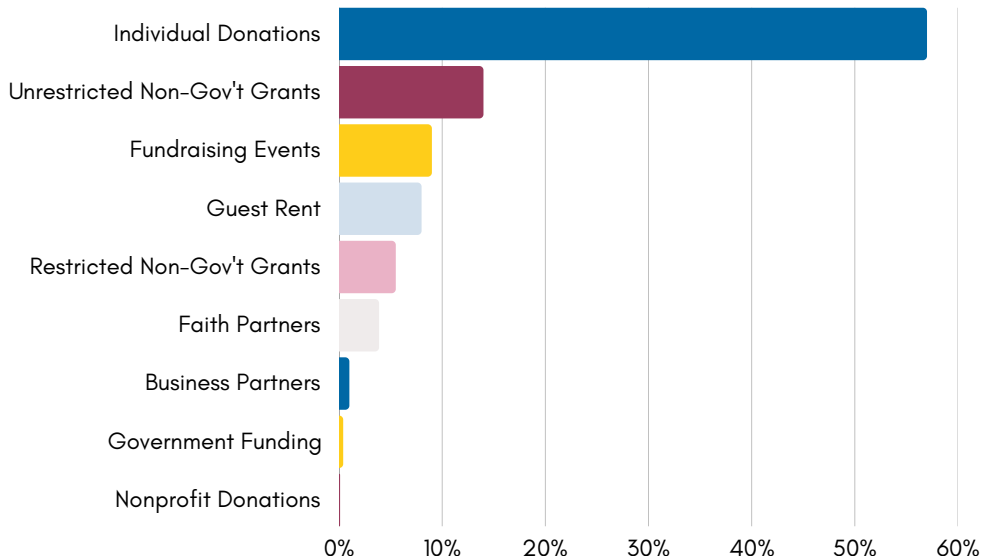
"Whenever I felt as though I couldn't continue on with school, the staff at TIS encouraged me to continue moving forward," said Paige. "[They told me that] even though the situation I was in wasn't ideal, it shouldn't stop me from continuing to try my best."

Semia and Sany'e echoed Paige's sentiments, adding, *"This space allowed us to feel safe, comfortable, and at home while navigating a difficult chapter. It gave us room to evolve into the young women we were becoming and the chance to focus on our futures with dignity... This experience taught us the power of community. No one should have to face hardship alone. When people come together to support one another, lives can change."*



TOTAL INCOME

\$1,653,304



TOTAL EXPENSE

\$1,567,778

A TRUE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Since our inception, a large and diverse group of caring individuals, charitable foundations, businesses, and houses of worship have been at the heart of Talbot Interfaith Shelter's mission. Over the years, "Team TIS" has grown into a network of thousands who give their time, talent, treasure, and TLC to help our guests get back on their feet. Because historically TIS has received nominal funding from government entities, this community investment has been integral, not only to *continuing* our mission, but to *increasing our capacity and services* as the homelessness crisis on the Mid-Shore has deepened.

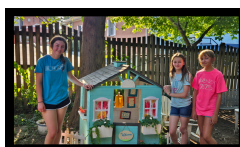
An incredible example of this neighbor-driven impact came near the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Since opening our doors in 2009 and serving just five guests at a time, we have grown to support nearly 70 people. But with that growth came increased operational costs, and we faced a significant financial deficit that threatened our ability to continue providing essential services to our neighbors in need.

After announcing these financial challenges to our supporters, they quickly sprang into action. Two incredibly generous donors each pledged \$100,000, with a challenge for the community to match them. In just two weeks, a tidal wave of compassion and kindness came flooding in, fueled by our individual donors and faith partners. Thanks to Team TIS, we were able to match the pledged funds, close the funding gap for the fiscal year, and keep our services intact.

We are overwhelmed and so grateful for each and every person who plays a role in bringing our neighbors home. But while we may have won this battle, the war on homelessness carries on. With hundreds of neighbors standing by on our waitlist, we need your continued support to sustain our mission – not just in the year ahead, but in perpetuity.

Three Cheers for Team TIS!

Why do we call our supporters "Team TIS?" Because it takes each and every generous soul in our TIS community, working side-by-side, to provide our guests everything they need to achieve the goal of Success. We are so thankful for this incredible team and the miracles you make happen every single day! Who is Team TIS? Read on to find out!



VOLUNTEERS

Hundreds of people each year help keep our operations going strong! TIS volunteers are the best in the world, manning shelter doors and phones, serving up love in the form of food, stuffing envelopes, representing us in the community, helping create successful events, and so much more. You make our world go 'round!

DONORS

Your generosity does so much more than keep the doors open and the lights on. You provide a safe and stable home, professional case management, and important resources and tools that set our neighbors up for Success. You give our guests an opportunity to build lasting self-sufficiency. In short, you transform lives!

SERVICE PARTNERS

It takes a village to lift up a neighbor, and our staff is constantly adding to our village to help our guests get back on their feet. We have dozens of service partners providing medical, dental, and mental health assistance, life skills training, housing and bill assistance, education opportunities, career exploration, and more.

FAITH PARTNERS

The Mid-Shore faith community has stood beside us through every stage of growth. Their faith in this work has been demonstrated through countless acts of generosity—giving their time, sharing resources, offering financial support, and helping us reach neighbors in need.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Our incredible business community supports TIS in so many ways! We are blessed to have so many local partners who provide goods and services, host fundraisers and supply drives on our behalf, help raise awareness for our mission, and sponsor our events and initiatives!

10TH ANNUAL

LIP SYNC BATTLE

Team TIS was out in force for our 10th Annual Lip Sync Battle fundraiser, presented by Sun Management Rising Technologies. More than 450 people attended live and around 600 tuned into the live stream. That's more than 1,000 people! Not to mention the folks who packed Eastern Shore Brewing for their watch party, and the dozens of volunteers, live show performers, and video participants.

Altogether, LSB 2026 raised \$150,000 - a true demonstration of the impact we can make when we come together for our neighbors!

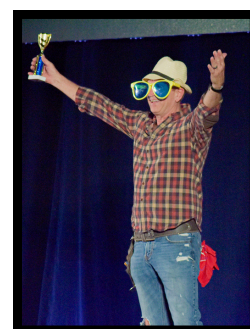
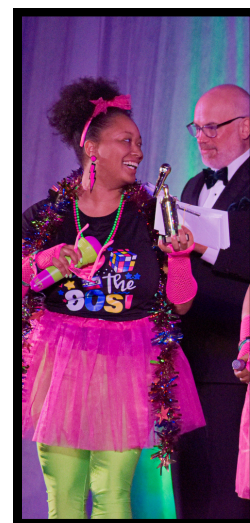
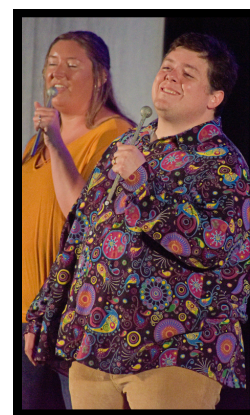
Our Biggest Fundraiser Awards went to newcomers, The Duck Builds in the Live Show category and Father Nash and Saints Peter & Paul in the Video Competition. Our distinguished panel of judges - Cassandra Vanhooser, Corey Pack, and Val Cavalheri - had their work cut out from them this year. Both competitions were absolutely fierce! After watching all of the videos and live performances, they awarded Best Video to Eastern Shore Brewing, and Best Live Performance to 9-year Lip Sync veterans, the AKAs.

We also handed out special Lip Sync Legend Awards honoring teams who have participated in 5 or more Lip Sync Battles. The recipients were The AKAs, The Country School, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, The Cash Queens, The Latin Honors SLAYciety, Father Nash and Saints Peter and Paul, and the Happy Hour Honies.

We want to thank everyone who competed, attended, watched from home, volunteered, and voted for making this year's event so incredible!

A very special thanks goes out to our generous sponsors who made this event possible. Please help us thank Presenting Sponsor, Sun Management Rising Technologies, Rock Legend Sponsors On Your Mark Lighting (thank you to Paul, Kat, and Noah for the incredible lighting and décor), Bullock Construction, and Rauch Inc. Many thanks as well to Gold Mic Sponsors, Mid-South Audio (and our awesome sound man Jon) Bartlett Tree Experts, Willow Construction, and What's Up Media.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, MEET OUR 2026 TEAMS, AND WATCH THE RECORDING!



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The year was filled with incredible events hosted by local individuals and businesses on behalf of our neighbors in need! Some highlights include:

TIS BRUNCH & COUTURE

This was a fabulous afternoon of food and fashion, hosted by The Market at Dover Station and featuring the stylings of Marc Randall.

SHELTER FILM

'Shelter' is a short, animated documentary that tells the personal stories of TIS guests, set against the backdrop of Dutch-Irish artist Anita Groener's artwork. The film was created by Groener, in partnership with American documentarian Matt Kressling.

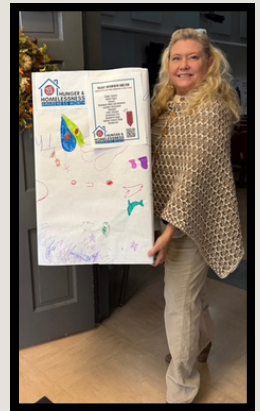
'Shelter' debuted in August of 2025 as part of Groening's months-long exhibition at the Academy Art Museum, and later received the Spotlight on Maryland Award at the 2025 Chesapeake Film Festival in October of 2025. We would love to host you for a screening of the film at our Vine Street location!

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

Partners across the community helped raise awareness and funds in support of our mission during the month of November. We are so grateful to everyone who participated - Ruse, Legal Assets and Doc's Downtown Grille, The Ivy, Eastern Shore Ship Print Connect, Queenstown Bank, The Oxford Community Center, Brookletts Place Senior Center, Easton Middle School, Blue Heron Coffee, Psychadelic Bubble, The Promenade at Easton, Olivins, Piazza Italian Market, Oxford Market & Deli, Ridgely Trading Post, Eastern Shore Brewing, Eat Sprout, Pemberton Pharmacy & Gift, The Village Shoppe, and The Christmas Shop.

A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Our guests had lots to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, thanks to the Miles River Yacht Club and their annual tradition of providing wonderful meals for everyone in our program. Thank you to all of the generous neighbors who adopted our guests for Christmas, making sure everyone had something under the tree! And a special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Claus, who stopped by to visit with our TIS Kids during their festive holiday party!



SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY TO TIS' FUTURE



In 2008, Evelyn Sedlack read an article entitled Homelessness in the Land of Pleasant Living about the growing crisis of homelessness here on Maryland's picturesque Eastern Shore. The article prompted Evelyn to research local homelessness and build the community coalition that became Talbot Interfaith Shelter.

18 years later, thanks to your steadfast support, TIS has two permanent shelter homes and 22 transitional apartments, and is currently housing nearly 70 guests ranging in age from one month to 70 years. Determined to be more than a temporary reprieve from homelessness, we developed the S4 Program, which guides participants step-by-step to lasting self-sufficiency.

While we have expanded significantly over the years, the need in our community continues to exceed our capacity. Hundreds of people remain on our waitlist, waiting for the opportunity to access the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives.

We must safeguard the future of our mission for the sake of our neighbors in need and our Mid-Shore community. Our recent financial challenges have underscored the need for dependable, long-term funding. There are many ways you can help ensure the sustainability of our mission in addition to your generous annual gift to our operating fund:

Make a special gift to help replenish our critical Reserve Fund

Talk with your attorney about remembering TIS in your Estate Plans

Help us build our Quasi-Endowment and generate annual funding to offset operating costs

Join our Promise Keepers with a monthly gift of any amount to provide stable, predictable funding



LEAVING A LEGACY: STAN REED

When Stan Reed retired and moved to the Eastern Shore, he wanted to volunteer at a local nonprofit. He was exploring many worthy causes when his friends at the Democratic Women's Club shared that they wanted to start a TIS volunteer team, but didn't have a team leader. Stan jumped right into that role, and 12 years later, he still enjoys volunteering and preparing dinners for our guests. He and his husband Rick Lynch are also Sedlack Society members.

Stan is passionate about helping our neighbors on the path to Success, and is an outspoken ambassador. "I talk [TIS] up everywhere I go," he says. Stan has taken his commitment to TIS to the next level, investing in the sustainability of our mission with a planned gift to Talbot Interfaith Shelter in his will.

We are so very grateful to Stan for his kindness, compassion, and dedication to our neighbors in need! To learn about how you can join him in including TIS in your estate plans, scan the QR Code below.

"[PUTTING TIS IN YOUR WILL] IS TOTALLY PAINLESS, AND IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE DEPRIVING ANYBODY ELSE. THAT'S HOW I LOOK AT IT... YOU'RE HELPING OTHER PEOPLE."

- Stanley Reed



THANK YOU SEDLACK SOCIETY MEMBERS!



SEDLACK SOCIETY



The Sedlack Society was established to celebrate those who generously give \$1,000 or more each year in support of our mission. The Society was named in honor of our Founder, Evelyn Sedlack, whose tenacity and compassion were the driving forces behind our formation and early success. Evelyn's vision is now a reality, made possible by incredible donors like you.

Michael and Jessica Anders
Pam and Charles Andrews
Gloria Paul and Bob Atlas
David and Pamela Baker
Jeff and Catherine Barron
Barbara Bass
Bay Imprint
Edward Bednarz and
Elaine Ashenfelter
Chelsea and Ross Benincasa
Michael and Katherine Bickford
John and Bonnie Bidwell
Mr. Davis Bobrow and
Ms. Gail Benjamin
Bullock Construction Inc.
Ms. Alex Burleson
Len and Donna Bush
Mary Cheripka
Christ Church Easton
Christ Church St. Michaels
Church of the Holy Trinity
Stephen and Lynn Clineburg
Deborah Collison
Charlotte Cuttler
Dalton Family Foundation
Ann and Jack Davis
Madge Henning and Warren Davis
Barbara and Paul Denton
Mr. and Mrs. James Devine
Mark and Elyse Devries
Doc's Downtown Grille, LLC
Joni and Wally Doolin
Richard and Barbara Doughty
Chris and Jeff Dresher
Jim and Linda Dugan
Brenda Early
Easton Church of the Brethren
Easton Lions Club
Easton Utilities
Mitch and Carrie Ettinger
Jim and Maxine Farrell
Scott and Stephanie Farris
George Feldman
Chris and Mike Ference
First Baptist Church
Clayton and Patty Fisher
Dr. Michael and Karen Fisher
Patricia A. Flynn

Frank and Shirley Foster
Belinda Frankel and Leslie Lehrkinder
Gloria Gibson
William and Carol Gordean
Emily Griswold
Judy Gross
Mr. Joseph Guerra and
Ms. Patricia Burda
Jack and Judy Harrauld
Hunt Hendrickson
Cathy and Tom Hill
Ann Holladay
Donna Hollingshead
Nancy Holt
Richard and Suzanne Hood
John and Bridget Horner
Pamela Jana
Ben and Tiffany Jensen
Emilie and Maulik Joshi
Craig Kadish
Walid and Debra Kamsheh
Ron and Sandy Kaufman
Kay Family Foundation
Laurie and Brendan Keegan
Gail Keppler
Robert and Caroline Ketcham
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Fountain, & Kaludis
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Margot and Mike McConnel
Dana McGrath
James and Deborah McKee
Brian and Patricia McPhelim
Alison Merow
Jill and Jack Meyerhoff
Rob and Penelope Middleton

Maxine Millar
Herb and Patrice Miller
Debbie and Gary Molchan
Jack and Angel Mullins
Peggy and Larry Nevisar
Rich and Christy O'Brien
Joseph O'Neil
O'Shaughnessy Family Charitable Fund
Olde School Builders
Christopher and Christy Olsen
Monica Otte
William and Susan Pappert
Delphine Peck
David and Sharon Perry
Debbie and Mike Potter
Putnam Family Foundation
Julie and Bill Quick
Susan Rabenhorst
Casey and Meghann Rauch
Rauch Engineering
Jim and Cindy Reed
Stanley Reed and Richard Lynch
Harriett Riter
Ken and Pat Rogers
Monica Roll
Alice Ryan
William F. Ryan and
Dr. Joan T. Richtsmeier
Rev. Nancy Sajda
Barbara Schantz
Mary Ann Schindler
Schulman Foundation
Sheila and Jim Scott
Evelyn S. Sedlack
Shore Rivers, Inc.
Al and Marty Sikes
W. Rembert Simpson
Lindsley Smith
Ralph and Krista Smith
Scott Smith
Susan and Howard Snyder
Motoko Aizawa and Mark Sommers
Kevin and Debby Sottak
Doug and Jennifer Spratley
St. Marks United Methodist Church
Clay and Donna Stevens
Neal and Connie Sullivan
Sun Communities Operating LP

Sun Management Technology
Julie Susman
Sherry R. Sutton, Ed. D
Talbot ALICE Emergency Fund
Texas Instruments Foundation
The Baxter Family
The Billbrough Family Foundation
The Burleson Family Charitable Fund
The Clifton Foundation
The Dumais Family Charitable Fund
The Eysymontt Family Fund
The Fullwood Foundation
The Hormel Family Foundation
The Lyric Foundation
The Market at Dover Station
The Meoli Companies
The Michael and Nancy Klein Foundation
The Seip Family Foundation
The Van Strum Foundation
The Watson Stone Family Foundation
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Gary and Holly Townsend
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VFW E.E. Streets Memorial Post #5118
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Randall and Susan Wallbridge
Ronald and Anne Walker
Harold and Marilyn Weiner
Barbara Welcher
Dorothy Whitcomb
Frances and Barry Wildstein
Willow Construction
David and Peggy Wilson
Linda and Mike Wilt
Hanna and Peter Woicke
Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore
Rex Wright
Wye Financial & Trust
Holly and Charlie Yokum
Louisa and Harvey Zendt

Join Team TIS in the Fight Against Homelessness!

MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

Mail a Check to:
PO Box 2004 Easton, MD 21601
Or Scan the QR Code
to Donate Online



BECOME A PROMISE KEEPER

Make a monthly
donation of any
size to change
lives year-round!



JOIN THE SEDLACK SOCIETY

Make an annual
gift of \$1,000 or
more to help our
neighbors in need!



THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Take your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA
as a Charitable Distribution to TIS

Ask your Financial Advisor about a gift of
Appreciated Stock or other securities

Donate through your Donor Advised Fund or Personal Foundation

Help TIS build a foundation for the future with a Planned Gift

Make a meaningful donation to our Quasi-Endowment Fund

Consider a special gift to replenish our crucial Reserve Funds



For more information about our mission and
how you can help our neighbors in need, visit:
TALBOTINTERFAITHSHELTER.ORG

or contact:

JULIE LOWE

Executive Director

410-310-2316 | julielowe@talbotinterfaithshelter.org



TALBOT INTERFAITH SHELTER

More Than a Shelter...

SHELTER ■ STABILITY ■ SUPPORT ■ SUCCESS

