

May 2019 Newsletter



Bringing Families Home

**PO Box 733 – 781 Spring Parkway
Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-4599**

Website: www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org



**Family Promise®
of Shenandoah County**

Building community, strengthening lives.

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Message from Sherry

Happy May! Warm breezes, blue skies and dancing flowers! FPSC statistics to date: one family (mom, dad, cousin, 3 year-old and 21-month old twins) moved into a farmhouse last week; one family (mom and 2 year-old) returned to stay with extended family; two families currently in the program - mom, dad and 9 year-old and mom, dad, 4 children - 6, 4, 3, 1. Thanks to you, 11 children (7 under the age of 5) and their families had safe shelter and hot meals during some very cold, rainy months!

We have a new event this year - Barn Dance and Barbecue! Please add Sunday, June 2nd to your calendar and come join us at Classicus Farm for some square dancing, line dancing and a plate of bar-b-que! Tickets are available at the Family Center - we are looking forward to a fun, family-friendly afternoon!

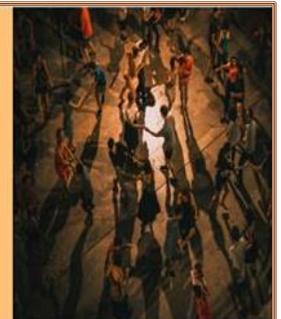
Family Barbecue & Barn Dance
Sunday, June 2nd
4-7 p.m.
Classicus Farm
1030 Chapman Landing Rd.,
Edinburg

Tickets available M-F, 9-4 at:
FPSC Family Center
781 Spring Parkway, Woodstock
More info – call 540-459-4599



SUNDAY, JUNE 2
CLASSICUS FARM 1630 CHAPMAN
LANDING ROAD, EDINBURG

Join us for delicious
barbecue by Travis
Pangle & dances
called by Nelson &
Jama Wakeman



FAMILY BARBECUE & BARN DANCE

TO BENEFIT FAMILY PROMISE OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY

FOR TICKETS CALL FAMILY PROMISE:
540-459-4599
\$10 CHILD; \$15 ADULT; \$35
FAMILY



All are invited to participate in a prayer gathering to be held on the National Day of Prayer, May 2nd at 12 noon, at the Antioch Church of the Brethren, 23502 Senedo Rd, Woodstock. This is an ecumenical event that has no political motivations but is simply an opportunity for citizens to come together to pray for our towns, our county, our Commonwealth, and our nation. Various pastors will lead prayers, but individuals in the crowd

will be invited to pray as well, if they feel so led, but no one will be called on to do so. We anticipate it to last about an hour but folks are free to come and go as they need to.

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center



The Farmhouse



Tom Powell & Julie Kroll

Our guest families are in a special place when they stay at Caroline Furnace! Nestled in beautiful Fort Valley, the Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center exists “in God’s creation for *all* God’s people,” and it certainly applies to the homey atmosphere at the Farmhouse, where our guests are hosted! The Farmhouse is one of the facilities on their main property that offer year-round space for family reunions, small and large group retreats, meetings, and in the summer, non-stop action for kids to explore the fabulous landscape (which also includes a 5-acre lake for fishing, swimming, and canoeing). This has been a blessing! Our guests have been taking advantage of the setting and have been on the paddle boats already!



Caroline Furnace staff initially stepped in and offered the site to Family Promise for hosting because there were

not enough host churches to cover the year. That is still the case, but the use of this facility offers **other congregations and individuals the opportunity to volunteer** by serving meals and spending the night. (Contact FP if you are interested!) Becky Leland was our Coordinator this April. She assembled volunteers from Emmanuel Episcopal, Reasoning Tree, Antioch COB, St. John Bosco, Valley Pike COB, Saumsville Christian Church, Wakemans Grove COB and Oak Hill COB to cover the week. Many Thanks to Becky and all the volunteers!

Tom Powell, Executive Director, and Julie Kroll, Director of Sales, Marketing & Communications at Caroline Furnace, both stress that while it is a Lutheran camp, “We welcome those of any belief” and we have a mission to “offer our facilities, programs and staff to any group seeking to build community with one another.” This certainly describes Family Promise!

For more info on Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center, check out their website carolinefurnace.org, especially the history section which describes the pig iron furnace and the history of the camp.

Volunteers of the Month



Some of Our Host & Support Church Coordinators at their Last Meeting

Our host and support church volunteer coordinators meet bimonthly to share ideas and learn more about the issues surrounding homelessness in our community. They met several months ago to do a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) of our program and will be meeting again in May to follow up. These folks really make it happen for our guests: Recruiting volunteers from their churches/organizations, planning meals and activities, providing overnight hosts and in general making sure that all things go smoothly for our guests. ***They are adept at multi-tasking and are truly flexible in providing what ever is needed - their mascot is Gumby!! Without this team and their volunteers, there truly would be no FPSC program. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you and all who serve with you!!***

Host Sites	Coordinator(s)
All Souls Anglican Church	Kim Shrum
Antioch COB	Penny Adams, Barbara Patton, Diane Pence
Buttonwood Lodge	Connie Fauber
Caroline Furnace Camp & Retreat Ctr.	Becky Leland
Community Mission COB	Dale Bowers
Lebanon Lutheran Church	David Leathers
Mt. Hermon UMC	Alesia Foltz
St. John Bosco Catholic Church	Todd White, Eileen Simmons
St. Johns UMC	Dee Tisinger
Shenandoah Valley Teen Challenge	Peggy Hauff

Strasburg Assembly of God
 Strasburg Christian Church
 Valley Pike Church COB
 Wakemans Grove COB

Dottie Holden
 Judy Rinker
 Ellen Bowers
 Lesley Bowyer

Support Congregations	Coordinator(s)
Christ Church United Church of Christ	Willard Lutz
Columbia Furnace UMC	Jody Mumaw, Wayne Sharp
Emmanuel Episcopal Church	Katherine Morrison
Grace United Church of Christ	Harriett Hiner
Manor Memorial UMC	Wanda Shoemaker
Reasoning Tree Church	Steve Ranson
St. Luke's Home Fellowship	Ralph Wakeman
Saumsville Christian Church	Jerry Copp
Strasburg UMC	Diane Hisghman
Walker's Chapel COB	Joyce Rush



Our Families

We celebrated World Down Syndrome Day with Justin. According to the Down Syndrome International website, “World Down Syndrome Day (WSD) is observed on 21 March every year. On this day, people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organize and participate in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome.



Justin loves anything to do with God – he loves playing the guitar and singing gospels. Recently when he saw Diane P. wearing a cross necklace, he went to his locker and took out a little box to show her his collection of crosses.

GREAT NEWS – Tylissa, Reggie, Justin, Jolissa, Mary Sue & William were able to move in April to a great farmhouse with lots of space for the children to play!!

The “Lemonade Girls” Did it Again – With a Winter Twist

It was too cold for a lemonade stand this winter, but our “Strasburg Humanitarians,” Alyssa Landman and her friends got creative. They sold hot chocolate to their teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School to raise funds for Family Promise of Shenandoah County. With the help of lots of cold, thirsty and generous faculty members they raised \$100! Once again, these young ladies have shown us that you don’t have to be an adult to help children without homes, and also “Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way!” Many thanks to Alyssa and her friends as well as the faculty at Sandy Hook Elementary for their thoughtfulness and caring!!



Alyssa presents check to Sherry Arey, Executive Director

Opportunities



Family Center Volunteer: Take a shift at the Family Center on the weekends – 9 to 1 or 1 to 5 on Saturday & Sunday.

Cardboard City Chair: This is a much anticipated annual event. We are in need of committee members to organize the experience. It is currently scheduled for September 6th.

Host Church Volunteers: Help with meals, activities, and overnight hosting. Volunteer at your home church or contact the Family Center to be put in touch with a church near you.

Special Skills: If you have a special skill you think we could utilize, we would love to hear from you!!!

**For more info about these opportunities contact
Diane Pence, 540-459-4599 or email dianemiller.familypromise@gmail.com.**

Case Manager's Corner

Grief is generally described as deep sorrow, especially that caused by someone's death or as trouble or an annoyance. Many of us reading this have experienced grief related to loved ones or grief over certain types of trouble or annoyances throughout our lives. In working with numerous families these last two years I realized that many of our guest families experience grief due to the loss of their home, jobs, family, friends, or good lifestyle they had become accustomed to. For many the stress and trauma created by these losses is not an issue that we address or may have time to address.

At the Family Promise National Convention earlier this month twelve initiatives were announced. One, to me, is very exciting -- **Living with Loss (LWL); Healing from Homelessness** program. Originally introduced as a workshop *Loss, Grief and Homelessness* at the last convention in 2017, this powerful program addresses the grief experienced by families losing a home. The program was created by the Family Promise affiliate in Union County, NJ and Imagine, a center in New Jersey for grief support and coping with loss. The program normalizes grief after losing a home; explores the secondary losses that occur when a family loses their housing; and identifies the shame and stigma of homelessness. Here is a [link](#) to *The New York Times* article from December 3, 2017, "Dealing With the Grief That Accompanies Homelessness," discussing how this program was started by the Executive Director, Geleen Donovan and Imagine's leaders.

I will keep you posted as I learn more about this exciting new program along with some of the other initiatives for Family Promise affiliates.

Diane Wittreich



Did You Know? Blue Ridge Hospice Offers Grief Support. According to their website: "While providing grief counseling for hospice families is a priority, Blue Ridge Hospice provides grief support to the community as well. Unexpected tragedies such as fires, motor vehicle accidents, drug

overdoses, suicides, and homicides take lives in our community every day, and the Blue Ridge Hospice Bereavement team is there to support all those who are grieving.

Blue Ridge Hospice offers a variety of grief support services including individual grief counseling, educational workshops, telephone outreach, resource materials, and an array of support groups.” For more information contact them at (540) 313-9200.



Scavenger Hunt by Youth Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren

The COB District Junior High Youth recently had a retreat at Wakemans Grove Church of the Brethren. One of their activities was a scavenger hunt at Walmart to find items that would be useful to our FPSC families while in the program. They did a great job of selecting a wide variety of items which we can use at the family center. Many thanks for supporting our guest families in this way.

Many church and civic groups have been very generous in collecting items to supply us at the Family Center, but this has been the most unique activity to date. Our community’s generosity is greatly appreciated!!

Thank you for Sharing

Nursing Students Learn About Providing Care to Overlooked Populations Through Visiting FPSC



Registered nurse Bethany Andrews (far left in photo) is a clinical instructor for the community and public health nursing course at James Madison University. The course, Population-Centered Care in the Community, which in official language helps “students develop the knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct and interpret systematic assessments of families and vulnerable groups in community settings. The impact of increasing societal and cultural changes across the life span will be emphasized.”

As Bethany explains, this means that the students learn about providing health care to many different populations within the community but especially vulnerable populations including children, the homeless, the physically/intellectually disabled, the indigent, and those involved in substance abuse (especially opioid addictions). Many nursing students want to work in emergency rooms and ICU units, and what they learn in this course is a real eye-opener for them. Many of these students go on to work in public health, hospice care, and clinics. They learn about establishing long-term relationships with their patients, whereas in a hospital setting they may only care for a patient for a few days.

Part of their class exercise is to do a “windshield survey” of Woodstock/Shenandoah County. The students love the area and are quite surprised to learn about its invisible populations. Sherry Arey, director of FPSC, is considered a “key informant” in the process. During their visit with Sherry, she leads them in activities

through which they learn how quickly a family's circumstances can go downhill to the point that they lose their home and many belongings and perhaps their jobs as well. She also explains the challenges families face in trying to become self-sustaining once again. Bethany says she is very thankful to be working with FPSC to enrich her students' experience.

Bethany is a Shenandoah County native, having grown up in Strasburg. She lives in Woodstock now with her husband (Kirk) and four children and says she is "so happy to be home!" They are members of St. John Bosco Catholic Church (one of FPSC's host congregations). Before returning to Shenandoah County, Bethany was a public health nurse in Louisa County, VA. We appreciate her support of the FPSC program and her help in educating others about the homeless in our community.



Operation Round Up

Did you know that Family Promise and the Catholic Outreach's House the Homeless Program have been recent recipients of the Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) "Operation Round Up" grants? Family Promise received \$2400 (which included a \$1200 matching grant from CoBank) and Catholic Outreach received \$2500.

These grant moneys are made possible by SVEC customers opting to "round up" their electric bill each month. (Ex. A \$105.45 electric bill would round up to \$106.) This approximately \$6/year per customer creates the grant funds which then go right back into our Shenandoah County community.

If you, or someone you know, is a SVEC customer, **please strongly consider signing up for the "Round Up" program.**

Contact SVEC 1-800-234-7832 with questions.



Thanks to the The Rotary Club of Woodstock for their generous grant of \$1,000 which was presented at their annual Shrimp & Catfish Dinner

Feel Good, Donate & Save!*

Donate \$5 and receive a ticket for \$5 off your first purchase*
(Your donation will benefit local organizations)

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Vince Camuto • Nautica • Nine West • Rafaella • Karen Kane • Levi's
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*Some exclusions apply. See back for details

FREE GIFT CARD
to the first 100 customers***

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storewide
purchase

Effy 1/10 CT TW Diamond
Studs in Sterling Silver
Orig. 125.00
While quantities last



49⁹⁹

with \$100
storewide
purchase

Effy 1/4 CT TW Diamond
Studs in Sterling Silver
Orig. 200.00
While quantities last. In store only

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**\$5 Tickets on
Sale**

at the

**FPSC
Family Center
781 Spring
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Woodstock**

**Stop by
to purchase
yours Today**

**Mon. – Fri.
9:00 – 4:00**

**Each \$5 Ticket
Purchased
Supports
FPSC**



Wish List

Dryer Sheets
Clorox Wipes
Toilet Paper
Swiffer Liquid Floor Cleaner & Pads
Laundry Baskets
Plastic Bins with Lids (48-55 gallon)
Twin Sheet Sets
No-Spill Sippy Cups
Body Wash (men & women)
Body Lotion
55 Gallon Trash Bags
Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
Gently Used Strollers



Part-Time Van Driver

10-15 hours/week

\$10/hour

Call 540-459-4599



Grandparents as Parents: May 13th, 6:30-8:00pm, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 127 E. High St., Woodstock. Guest Speaker: Erica Van Stee Hepner, Shenandoah County Library

Super Pantry, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 (makeup days June 7 + 14), 9-Noon, Family Promise, 781 Spring Parkway, Woodstock. Learn to eat health and make your money go further. To register, call Kim Costa at 540-665-5699

Cardboard City, September 6th, stay tuned for details!!

FPSC Golf Tournament, October 12th, Bryce Resort. Contact Norma Barb, nbarb@shentel.net, to volunteer for the committee.

You are
Appreciated

*The generous prosper and are satisfied. Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.
Proverbs 11:2*



Website:

www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org



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