



"Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter
October 2020

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Program at a Glance

2020 YTD Statistics

8 Guest Families

**5 Families
Transitional Housing**

11 Families Forward

**126 Families
Housing Stabilization**

4 HUMI Families



Message from Sherry

Welcome to October! We continue to adjust and adapt to the ever changing world around us; but we continue to serve families with motel shelter, food, and other financial support. I appreciate your continued support!

National Family Promise Week is October 18 - 25. Each day will have a theme and information will be shared on our Facebook page and website.

And just a reminder...Night Without a Bed continues until October 12 - hope you have registered your team!

Sherry Arey, Executive Director



2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

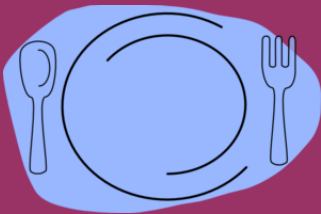
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



Case Manager's Corner

I recently attended two Zoom meetings on Homelessness. The first was in a town hall format and sponsored by The National Coalition for the Homeless, a broad network of individuals & organizations united by a commitment to ending homelessness. Each month NCH has a zoom meeting with various topics. August's meeting was to learn what organizations are experiencing in their localities and how they are assisting homeless populations. Eight organizations participated (including FPSC): Two from Virginia-Winchester and Lynchburg; Capital Heights, MD; Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Tulsa, OK, and one from Los Angeles, CA.

The second Zoom meeting was with other nonprofit agencies in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The goal for these meetings is to learn about other agencies and how we can work together to provide assistance to our region's homeless population now and in the future. Subcommittees were formed, and future meetings are planned. I'll keep you posted as we progress!

Diane Wittreich



It's not all work & no play for Diane W. She is with our birthday boy for October.

Happy 1st Birthday Bryce!

HUMI Update from Kelly

Our HUMI (Help Us Move In) grant has enabled us to move our first family into their own two-bedroom apartment!

On September 8th a single mom who, along with her elementary aged child, became homeless in January and moved into their first home in nine months. HUMI covered their security deposit, first month's rent, and the deposit required to have their electricity turned on. Through generous donations, we were able to furnish the apartment with living room, dining room, and bedroom furniture. The family also received items to stock their kitchen and bathroom. The mom is currently employed. We are now assisting her with budgeting, finding child care, and covering the cost of vehicle repairs so that she may continue to work.

A special thanks to Mary Jane Koch for coordinating furniture donation and to Rick Kessler and Jerry Copp for helping us move all of that furniture! The family was overwhelmed by your generosity.

This success could only have happened through the HUMI Community Match grant. Your donation will enable FPSC to continue to help homeless families with children get and remain housed!

Kelly Storey

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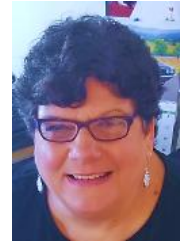
Partner



Public Transportation in Shenandoah County

The VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation has forwarded a recommendation for inclusion in VDOT's Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Due to Covid-19, the project has been delayed for a few months. The Commonwealth Transportation Board is due to adopt the Six Year Improvement Program mid-October and funding will be available in November. The transit committee met virtually at the beginning of May and discussed a potential service start date in March 2021. (Update from Karen Taylor, Senior Project & Operations Manager, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission.)

Meet Sheila Orndorff Executive Director Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter and HUMI Committee Member



After working in the corporate world, Sheila decided it was time to be closer to home and spend more time with her family. That is when she took a part-time job in 2000 as Service Coordinator with Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter. Five years later she was promoted to Executive Director.

Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter started in 1989 as transitional housing at the Alms House in Maurertown which burned down in 2014. Since then, they have changed to provide financial assistance to meet the needs of those facing homelessness.

Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter administers five different housing programs. They assist households having a housing crisis, who are short on rent, being evicted, or who are homeless and looking for housing. They receive funding from federal and state grants and also depend on donations from faith-based organizations, businesses, foundation & private grants and individuals. With that said, it is still not enough to meet all the requests they receive. Additionally, they have a utility assistance fund provided by the Salvation Army and local churches to assist Shenandoah County residents.

Sheila says that we truly do have a homeless population in Shenandoah County, but they are often hidden. COVID-19 has brought it to the surface more as the chronically homeless are seeking more services.

Before the pandemic, Centralized Intake for the region (Winchester to Harrisonburg) received 100 calls per day and Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter received over 500 calls directly per month. Currently that number is lower while the eviction and utility cut off moratorium is in place but will rise sharply when that ends.

SAS and FPSC work closely to address homelessness in our community with FPSC providing shelter and SAS providing additional financial assistance. It was a natural fit for Sheila to serve on our HUMI committee. Thanks so much Sheila & staff for all you do!!

Host Churches & Organizations

All Souls Anglican Church/
Community Mission
Church of the Brethren

Antioch Church of the
Brethren

Buttonwood Lodge/
Camp Caroline Furnace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Mt. Hermon United
Methodist Church

New Market Seventh-Day
Adventist Church

St. John Bosco Catholic
Church

St. John's United
Methodist Church

Shenandoah Valley Teen
Challenge

Shrine Mont

Strasburg Assembly of God

Strasburg Christian
Church

Valley Pike Church of the
Brethren

Wakemans Grove Church
of the Brethren



Sept. 21 – Oct. 12, 2020
Virtual Event - Experience What It Is
Like to be Homeless
Donations Benefit FPSC

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE!!!

- REGISTER at <http://e.givesmart.com/events/ihs>
- FIND a place to sleep that is creative & challenges your comfort.
- DEFINE your team (just you or include your family).
- TAKE PHOTOS or videos and tag us on Facebook.
- CHALLENGE your friends, neighbors, classmates, church buddies to establish a team.
- WATCH your email, Facebook & our website for more info!

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Mary Jane Koch
Martin's Foods



OCT. 10, 2020
FPSC GOLF TOURNAMENT
CANCELLED



OCT. 8, 2021
2ND ANNUAL FPSC GOLF TOURNAMENT

COVID REMINDER TO ALL

We need to continue practicing the three W's: **Wash** your hands -- **Wear** your mask -- **Watch** your distance. We cannot let our guard down! *And please get your flu shot!*