

April 2019 Newsletter



Bringing Families Home

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

Website: www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org



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Message from Sherry

Happy Spring! Spring is a time of new beginnings; fresh starts! Family Promise gives families an opportunity to begin again in any season of the year! I am continually amazed by how hard family members work to start over. And I am so grateful for all the support and encouragement our guests receive from all of you.

Recently I was asked if we feel like miracle workers; and I said. “No, not at all! The family members have to do the hard work of completing applications for housing and employment and go to appointments and then wait for responses.” FPSC gives them a safe, stable place to stay with their children while they wait. Family homelessness is an ongoing issue, and it is very difficult for families to find a shelter that will let them stay together as a family.

Thank you for supporting Family Promise of Shenandoah County - a shelter that keeps families together and helps them begin again - enjoy the springtime!

Sherry Arey, Executive Director

Seen recently at the Family Center: Mary Sue, Willie & Joshua enjoying music group with Lorrie Ellicot as Justin watches the doings.



People Incorporated

Mission: To provide opportunities for economically disadvantaged people to reach their goals in order to enhance their lives, their families, and their communities.

History: Today what began as a small community based organization has grown into People Incorporated of Virginia, one of the Commonwealth of Virginia's largest and most successful Community Action Agencies. Now serving Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Washington, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Frederick, Culpeper, Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Prince William Counties and the cities of Bristol, Manassas, and Manassas Park. People Incorporated offers approximately 30 programs designed to, "give people a hand up, not a hand out."

Woodstock Office: 135 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664 Phone: 540.459.9096 Fax: 540.459.8732 Email: woodstock@peopleinc.net

Website: <http://www.peopleinc.net/>

Northern Shenandoah Valley Region: Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties.

2018 Community Needs Assessment – Northern Shenandoah Valley

People Incorporated is a Community Action Agency serving 13 counties and 3 cities in Virginia. As part of its mandate, and in order to provide the best and most comprehensive anti-poverty services, the agency undertakes a major triennial Community Needs Assessment. The findings from this assessment are used to inform the agency's selection and delivery of services in each community it serves. In addition to a comprehensive report, *People Incorporated has prepared regional sub-reports to ensure that each community receives the most helpful information and that services are tailored to the unique needs of people in Northern Shenandoah Valley.*

Top Needs for 2018:

1. Affordable Housing – As housing costs continue to rise in the Washington DC metro area, families are beginning to relocate to the NSV region, placing greater demands on the housing market. Every stakeholder group surveyed overwhelmingly identified housing as the single greatest need in their community. Focus group participants noted that existing affordable housing is low quality.

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services – As rates of overdose and drug abuse increase, NSV stakeholders are concerned with the availability and cost of mental health and substance abuse services for residents. The region has the fewest mental health providers per resident of any of People Incorporated's regions at 1,714 residents per provider. Current services are overwhelmed, and issues like a minimal transportation system make it difficult for those in need to access treatment.

3. Living Wage Jobs– Partners, staff, and community members all identified more and better paying jobs as a great need in the region. A living wage for a family of four in the region would be \$15.75 for two, full-time adults. The retail and food service jobs occupied by many low-income persons do not pay near this wage.

Articles in this and future newsletters will address what is happening in the community to meet these needs and how FPSC, People Incorporated and other area agencies work together to provide help and opportunities for families in need.

**4th Annual Steak Dinner & Silent Auction Was a Sellout!!!
Many Thanks to All our Supporters!!**



Above: Taking tickets



Center: Over 500 baked potatoes served



Right: Front runners for buying the most silent auction items

Steak Dinner Sponsors

Porterhouse (\$500.00-\$999.99)

Antioch Church of the Brethren
F&M Bank
Mitchell & Witherall Families
Ortt's Electric, Inc.
Shenandoah Memorial Hospital
William Pence Co. (Bill & Maxine Pence)

Ribeye (\$250.00-\$499.99)

Dellinger Funeral Home
Dupont Community Credit Union
Edward Jones Investments - Justin Baker
First Bank - Strasburg
Mary Jane Koch
Lowe's of Woodstock
Lydia's Closet
PJ Designs - Pat Koch
Keith & Libby Rocco
Saumsville Christian Church
Thrivent Financial
Valley Towing
Chuck & Karen Walton

New York Strip (\$100.00-\$249.99)

Edward Jones Investments - Crystal Hollar
Fred Hepner, Jr.
Mt. Hermon United Methodist Women
Rockingham Hardware - Strasburg
Pat & Karl Rosenbaum
Saumsville Christian Womens Fellowship

Sirloin (\$50.00-\$99.99)

Patricia Harris
Mike Keffer
Sherand & David Smith
Wightman Crop Insurance

Steak Dinner Volunteers

Jimmy, Christy, Isaac & Olivia Barb
Dale & Dana Bennett
Dale Bowers
Nelson & Linda Borden
Bonnie Burgwald
Karen Cook
Gracie Edmonds
Cheyenne Estep
Connie Farkas
FCCLA Students - Strasburg
Alesia Foltz
FPSC Board Members
Joy Holliday
Ramsey Hoover
Sarah Kline
Betty Lambert
Helena Lenk
Madeline Llana
Suzanne McIlwee
Carly Mellette
Jane Miller
Peter, Anna Justine & Bruce Mitchell
Morgan Pennington
Anika, Katie & Taylor Perry
Wendy Poole
Steve Ranson
Lindsay Rigby
Keith & Libby Rocco
Sarah Ryman
Elaine, Jessica, & Wayne Sharp
Kim & Buck Shrum
Eileen Simmons
Gloria Spire & Noah Steele
Dee Tisinger
Brenda & Matt Wendling
Lee Ann Zirkle



Karen Taylor from the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) presented an update on the public transit study to the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce Non-profit Council on March 14th. She shared some of the comments received from the public survey:

“I have a disability and this would make a world of difference in my quality of life”

“I would definitely use this form of transportation to get back and forth to work. Yes this town does have a local taxi service, which is a great and friendly business, but for five days a week to go to and from work the taxi costs me \$80 a week and I live just over 2 miles from my work. That gets extremely expensive... Please help bring public transportation to Woodstock. This would help my family put food on the table and save to get a car of my own.”

“I think this would be a fantastic resource – to alleviate the stressors of the working poor, to meet the needs of the elderly, and to provide young people with a safe alternative to driving. I would be very willing for my tax dollars to go to such a program.”

“There is no need for public transportation in Shenandoah County. A waste of money.”

“Shenandoah County is too spread out for public transportation. The tax payer dollars that this would require are better used in other areas.”

Based on responses to the survey, four options have been suggested.

Option 1: Route 11 Corridor Service – Deviated Fixed Route

Shenandoah North: Strasburg – Woodstock
 Shenandoah South: New Market – Woodstock
 Routes would meet in Woodstock
 Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Meets highest need for service

Option 2 – Add Later Hours and Saturdays to Option 1

Adds service until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
 Adds Saturday service between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Meets additional travel needs, but adds cost

Option 3: Demand Response Service to More Rural Locations

Riders would call ahead for service
 Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Two vehicles in service each day

Option 4: Service to LFCC

Extension of Option 1
 Add a vehicle to the Shenandoah North route to travel to LFCC – Middletown
 Monday – Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

The next steps in the process are to:

- Further develop preferred option (Option 1) with line item budget.
- Develop fact sheet with preferred option to help garner local support and local match.
- Obtain local match commitments.
- Apply for funding assistance from DPRT (Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation) during the next grant cycle.

From PowerPoint presentation provided by Karen Taylor

To learn more about the NSVRC, visit their website: <http://www.nsvregion.org/>

Case Manager's Corner

On Wednesday, March 13th, I went to a **Housing Summit hosted by the Housing Coalition of the Northern Shenandoah Valley (NSV)** which was held at Shenandoah University in Winchester. The session began with a discussion between Matt Peterson, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, and Nadine Pottinga, CEO of the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, about the need for affordable housing. There were approximately 130 people in attendance. Many of the people I met were from other local non-profit organizations, mental health agencies, churches, financial companies, real estate agencies, and individuals from the community. It was an open forum type of summit where



attendees could write a topic that they felt needed addressing and place that topic within a certain time and group. My topic was Affordable Transitional Housing for shelters – homeless, women's and recent felons (which was also addressed by a local substance abuse coalition).

I spent the day participating in four groups discussing the needs of some of our past families and the needs of previous callers looking for assistance not only in Shenandoah County but from Clarke, Frederick County/Winchester area, Loudoun, Page, Warren and other counties throughout the state of Virginia.

As we progressed throughout the day several things became obvious: Most in attendance felt that there was a definite lack of affordable housing throughout the Valley ~ many did not know about Family Promise as well as other non-profit organizations that were represented at the Housing Summit ~ the need for creating some type of centralized resource listing which would be an invaluable asset. I was also able to do some networking with other agencies.



Each group had a recorder to document the discussion. Ideas and feedback from each group in the summit will be compiled and analyzed by a consultant hired by the coalition and used to create a "roadmap document" to share with local governments and non-profit groups according to Nadine Pottinga, CEO, UWNSV.

To learn more, visit their website: <https://sites.google.com/view/housingcoalitionnsv/>

Diane Wittreich

Photos: Housing Coalition of NSV Facebook Page

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



Our FPSC Family



Maverick celebrated his 2nd birthday!!!



Our duck family is back & the spring flowers are up! The children have had a great time watching the ducks.



Joshua has made himself right at home!!!

Jessica is Overwhelmed

Many of you may know long-time Shenandoah County resident Danny Dellinger. He is well known for the cartoon character banners he creates for community members who are facing serious health issues. He stopped by Antioch Church of the Brethren to find out who might need a little pick me up and learned about FPSC guest, Jessica. He went to work creating a special banner for her, and carried it around the community getting it signed by church members, business people & county government.

The banner was delivered recently, and Jessica was totally speechless for a few minutes. While holding back tears she said, “This is absolutely the nicest thing that anyone has ever done for me.” Jessica, John & Seth hope to be moving into their apartment within the next few weeks, and they declared, “This is the first thing we are hanging up in the apartment!!”

Many, many thanks to Danny Dellinger for sharing his special gift with so many people in our community!!!



Second Family Moves into FPSC Transitional Housing



Janetta, Rudy & Jakil jumped at the chance to be the second family in our transitional housing program. In fact, they were so excited that they have moved in while helping our landlord with repairs and painting. Janetta is the “handylady” and has worked in construction before – Rudy says, “She knows all that math for figuring things out!” Recently Sherry stopped by the apartment to see how things were going, and Janetta proudly showed off all her hard work. We are so thankful for them and all their willingness to “pitch in.” And a special thank you to our generous landlord!

Save the Dates:

Grandparents as Parents Meeting, Monday, April 8th, 6:30-8pm, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 122 E. Court St., Woodstock. Speaker: Rhonda Lively. Contact GAP Facilitators Shelia Helsley and Renee Helm at GAPofShenco@gmail.com or 540-246-4272 for further information.



Community Volunteer Fair, Friday, April 12th, 11am-4pm, Old Courthouse grounds, Main St., Woodstock. Stop by to visit as part of National Volunteer Week! FPSC will have a table along with many other nonprofits. *The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Shenandoah County. Many thanks!!!*

Bake Sale, April 20th, 8-?, Walmart – Woodstock. Organized by Trevor Morris. If you would like to donate baked goods, contact Ellen, (540) 325-9362.

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.

***Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places
where other people see nothing. (Camille Pissarro)***

Thanks to all our supporters & volunteers for all you do!



Website:

www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org



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