



“Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Housed”

e-Newsletter
October 2021

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Program at a Glance

2021 YTD Statistics

13 Guest Families

**11 Families
Scattered Shelter**

17 Families Forward

**260 Services
Housing Stabilization**

**17 HUMI/Diversion
Families**

**259
Children
Served**



[Website: shenandoahfamilypromise.org](http://shenandoahfamilypromise.org)

[Email: info@shenandoahfamilypromise.org](mailto:info@shenandoahfamilypromise.org)

A CHILD’S FUTURE BEGINS AT HOME

From a recent devotional in *Our Daily Bread*:

The village vicar couldn’t sleep. As World War II raged, he told a group of American soldiers they could not bury their fallen comrade in the fenced cemetery next to his church. Only church members could be buried there. The men had no choice but to bury their friend just outside the fence.

The next morning the men couldn’t find their friend’s grave. “What happened? The grave is gone,” one soldier told the reverend. The reverend explained that the grave was still there. He said, “I regretted telling you no. So, last night I got up... and I moved the fence.”

Over the past five years, we have partnered with more than a dozen churches to shelter families through the rotational model. Dozens more worked to provide support through donations of time and money. Quarantine, closures, and social distancing have presented roadblocks to the continuation of our rotational model. We have prayed without ceasing for our families and asked God to guide us in our quest to find shelter for them.

Like the vicar in the devotional above, God called on us to look at the challenge placed before us with fresh eyes. Could we move from a rotational model to sheltering families in apartments and houses? Would a scattered site model be feasible? We held leases on three apartments. Could we meet the needs of so



2020 Statistics

13 Guest Families

**5 Families
Transitional
Housing**

**11 Families
Forward**

**181 Services
Housing
Stabilization**

14 HUMI Families

**145
Children
Served**



many families with this space? We discussed how we could still provide case management and partner with the congregations to meet the families' needs. We wondered how we could find properties and landlords who would share our new vision for shelter. We shared these ideas with church coordinators. And then we prayed some more.

The God of miracles provided for us once again. Churches came forward offering parsonages that were unused by pastors and rental properties they owned that were currently empty. We signed leases for three beautiful houses and two amazing apartments! All of these from our church community. It would seem that as with the vicar, **God had moved the fence for us.**

The prophet Isaiah shared God's word with the people of Israel:

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

**Family Promise Week
October 24-31, 2021**

5 Year Anniversary Celebration

Oct. 24, 2021 2:00 pm

**Antioch Church of the Brethren
23502 Senedo Rd., Woodstock, VA**

Open House at FPSC

Oct. 28, 2021 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

781 Spring Parkway, Woodstock, VA

FPSC & SAS - Dynamic Partners

FPSC has developed a wonderful working relationship with Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter over the last five years. Thanks go to Sheila Orndorff for sharing her years of experience with us. We have recently taken this to the next level!! With the rise of COVID and safety concerns with traditional shelters, we have had to re-evaluate how we can best assist families experiencing homelessness. The result is a joint "Scattered Site Shelter" project. We have received a short-term grant to get up and running and are seeking additional funding opportunities.

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A scattered site shelter is an apartment or house where a single family lives while receiving case management. We currently have eight shelter units throughout the county. We have been blessed to work with St. John Bosco Catholic Church, Edinburg Lutheran Parish, and Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in New Market as well as private landlords. We have found that using this model is less traumatic for families and children; and, in most cases, they are able to quickly find employment and childcare to stabilize their situation.

Several community groups have “adopted” one of the shelter sites by decorating and stocking the unit to welcome families. *One mother who recently moved in was overwhelmed that someone had taken the time to make the place so homey – the beds were even made! After couch-surfing and living in their car for weeks, her son was so excited to have their own bath tub - he started filling it right away to take a bath!!*

If you would like to know more about our new shelter model, please contact:
sherryarey@shenandoahfamilypromise.org
katiefurneisen@shenandoahallianceforshelter.org



The caterpillars have turned into beautiful butterflies and taken flight!

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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



New Executive Director for Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter

Congratulations to Katie Furneisen who was named Executive Director of Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter on July 1st. Katie has worked closely with the previous director, Sheila Orndorff, at SAS for five years – first as a centralized intake coordinator and then as a housing counselor.

Before joining the staff at SAS, Katie was an adult crisis case manager with Northwestern Community Services based in Front Royal and was a recreation therapist with Valley Behavioral Health.

Katie shares her home with Tucker – an Australian Shepherd mix – who shares her love of hiking, camping and traveling. This Shenandoah County native says her claim to fame is being the last 6th grader to graduate from the Fort Valley Elementary School.

Near the beginning of her career, Katie says someone told her, “If you can end your career knowing that you have helped one person, you were a success.” She feels that “SAS & FPSC are assets to each other, working hand-in-hand to help our community.”



Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. - 1Thessalonians 5:12-13

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Your church can support us by:

- Praying for our families, staff & board members
- Providing financial support: budget line-item, guest needs fund, shelter units (scattered shelter sites & motel stays)
- Collecting items for [Welcome Home Kits](#)