



“Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Together”

e-Newsletter
December 2022

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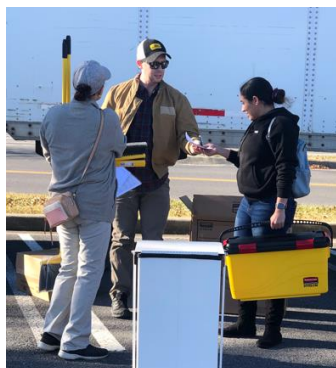


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A Child’s Future Begins at Home

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us! The months of November and December are ripe with opportunities to spend time with family and friends, indulge in the sounds and tastes of the season, and enjoy the anticipation Christmas Eve brings. It is also a time when in the spirit of giving, many individuals and organizations reach out to Family Promise.

Two such instances occurred in November. We had been selected to partner with the United Way NSV during their November 26th Rubbermaid Sale. The proceeds would be split between the two organizations. We put that date on our calendar and began recruiting volunteers.



Thank You United Way & Rubbermaid!

Partner Churches

All Soul's Anglican Church
Antioch Church
Christ United Church of Christ
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Woodstock
Columbia Furnace Church of the Brethren
Columbia Furnace United Methodist Church
Community Mission Church of the Brethren
Conicville-Hamburg Charge UCC
Edinburg Lutheran Parish
Edinburg Christian Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
First Baptist Church of Woodstock
First Church of Columbia Furnace
Grace United Church of Christ
Lebanon Lutheran Church
Maurertown Brethren Church
Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church
Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church – New Market
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church – Woodstock
New Market Seventh-Day Adventist Church
North Mountain Lutheran Parish
Oak Level Church
Our Lady of the Shenandoah Catholic Church
Reasoning Tree Church
Reformation Lutheran Church
Round Hill Church of the Brethren

Lantz Construction then notified us that they had a special partnership with James Madison University. During each home football game a local non-profit would be featured and would receive a donation based on the number of touchdowns scored that day. Representatives from the organization would present the game ball and later return to the field to receive the donation from Lantz Construction,. The non-profit for the JMU/Coastal Carolina game was FPSC! The date was also November 26th.

One of the most exciting things about the JMU game was that we were asked to bring one of our families to go out on the field and present the game ball! A particular family in our Housing Program came to mind. They have faced adversity unimaginable to most of us but have persevered and are making tremendous progress. And of course their two adolescent boys, Jace (13) and Aaron (11) both LOVE sports! For those boys, attending a college football game and going out on the field is the stuff dreams are made of.

But wait...there's more! When the boys heard about the Rubbermaid Sale they wanted to volunteer. They were unphased that they would have to rise before 6:00 a.m. and go work at the sale unloading trucks, unboxing and assembling items. After three hours of work they would have an hour-long van ride to JMU. They were all in and the energy was contagious.

Once at JMU they were in awe at the size of both the stadium and the crowd. Jace literally bounced as he walked! From their time on the field, shown live on the Jumbotron, and hearing their names called out by the game announcer, to high fiving members of the Royal Dukes Marching Band, it is safe to say they were living their dream!



Thank You
Lantz Construction!

Partner Churches (cont.)

Saumsville Christian Church
Shenandoah Community Fellowship
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
St. John Bosco Catholic Church
St. Johns United Methodist Church
St. Johns UCC
Hamburg St. Luke Brethren Church
St. Paul's I UCC
St. Luke's UCC
"County Line"
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Strasburg Assembly of God
Strasburg Christian Church
Strasburg Presbyterian Church
Strasburg United Methodist Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
Valley Central Church
Valley Pike Church of the Brethren
Virginia Hills Church of Woodstock
Wakemans Grove Church of the Brethren
Walkers Chapel Church
Waterbrook Brethren Church
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church
Woodstock Christian Church
Woodstock Presbyterian Church
Woodstock United Methodist Church
Zion Christian Church
Zion Lutheran Church - Mt. Jackson

JMU did not disappoint, rolling over Coastal Carolina 47-7! During the game we had a blast discussing the rules of football and if the officials' flags for "pass interference" or a "block in the back" were justified. The boys enjoyed eating food from the concession stand and learning college football "crowd etiquette". The JMuuuuuuu chant and throwing streamers over the heads of the fans in front of them were both big hits. However, the highlight may have been having their picture taken with the Duke Dog sculpture.

As we headed back to the van, Jace bounced ahead carrying the family's souvenir game ball greeting people as he went. Aaron walked along with us and in his quiet way said that he really had a great time. He was also secretly glad that he had saved his cake pop from earlier in the day so he could eat it on the way home.

As we settled in for the ride back to Woodstock, we realized they weren't the only ones who were exhausted. By the time we hit the Interstate, a glance to the back seat found both boys fast asleep. The drive home was as quiet as the drive to JMU was noisy! Looking back at those sleeping children brought an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. Jace and Aaron had distributed their own fair share of blessings that day.



Transportation Needs & the Shenandoah County Network Table

The Shenandoah County Network Table is a group of volunteers that work with Student Support Specialists in the Shenandoah County Schools. We work to help families solve priority needs which they may not be able to achieve on their own.

Many of the requests are transportation related. The ShenGo bus system has a limited geographic area and schedule which may not work for getting to their jobs. We are reaching out to church and civic groups throughout the county to find volunteers who are willing to provide low cost or free transportation to families that are referred to the Network Table.

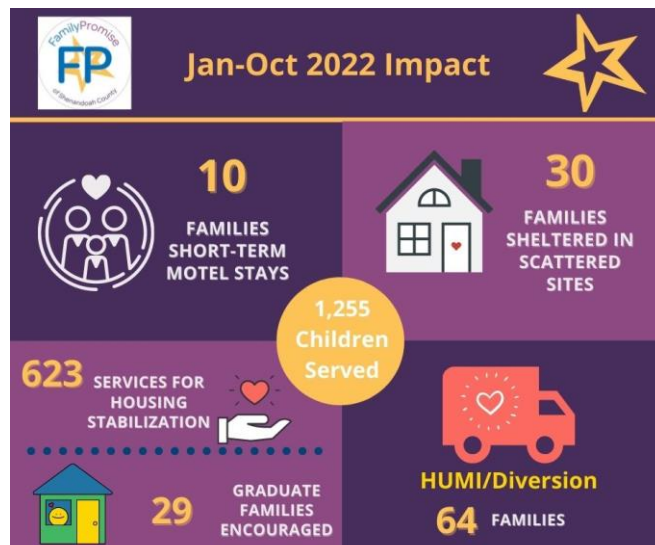
"Cars Changing Lives" at Kibler's Garage is a long-time ministry of Bill and Sandy Long. They have a solid program where they have been turning donations into transportation for those in need. The whole idea of the Network Table is 'networking'...putting needs together with solutions.

How can you help?

- Donate a vehicle
- Volunteer to drive someone occasionally
- Learn more about the Shenandoah County Network Table

For more information, call or text: Sharon Kessler 757-850-2793 or Rick Kessler 757-876-4488.

Corporate Sponsors



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Shampoo | Dish Liquid |
| Conditioner | Glass Cleaner |
| Body Wash | Small boxes of 13 gallon trash bags |
| Laundry Detergent | Mops |
| Dryer Sheets | Buckets |
| Deodorant | Paper Towels & Toilet Paper |



PROUD 2022 IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENT

United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley



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