



"Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter
January 2021

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Program at a Glance

2020 YTD Statistics

13 Guest Families

5 Families
Transitional Housing

11 Families Forward

181 Families
Housing Stabilization

14 HUMI Families



Message from Sherry

Happy New Year! What will 2021 bring? Certainly 2020 was a challenging year - a year of changes, uncertainties and fears.

But through all the unknowns, **one thing was constant and steady - God's love!** That love was active and visible in the work of FPSC. Even though we were not able to provide shelter in our rotational model, we helped more families in many different ways. Thanks to all of you who showed God's love through donations of all kinds.

In this issue we will share stories of how we provided assistance and share comments from those who received help.



**The new year is both
formidable and inviting - but God is there!**

**Thank you for supporting
families with children!!**

Happy New Year!!

2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

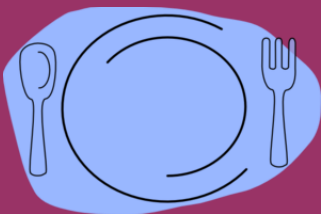
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



2020 Wrap-Up

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity in 2020! Whenever we had a need, that need was met! Sometimes the need was met before we even knew what we needed! Here are some examples:

Early in the pandemic....a local farmer called and asked if we could distribute hamburger from **three cows**....about 1,100 pounds! Of course we said yes! That was a lot of hamburger but what a blessing. We are happy to report that we have distributed all of that hamburger plus an additional several hundred pounds from other donors.

When we determined that FPSC needed an **instant food pantry**, we created a list of items families frequently requested and sent that list out. We continue to be amazed at the ongoing support for our pantry.

Our freezer was almost empty . . . a local food pantry called with an overflow supply of bread, rotisserie chickens and cakes!! We gladly accepted and shared with our families.

When we said that a family was moving into an apartment, we were overwhelmed with household donations!

Assistance provided to families includes: motel stays, utility bills, rent, security deposits, car payments, gas cards, cell phone bills, food, household items, toys and clothing for children for Christmas. And last but not least: Moral Support!

Family Responses

"You are a God send and a blessing to my family."

"I wanted to thank you for the gifts...the kids loved them and I appreciate you and everything you have done for us."

"I've never had to ask for help from anyone before....you didn't make me feel uncomfortable asking, and you were so willing to just help me with everything!"

"Honey, look what is in this box! They even brought us applesauce and hamburger!"

"You all are awesome! My first Christmas in my own place and I even have a new Christmas tree!"

"Thank you for all you have done for our family. You gave us a chance to get back on our feet and we are so grateful!"



Board Members

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Katherine Morrison

Vice President

Libby Rocco

Secretary

Kent Jeter

Treasurer

Norma Barb

Ellen Bowers

Jerry Copp

Alesia Foltz

Mary Jane Koch

Sister Laura Nieves

Steve Ranson

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Kim Shrum

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Sherry Arey, Exec. Director

Kelly Storey, Assoc. Director

& HUMI Coordinator

Diane Wittreich,

Case Manager

Diane Pence,

Outreach Coordinator

Donna Crabill,

Administrative Assistant

Corporate Sponsors



HUMI

In December of 2020 we used HUMI funds to keep four families in their housing and moved two families into their new apartments. That meant that 14 children under the age of 10 were safely and securely housed during the Christmas season. We could not have done that without your generosity! If you would like more information about HUMI, please contact Kelly Storey at 540-459-4599 or email her at kellystorey@shenandoahfamilypromise.org. We continue to need HUMI funds to provide sustainability for families. If you wish to donate specifically toward the HUMI project, please indicate this on your check.

Welcome New Board Members

Alesia Foltz – Alesia has been the coordinator for Mt. Hermon UMC since FPSC opened. She is dedicated to the FP program and wants the program to be successful. Alesia is quite connected with the Basye/Orkney/Mt. Jackson area and has been able to promote FPSC in these areas. She has often coordinated furniture and household items for families moving into permanent housing. Alesia has continually supported FPSC fund raisers by providing items, volunteers and financial support.

Sister Laura Nieves – Sister Laura is the leader of the team of sisters at St. John Bosco and is fluent in Spanish. She assists the Hispanic population by translating readings and gospels and other cultural needs. She helps with the food pantry and will often deliver food and clothing to families in need. She has been supportive of Family Promise during SJB's host week – assisting with meals and overnight stays. She has provided support for Family Promise events and promotes the program to others.

Norma Barb – Norma chaired the first annual Family Promise Golf Tournament in 2019. She organized and facilitated all aspects of the event and connected new donors with FPSC. She is the chairperson for the Meal Ministry at First Baptist Church and is passionate about ministering to those less fortunate by providing food and shelter and by giving them hope for a better future through spiritual growth and financial knowledge.

Kim Shrum – Kim has been involved with FPSC since the beginning as the coordinator for All Soul's Anglican Church. She is committed to the organization in meeting the needs of the homeless in the community. When All Soul's was no longer available as a host site, Kim worked with Community Mission Church and coordinates volunteers for meals and overnight stays every other quarter at that site. Kim makes strong connections with FP guests and encourages and supports each family as they journey back to independent living.

Thank you Alesia, Sister Laura, Norma, and Kim for agreeing to serve on our Board and for your dedication to Family Promise of Shenandoah County!



Rubbermaid Product Sale

Saturday, January 30th, 8 am - Noon

Belk Parking Lot – Winchester

Proceeds Benefit FPSC!

All Sales Final

Major Credit Cards Accepted

Volunteers Needed

Call Kelly Storey, 540-459-4599

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



CABINETWORKS
GROUP

Cabinetworks Group is America's 2nd largest cabinetry manufacturer. Their manufacturing facility in Mount Jackson recently adopted FPSC as a way to give back to the community. They challenged each of their departments to collect food items for our instant food pantry. The Shipping Department was the winner of the competition. Desiree McKean, from their Human Resources Department, brought multiple large van loads of food to us!!



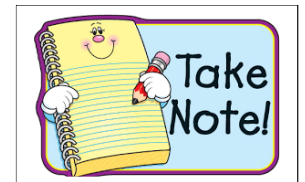
During the food drive, one of their employees called us to find out more about what we do. She referred a family from New Market to us, and we were able to help them in several ways. Thank you for your donations and for helping spread the word about our program!!!

FPSC was selected as one of 50 Family Promise Affiliates to receive \$4,000 in proceeds from Belk Charity Sales this fall. For those of you who made purchases during these events, THANK YOU! These funds will support us as we keep children and families safe and healthy.



Students at **The Growing Tree School** in Woodstock donated food and funds for the holidays for the second year in a row. They are growing Good Citizens!

During the winter months, the Family Center is **operating on an adjusted schedule**. We do work from home when we are not in the office and do check phone messages remotely and respond to those messages as needed. **If you plan on dropping by the Center, please call first - 540-459-4599 - to be sure someone is in the office.** If you leave a message, we will call you back! Thanks for all you do!





*In
Loving Memory*



Mary....Nanny....Grandma Mary....many of you met Mary Rothgeb back in 2017 when she came to FPSC with her three grandchildren - Isabella, Eric (Pickles/Pic), and Jessica. Mary passed away suddenly on Wednesday, November 23rd. When Jessica got up that morning, she found Nanny in the hallway, unresponsive. Mary was a fierce advocate for her grandchildren and loved each one dearly.

Before they came to Family Promise, they were sleeping in the car and Mary would stay awake at night to turn the car on so the children could stay warm. A church in New Market found them a motel room and convinced Mary to come to Family Promise.

While Mary acknowledged that it was hard to move around each week, she was always grateful and thankful for the fellowship, friendship and good cooking!

Mary was so proud when she finally qualified for an apartment....she still had her angel collection in storage and one of the first things she did was go get the angels and unpack them. She then asked Diane P. for a picture of all the churches they stayed in so she could put them on her wall with her angels....she said, “ You all were my angels and I could not have done this without all your help!” She called it her angel wall; and when she moved into another apartment, her angel wall and church pictures moved too!



The children are now with their father - I spoke to him right before Christmas and he said they are doing well. We are compiling a memory book for the children - we have many “Mary” stories of their time here at the Center and visits with them at the apartment. If you have memories or stories or pictures that you would like to share, please email them to Diane Pence at dianepence@shenandoahfamilypromise.org by January 31.

Mary was strong and resilient - traits she instilled in those three little ones.