



"Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter
September 2020

PO Box 733
781 Spring Parkway
Woodstock, VA 22664

Phone: 540-459-4599
Fax: 540-459-4315



Website: shenandoahfamilypromise.org
Email: info@shenandoahfamilypromise.org

Program at a Glance

2020 YTD Statistics

7 Guest Families

**4 Families
Transitional Housing**

11 Families Forward

**114 Families
Housing Stabilization**

4 HUMI Families



Message from Sherry

Welcome to September! What a journey we have been on these past six months....and who could have imagined that we would have to suspend our shelter rotation system for a virus!

We now have a different plan in place - we are beginning to work with families again and are providing shelter and case management services in many different ways - text messages, emails, phone calls, in-person meetings (all participants masked if inside). My hope is that we can begin our rotation model again early in 2021 but that will be based on guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and other agencies.

If you have any questions about how we are serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness, please give me a call. I appreciate community input, and your continued support is so welcome.

Sherry Arey, Executive Director

THANK YOU



2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

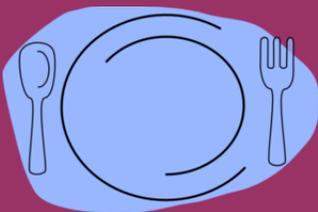
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



If

2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



Case Manager's Corner

The number of calls this month is increasing. Here is a synopsis of some of the calls received as of this writing. Six calls were from single mothers who are staying in a motel or with either family or friends and cannot stay there any longer. Two mothers were employed and had childcare for their children; however, for one transportation was an issue. The other four mothers were not currently employed—they want to find work but do not have anyone - family or friends - to watch their children while working. One mother's experience with homelessness is COVID-19 related. Some of the comments they made: "I only get emotional support from my family - they won't take us in." "I had to leave the children's father because he was getting abusive. I don't have any family or friends to watch my children if I get a job." "I was staying with a friend but because I'm not on the lease, we couldn't stay there any longer. We've been at the motel for two weeks, and I cannot afford to stay any longer. I need a private landlord because of my background."

Diane Wittreich



HUMI Update from Kelly

Our HUMI (Help Us Move In) grant is already making a difference for families in Shenandoah County! We are currently working with one family to maintain housing via rental and utility assistance. Two other families are in the process of securing permanent housing. HUMI funds can be used to assist with their security deposits and first month's rent!

Every two minutes a child becomes homeless in America. The stress this places on parents can be paralyzing. One of our HUMI guests recently said, "I'm just so overwhelmed I don't even know where to start. Tasks I should be able to complete quickly seem to take forever. I can't even tell you how thankful we are for your help. Right now I just couldn't have done it on my own."

This story is one we know the HUMI Community Match Grant made happen. Your donation will enable FPSC to continue to help homeless families with children get and remain housed!

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:1

Kelly Storey

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Meet Deborah Litten HUMI Committee Member

Deb Litten was recently selected to be a member of our HUMI Committee; we have worked with her for a number of years as the Supervisor of Student Services and the “Homeless Liaison” for the Shenandoah County Public Schools division. She says homelessness is a traumatic event for students; but, fortunately, in our county many children in this situation are doubled up with other families. This gives them a bit more feeling of security but that only lasts as long as the families are on good terms or until the landlord puts his foot down – that is when FPSC often becomes involved.

Homeless services are offered to students at their home school. Children are eligible for the free lunch program. When other items such as school supplies, clothing or shoes are needed, each school has a fund to help out. Unlike some other school divisions around the country, Shenandoah County students who find themselves homeless are **eligible for all of the same academic opportunities as any other student**, including dual enrollment in college courses. Many of these opportunities cost additional money, but the school can help with funding. A resource brochure is provided to parents which explains other assistance available in the community. *It is very important for families to communicate their needs to a guidance counselor or school administrator.*

As school opens virtually this year, all students have been issued a Chromebook. Shentel offers internet service at a reduced price for all families whose children qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. Hotels and motels offer internet service for their guests. Shentel has also been working to provide free hot spots throughout the county. There is a hot spot in each school parking lot and at the county government center.

Our HUMI committee has just begun its work; and Deb says “[We] are a group of dedicated individuals who want to do the best for our community.” She is looking forward to helping develop the program.



Dear God, help me to believe that I'm doing a great work. I trust that You've called me to this in this season. Give me the focus to stay the course.

--Prayer from Our Daily Bread

Thanks for staying with us in this season! It is a challenging journey and we appreciate 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

- 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!

OCT. 10, 2020
FPSC GOLF TOURNAMENT
CANCELLED

SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 8, 2021
2ND ANNUAL FPSC GOLF TOURNAMENT



Many thanks to Trex for signing on for their second year as a Corporate Sponsor. They are a SILVER SPONSOR for 2021. Trex supports non-profit organizations dedicated to advancing educational and environmental initiatives as well as programs that make a positive impact in the lives of children. Thank you so much for being such a generous community member!!!