



"Bringing Families Home. . .  
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter  
June 2020

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## Program at a Glance

### 2020 YTD Statistics

5

Guest Families

4

Families  
Transitional Housing

11

Families Forward

18

Families  
Housing Stabilization



### Message from Sherry

**It's June! I never imagined that we would have sheltered in place for over two months!** It has been an interesting time - I've adapted to many new ways of living. I am happy to report that our families in transitional housing continue to be healthy and continue to be employed. FPSC is in contact with coordinators at our host sites and staff is working on procedures to help volunteers and guests stay safe and healthy.

**I'm excited about the new opportunity for FPSC - the HUMI grant** which will allow us to help families stay housed and help families become housed in a more timely manner. The funds raised through HUMI will be used to prevent families from being evicted and can be used to assist a family with a security deposit or a portion of the first month's rent. These families will also have the support of a case manager who will work with the family on budgeting and good tenant skills and who will act as a liaison between the landlord and the family to build a positive, working relationship.

**I do want to say a huge THANK YOU to each of you** for all the monetary and in-kind donations that have continued to come to the Center during this time - families are reaching out to us and we have been able to meet many needs because of your generosity. Stay safe...and please wear a face covering!

*Sherry Arey, Executive Director*

## 2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

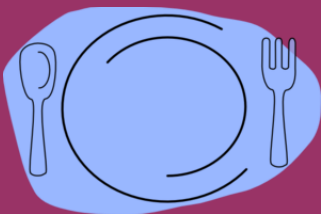
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



## Case Manager's Corner

In addition to working with the four families we have in our Transitional Housing program, I have been assisting graduates of FPSC (Families Forward) as well as a number of families that have called FPSC for assistance (Housing Stabilization).

When a person calls FPSC, we go through a questionnaire with them to determine their needs, what other agencies they are working with, the last time they requested help, and what other assistance they may be eligible for. We are also in close contact with Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter to coordinate our efforts.

We get referrals from the Shenandoah County Department of Social Services, local churches, the Valley Assistance Network in Winchester (associated with United Way), Page One in Page County and former guest families.

So far, we have been able to help families with rent, utilities, food, phone cards, gas cards, toiletries and diapers, and nights in a motel. We even helped one family who was moving into an apartment (after living in a motel for a year) with furniture and household items. Due to space limitations and the lack of staff capable of moving furniture, FPSC keeps a low inventory of furniture. We are grateful for the New Market Seventh Day Adventist church which has given families furniture and household items from their storage facility – in one case they even delivered it!

We are very thankful for the grants we have received from American Woodmark, the Shenandoah Community Foundation, and the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley which allow us to provide support in so many ways. We are looking forward to expanding our efforts in Housing Stabilization with our grant award from Help Us Move In and Family Promise National!

For some folks, they have never had to ask for help before; and you can tell they are reluctant to do so now. We have received some really heart-warming thank you notes.

*Diane Wittreich*



***The family center is getting a makeover!***  
*We've had some very special volunteers at the center recently. Some have been cleaning and organizing while others painted. Thanks to: Valerie, Lynden, Gary, Barry, Chessa, Kay, June and Gwyn.*

## Board Members

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Vice President  
Libby Rocco  
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## Office Staff

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Executive Director  
Diane Wittreich,  
Case Manager  
Diane Pence,  
Outreach Coordinator  
Donna Crabill,  
Administrative Assistant

## Corporate Sponsors

### Premium



### Silver



### Bronze



### Partner



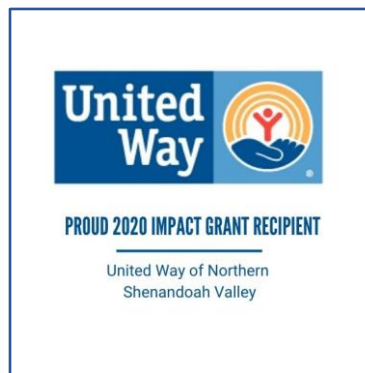
## Steak Dinner & Silent Auction

**The Steak Dinner has been cancelled this year.** If you would like to make your ticket purchase a donation, you don't need to do anything; we will send you a donation acknowledgement letter. If you prefer to have a refund, please call the office at 540-459-4599 by June 1<sup>st</sup> to make arrangements.



**Good News – The Silent Auction will go on – virtually, that is!!** Please visit our [online auction site](#) to preview items any time. Bidding will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 am and will wrap up on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 pm. Items must be picked up at the Family Center by June 19<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm. For any questions regarding the silent auction, please contact Becky Leland at 540-333-1976.

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**So thankful to receive another Community Impact Grant from UWNSV.** This is the third year we have been selected, and we so appreciate being a United Way partner! Funds received this year will be used to: Provide support services to homeless families in crisis towards financial stability including help finding employment, childcare assistance, required document assistance, transportation assistance, and rental assistance.

## JMU Grant Writing Class

For the second year, FPSC was chosen as a grant candidate for the JMU Grant Writing Class. The university partners with the Learning by Giving Foundation for funding. Dr. Laura Trull is the professor. "The course offers a very realistic experience for our students," said Trull, explaining that the 35 to 40 students enrolled in each year's class wear several different hats during the semester as they switch roles from grant writers to philanthropists. In addition to social work majors, the course is popular with students minoring in family studies, gerontology or nonprofit studies. Summer Conley and Lindsey Parker were the students paired with FPSC this year. While we were not selected to receive a grant, it was a great experience working with these young women. Summer said, "Sherry is so kind and knowledgeable and was great to work with." Their information poster is attached to this email. Many thanks for all your hard work!



## 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



## Sandy Hook Elementary School



March 2, 2020 was Read Across America Day (the date of Dr. Seuss's birthday and also known as Dr. Seuss Day). The day is the nation's largest celebration of reading. Nicole Haymore, a reading specialist at Sandy Hook Elementary School, celebrated the day by having students read *Fox in Sox*, a book of tongue tanglers by Dr. Seuss. As part of the celebration, students were encouraged to bring in socks to donate to FPSC. As you can see, they were an enthusiastic bunch of readers and donors! Many thanks to Ms. Haymore and her students for their thoughtfulness!!



*Thank you to all Front Line Workers!!*

**DID YOU KNOW . . .** the CARES Act expands tax deductions for charitable giving. Specifically, non-itemizers can take up to a \$300 above-the-line charitable income tax deduction for cash donations made in 2020. This means that if you give \$300 to charity, you'd get the \$300 tax break in addition to the standard deduction (\$12,400 for individuals, and \$24,800 for married couples filing jointly).

*Often when you think you're at the end of something,  
you're at the beginning of something else. --- Fred Rogers*