



“Bringing Families Home. . .  
Keeping Families Housed”

e-Newsletter  
April 2021

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## Program at a Glance

### 2021 YTD Statistics

**2** Guest Families

**3** Families  
Transitional Housing

**11** Families Forward

**59** Services  
Housing Stabilization

**6** HUMI/Diversion  
Families



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

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

### Message from Sherry

Wow – April 2021 already! It’s hard to believe that only a year ago, we were quarantined and locked down! But through it all, **Family Promise of Shenandoah County continued to support families with children** who were homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless.

A recent quote from Claas Ehlers, Family Promise CEO: “You can’t solve one problem without solving all the problems.” That seems like an insurmountable goal! But **we use a holistic approach and engage numerous stakeholders** such as congregations, social service agencies, community members and leaders, civic groups, employers and others. Each one can address one problem or one part of the problem.

As part of the Diversion, Stabilization and Prevention Grant, FPSC has completed the training and we have developed an implementation plan. **We continue on the path to make families independent again** – working with each family to solve all the problems with sustainable solutions. We do so **appreciate the support of each of you – our donors who make our work possible.** Your time, monetary support and continued prayers change the future for our families and the children. And one last quote from a former FP guest.....”Homelessness is a situation, not a label!” Thanks for your on-going support that helps our families through a situation that will not become a descriptive label!

*Sherry Arey*



## 2020 Statistics

**13 Guest Families**

**5 Families  
Transitional  
Housing**

**11 Families  
Forward**

**181 Services  
Housing  
Stabilization**

**14 HUMI Families**

**145  
Children  
Served**



## Case Manager's Corner

Many families have been guests at Family Promise since I started in February 2017 as Case Manager. Jennifer and her 3-year-old twin girls, Brianna and Kimberly, came into our shelter program in April 2017. Her son Riley went to stay with his grandparents in Fauquier County so he would have more stability during the school year. They were the first family I worked with -- I'm the mother of twin boys so we had an instant connection!

Jen progressed through the program, and in September 2017 they moved into an apartment in Woodstock. Riley was able to rejoin them. Jen and the kids have stayed in touch with us over the last few years. We love seeing the children grow up and have been able to provide additional support when needed.

Here is an update on Jen, Riley, Brianna and Kimberly:

"Hi everyone, the kids and I are now living in Warrenton in transitional housing. We moved back here at the end of June 2020 and ended up at the shelter. I have worked my hardest to get us into the transitional housing program, and we moved in there the beginning of October. We are doing good, and I'm working toward getting accepted for the Habitat for Humanity program. I have a virtual interview on March 31<sup>st</sup>. I qualify since I'm in transitional housing --I hope it works out!"

**We are proud of Jennifer** for keeping her family together despite some setbacks. She is a hard worker and a dedicated mother. It is great for her to be back in Fauquier County near family and friends. **Thank you all for the love and support** you have shown their family and others over the last five years.

Please pray that Jen is accepted into Habitat's Home Ownership Program. The benefits include:

- **Affordability** - Your monthly mortgage payments are kept affordable.
- **Financial Coaching** - Free financial coaching focuses on your budget, helps you pay down debt, understand credit, and save for the future.
- **Training** – Homebuyer education courses help prepare you for the responsibilities of homeownership.
- **Post-purchase support** - Habitat provides resources for you after you purchase your home. This support includes things like home maintenance advice, helping you connect with your local community and providing guidance with finances after buying your home.

*Diane Wittreich*



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## Office Staff

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**Kelly Storey**, Assoc. Director  
& HUMI Coordinator  
**Diane Wittreich**,  
Case Manager  
**Diane Pence**,  
Outreach Coordinator  
**Donna Crabill**,  
Administrative Assistant



## A Child's Future Begins at Home

The Oxford English Dictionary provides the following definition. *Diversion: the act of causing something or someone to turn in a different direction, or to be used for a different purpose.*

And so begins our next phase of working with families facing the situation of homelessness.

As our staff worked to create our Diversion Implementation Plan, we had to remind ourselves that we could not divert families from homelessness. They were already there. What we could do is work with them to identify resources and provide mediation that would prevent them from entering a shelter model. It seemed that no sooner was our plan complete than God sent us our first family in need of diversion!

We received a call from a single mother with three children. She had been unable to work full time since the start of the Pandemic. During the past year she had only been able to make partial monthly rent payments. She spoke with our case manager who reached out to the landlord. Just a few days later, our team engaged in our first Diversion landlord/tenant mediation via Zoom. To say it was successful would be an understatement! The landlord was understanding and greatly concerned about housing stability for the children and their mother. She agreed to work with FPSC to keep them where they were! As part of our Diversion plan, a followup Zoom meeting has been scheduled to provide case management and to work with the mother to create a plan for sustainability.

This has been a wonderful introduction in working to end homelessness through a diversion approach. It has also been a great reminder that God is good....all the time! ☺

*Kelly Storey*



**Save the Date!**  
**June 25, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL EVENT**  
**Become a "Homeless Hero"**

Family Promise of Shenandoah County will once again be hosting the virtual event "Night Without a Bed" instead of our traditional "Cardboard City." This year's virtual event will take place on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness of the on-going issue of family homelessness in the northern Shenandoah Valley while raising funds to help us end homelessness one family at a time.

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## 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



## How You Can Help

- ★ Sign up to participate – sleep one night in a tent – a car – a make-do shelter – or on a couch
- ★ Make it a community event – with your church – scout troop – family – friends (social distancing permitting)
- ★ Tell others about Family Promise of Shenandoah County
- ★ Ask people you know to donate to Family Promise of Shenandoah County
- ★ Check out our website & watch for more news about NWAB 2021: [www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org](http://www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org)
- ★ Read a book or watch a movie about Homelessness
- ★ Think about what others go through while they are homeless – pray for them

## Intern's Introspections



Hello and happy April! Time is flying by, but I am loving every moment here at FPSC! I continue to sit in on a variety of meetings and have many interactions with our families. In March, I was given the opportunity to tour the health department to understand WIC a little better and how it benefits some of our families. I also got to meet and talk with someone who works with Strength in Peers, a school social worker, and a FPSC board member. I am currently working on a class project - a macro case study in which I will be describing how our diversion grant will impact the community that FPSC serves. I'm very excited to see what April will bring for me here at FPSC!

## Corporate Sponsors

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# CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

## Significant 68

**A huge thank you to these wonderful folks who have donated every year from 2016-2020. We couldn't do it without your loyal support!!**

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