



"Bringing Families Home. . .  
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter  
March 2021

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## Program at a Glance

### 2021 YTD Statistics

**1** Guest Family

**3** Families  
Transitional Housing

**11** Families Forward

**25** Services  
Housing Stabilization

**4** HUMI Families



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

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

### Message from Sherry

**Family matters.** Family has always been the one constant in your life. We are excited to announce that Family Promise of Shenandoah County is the recipient of a grant for \$50,000 from Family Promise National and Synchrony Bank to develop a diversion/prevention/stabilization plan for families. We are using a name from other affiliates – **A Future Begins at Home.**

As we worked through 2020, we saw many **benefits of keeping families in their homes** – families did not have to experience the disruption and trauma of homelessness. We know that some families will need shelter, and we will continue to provide that shelter on a case by case basis.

Family Promise of Shenandoah County is committed to surrounding families in crisis with support, case management, and other resources to help them build assets and skills to be sustainable. We will be posting more information about the program as we receive training from national. Stay tuned!

And some more exciting news... **Family Promise of Shenandoah County is celebrating our fifth anniversary!** We will have a special logo soon and we are planning some special events. More on this later. Happy March!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**NIGHT WITHOUT A BED - JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>**



## 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**

One of our new families in Transitional Housing is settling in well. She is decorating the apartment with a tablecloth on the kitchen table, real and artificial plants, some plaques with motivational slogans, and some other personal touches.

She is quite busy being an online student taking classes working toward her Associates Degree in Human Services. She would like to become a social worker. Her son, Benji, had a birthday at the beginning of February and keeps mom quite busy in addition to her studies! Elizabeth (our intern) and I are working with her as she tries to navigate being a single mother. She is so appreciative of all FPSC is doing to help them settle into the apartment.

*-Diane Wittreich*



## **HUMI Update**

As we look forward to spring, we also remember this is the season of rebirth...a season of second chances. We are reminded that God is a God of second chances. He takes us when we feel broken down and recreates us into something amazing!

Our HUMI family this month has certainly known the need for a second chance. They have faced struggles and paid the price for past choices.. Having made restitution, they are focused on improving opportunities for their family. The father is returning to full time work in early March, and the mother has a lead on an employment opportunity in Woodstock.

Since mid-January both parents have volunteered 100+ hours to Family Promise. Organizing donations and deep cleaning the Family Center was their starting point. Since that time, we have picked them up most mornings at 8:30 for a 9:00-5:00 work day. They have emptied, deep cleaned, and painted one of our transitional housing units. They are currently working on moving in

## Board Members

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## Office Staff

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& HUMI Coordinator

Diane Wittreich,  
Case Manager

Diane Pence,  
Outreach Coordinator

Donna Crabill,  
Administrative Assistant

furnishings and household items. Knowing they are moving into a family home they have worked to make spacious and bright has truly motivated them!

Valentine's Day weekend we received the following text:

***Happy Valentine's Day! We appreciate everything you have done for us. For the first time in a long time we feel comfortable and have structure in our lives. You are a true blessing to us. Thank you!***

HUMI funds will help this family get and stay housed. Your donation to the HUMI program will enable Family Promise to help other families provide a stable home for their family.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

## Strasburg High School National Honor Society



Students in the NHS volunteered to help with the Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> Rubbermaid Sale benefitting FPSC. It was a huge success! It was just a bit chilly, 19 degrees at 6 a.m.... and for the first time in the history of the sale no one dispatched the tractor trailer to the Apple Blossom Mall! Once that was taken care of the truck arrived around 7:30. Shoppers were already lining up! The students immediately began unloading the truck and unboxing items. Tables were placed and items priced. The 8:00 shift received a brief training in writing sales tickets and the shoppers poured in!



## 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



Every student from the 6:00 shift willingly stayed until 9:00 to make sure the truck was unloaded. They worked extremely hard the entire time they were there! The representative from the United Way remarked that this was one of the hardest working groups of young people they had ever had volunteer. Not one student was on their phone! It was a busy, chilly day that truly benefited everyone involved.

**Thank you so much for partnering with us!**

## Intern's Introspections

Hello! I have been very busy here at FPSC and am continuing to learn a lot! I have been able to sit in on a variety of different meetings including a HUMI meeting, a coordinators meeting, a FPSC board meeting, and executive directors meetings. This week I have participated in the Diversion Grant Trainings with the rest of the staff here at FPSC!

I have also had the opportunity to learn more about the agencies that FPSC works closely with including The Pregnancy Center, A Small Hand, Strength in Peers, and Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter to just name a few!

Currently, I am completing a class assignment called a Community Agency Study which looks at the history of the agency and its surrounding community as well as studying the agency's external relationships. My favorite part of being an intern at FPSC so far has been the interactions I have been having with some of our guests! I am very excited to see what the coming weeks have in store for me here at FPSC!

*-Elizabeth Shoemaker*

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