

e-Newsletter
December 2020

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Program at a Glance

2020 YTD Statistics

12 Guest Families

5 Families
Transitional Housing

11 Families Forward

149 Families
Housing Stabilization

8 HUMI Families



Website: shenandoahfamilypromise.org

Email: info@shenandoahfamilypromise.org

Message from Sherry

Welcome to December! **What a year of challenges** this has been – yet despite all the challenges, I am so grateful to see our community come together to support families. We have been able to assist families with food, rental assistance, motel stays and deposits for housing.

And **the families are so grateful**...a dad told us he had **never asked for help in the past**; but, due to COVID, he was not able to find employment and had used all his savings to pay rent. When he came to pick up the check for the landlord, we offered him food from our pantry. He did take some but he kept saying that he would not take too much as he wanted to leave some for others in need! He was excited to tell us that he had found a new job and after Monday, he would be back on track.

A family in New Market needed food, so Diane W. was going to drop it off but was not able to locate the house. The dad called the Family Center the next morning to “*make sure the lady that was to drop off the food was okay!*” He stated they were worried about her and wanted to make sure nothing had happened to her.

We **assisted a family with move-in expenses** for a new apartment – the 5 year-old daughter was so excited and happy to have a home that she insisted on coming to the Family Center so she “could thank all the nice people.”

2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

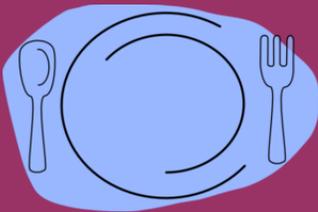
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



All of this occurred **because of your on-going support, concern and prayers!** **These families are our neighbors** – moms, dads and kids just like us. They **have hopes and dreams for the future**.....regardless of their current situation.

Our annual Thanksgiving appeal card came out at the end of November – I hope you received our card and will consider supporting Family Promise of Shenandoah County! Supporting families with children who need help maintaining or acquiring housing is still our #1 mission and I encourage you to become our partner! Have a Blessed, Safe, Merry Christmas!



Case Manager's Corner

Another month has ended, and the Christmas season is upon us. It will certainly be different than in years past. Since the Family Center closed in March, YOU - our loyal supporters - stepped up and gave to FPSC in other ways! The family center received a face-lift, with new donated flooring and paint for the family room. The “mommy’s room” and the hallway were painted too!

We received cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, household items, and numerous food donations including 1100+ pounds of hamburger, chicken breasts and thighs/legs to give out to local families who call FP for assistance.

We received support through A Night Without a Bed to help raise awareness of families experiencing homelessness. Many people have also donated handcrafted items: Masks for adults and children, various items for the silent auction, and pillowcases for children. We recently received handmade Christmas cards - thank you Fannie and Anna - placed in stamped envelopes to give out to our families.

All the families we work with are so very appreciative of everything you have done for FPSC this year! May God Bless you and your families throughout this holiday season!

Diane Wittreich



Your Feedback Matters

Here's an email we received in response to the November newsletter:

“I shed a tear whenever I read the stories of your clients. I hope you never underestimate the gifts of time and resources that you provide to those in need in our community. Thank you!!!” We couldn't do this without your support!!!!

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HUMI Update from Kelly



During the month of November HUMI (Help Us Move In), has continued to help our three HUMI families.. We've provided case management, assisted them in budgeting and at times provided the shoulder needed to get through the day.

Sherry always tells us that when one of our families is in need of an item it just seems to show up. She reminds us that **God will provide. I have seen this over and over in my brief tenure at FPSC.**

One of our families needed a twin size bed for their daughter. She had been sleeping in a toddler bed and, at the age of five, had surely outgrown it. We became aware of their need; and, in just a matter of days, Sherry and I were on our way to Strasburg to pick up **TWO** nearly new twin beds!

The same family mentioned that they didn't have a Christmas tree. Well of course, the Walmart donations last week included **TWO** Christmas trees. One was even prelit! When the family came to pick it up their daughter was just dancing with joy. She was so excited and full of appreciation that **the true meaning of the season filled the room.**

HUMI continues to help this family stay housed. Their appreciation for each act of kindness shown to them is palpable. Your donation to the HUMI program will enable Family Promise to help other families get and stay housed.

Kelly Storey



FPSC Champions

A special thank you to "Friends of the Family" – folks who donate monthly to help children in need. Some are long-time supporters and others are new this year. We appreciate being able to count on you throughout the year!

*George Bowers
Crossroads Baptist Bible Church
Orville & Ann Deming
First Church of Columbia Furnace
Jenna French
Eva Gochenour
Michael Hermann
Fred & Marty Hoerr*

*Dean & Teresa Minnick
Katherine Morrison
Jean & Lester Orndorff
Phyllis Ours
Steve Ranson
Reasoning Tree Church
Valley Central Church*

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



Many thanks to CFNSV for awarding a \$2000 grant to “Help Us Stabilize Housing!!” The grant was awarded from the Paul and Martha Rees Fund which was established in 2014 by BB&T Bank in the memory of Paul and Martha Rees to offer grants to charitable and nonprofit organizations for the benefit of the people of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Since its inception in 2014, this fund has returned \$60,000 in grants to the Valley.

thrivent®

We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Through Thrivent programs, we are eligible to receive, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects. **We have seen firsthand how much of an impact** Thrivent's clients can make on our organization. This year we have received over \$500 in funding from Choice Dollars® and Thrivent Action Team Funding.

Don't forget! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep our organization in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice.” Or click here: thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Thanks so much to Thrivent and their clients for supporting FPSC!



Kudos to Leigha Dirting, a young friend of FPSC, for having a yard sale and lemonade stand to benefit Family Promise of Shenandoah County. Her donation will go to providing coats and shoes for several children.

Merry Christmas
From Our Family
To Yours

