Monthly Newsletter

FamilyPromise of Shenandoah County

November 2025

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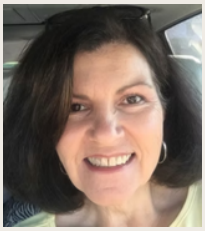
Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-4599



Executive Director's Update

Dear Friends,

As we approach Thanksgiving, our hearts are full of gratitude for the amazing community that surrounds us. This season reminds us that joy grows when it's shared—through service, compassion, and love. We're reminded that community is not just about giving—it's about coming together.

This year, our programs have sheltered and fed families, brought comfort to those in need, and offered hope where it was most needed. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated support of our volunteers, donors, and partners. Every meal shared, every hour volunteered, and every dollar donated helps create a brighter, more caring future for those who need it most.

We are inspired by the words from 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Even in challenging times, gratitude guides us toward peace and connection.

As we gather around the table with loved ones, we give thanks for you—our faithful friends who make our mission possible. May this Thanksgiving fill your homes and hearts with warmth, joy, and the knowledge that your generosity changes lives every day.

Wishing you peace,

Kelly

REMINDER:
REGISTER BY NOV. 5
TO RECEIVE A 5K
TURKEY TROT SHIRT!

In this newsletter:

Latest news, and more.
Keep Reading!

Family Promise 5K Turkey Trot

Family Promise of Shenandoah County invites you to the 2nd Annual Run/Walk to support families in Shenandoah County facing homelessness

Saturday
November 15, 2025

Shenandoah County Park in Maurertown

Register to participate: shenandoahfamilypromise.org

All ages are welcome!

RACE DAY INFORMATION
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.
5K Run begins at 9:00 a.m.
Walker start will follow runners

$35.00 per participant
$25.00 (12 and under)
includes long sleeve
race t-shirt (in-person and virtual)
if registered by November 1st

FamilyPromise of Shenandoah County

Questions: Call 540-459-4599

Case Manager's Corner

Holly

A Tale of Two Families

Families entering our shelter program often arrive with little to no support. Success in our shelter program requires hard work, perseverance, and encouragement from others. While family and friends can provide motivation, many of our guests rely solely on the support of our staff. The following two families illustrate how the presence or absence of support can make a significant difference in their shelter experience.

The Smiths are a two-parent blended family with three school-age children. Mom's family lives nearby and is very supportive, while Dad's family, though in another state, also offers encouragement.

When the Smiths entered the shelter, they did not have a car. Despite this, Dad quickly found a job with a company that provided transportation. Each morning, he is ready and waiting when the van arrives. His strong work ethic has been noticed, and he has already received a small raise. Mom remained at home to care for the children and managed transportation needs—such as doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, and school meetings—through the help of extended family.

Recently, a generous community member donated a car to our program, asking only that it be given to a deserving, hardworking family. We immediately thought of the Smiths. With the financial help of her family, Mom was able to cover the title, taxes, and tags. The following week, she drove to her previous place of employment, reapplied, and began working again.

Mom is deeply grateful for the opportunity and proud to contribute to her family's progress. The staff at Family Promise is incredibly proud of all the hard work this family has done. Without the encouragement and practical support of extended family, this success story would have been much harder to achieve.

The Wilsons are a single-mother family with a preschooler and an infant. When the children's father left and the landlord refused to renew the lease, Mom found herself with nowhere to go. She owned a car but had no job or childcare. Determined to rebuild stability for her family, she entered our shelter program and began searching for childcare, employment, and permanent housing.

Mom applied for the Child Care Subsidy and enrolled her oldest child in Head Start—only to discover that the program no longer operates in Shenandoah County. Her children were placed on the subsidy waiting list (without which childcare costs roughly $200 per week per child). With assistance from our staff and the Shenandoah County School Preschool Coordinator, Mom was able to enroll her oldest child in a preschool program through the Virginia Preschool Initiative, which also offered care for her youngest.

Next came the job search. She first secured a position at a restaurant but was let go when the business over-hired. Undeterred, she found a front desk/receptionist position. Unfortunately, the required hours extended past 6:00 p.m. a few nights each week—beyond her childcare hours. A similar opportunity arose with slightly earlier hours (6:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m.), but since daycare didn't open until 7:00 a.m., she again had to turn it down.

If Ms. Wilson had a support network, she might have been able to rely on friends or family to help with drop-offs or pick-ups. Despite these challenges, she continues to persevere and has several promising interviews ahead. The Family Promise staff remains incredibly proud of her determination and resilience.

Everyone needs someone in their corner. When you have a people, a person, an organization cheering you on it's much easier to achieve success.

As we approach the holiday season, we continue to need support and help from our community. We would like to provide our guest and graduate families with food boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. As many of our families are not able to or wish not to prepare a traditional meal for these holidays, we are suggesting the following for those who are able to help:

- Frozen "family size" lasagna (e.g. Stouffers, store brand)
- Frozen "family size" turkey/dressing (e.g. Stouffers, store brand)
- Frozen "family size" macaroni and cheese (e.g. Stouffers, store brand)
- Frozen pies (e.g. Mrs. Smith's, Marie Callendar, store brand)
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Stove Top dressing
- "Slice and bake" cookies (e.g. Pillsbury, Nestle)

(you may also wish to include a can of frosting and sprinkles)

- Bag of seasonal candy

Items may be brought to the Family Center during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday: 9 am-5 pm; Friday: 9 am-4 pm).
Our office will be closed November 27 and 28.
Thanksgiving collection deadline: November 19, 2025;
Christmas collection deadline: December 17, 2025

THANK YOU to students from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market who recently volunteered their time to paint storage closets and our Food Pantry, rake leaves and organized materials. They did a wonderful job!

Let's get acquainted .....

Norma Barb

Board Member

Norma Barb lives with her husband Steve in Woodstock, where they have been enjoying retirement since 2021. Norma had been a mobile MRI Tech at many of the Valley hospitals. They have 2 adult children and a daughter-in-law.

Norma loves traveling, golfing, hiking, walking, and being outdoors. She and her husband attend First Baptist Church-Woodstock, and both are passionate about reaching others for Jesus Christ.

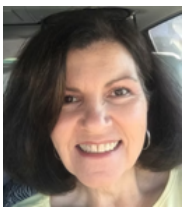
Laura and Sam
(Dupont Community Credit Union, Woodstock)
volunteered to help with initial projects for our upcoming 5K Turkey Trot. Thanks, ladies, for a job well done!

Nursing students from JMU joined us for an afternoon to learn more about Family Promise of Shenandoah County and it's mission.

Go Dukes!

Many Thanks to
Our Landlord Partners

Ed & Ruth Aumiller
Peggy Smoot
Zion Lutheran Church



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