



FAMILY PROMISE
OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY
NEWSLETTER



January 2025 | 781 Spring Pkwy, Woodstock VA

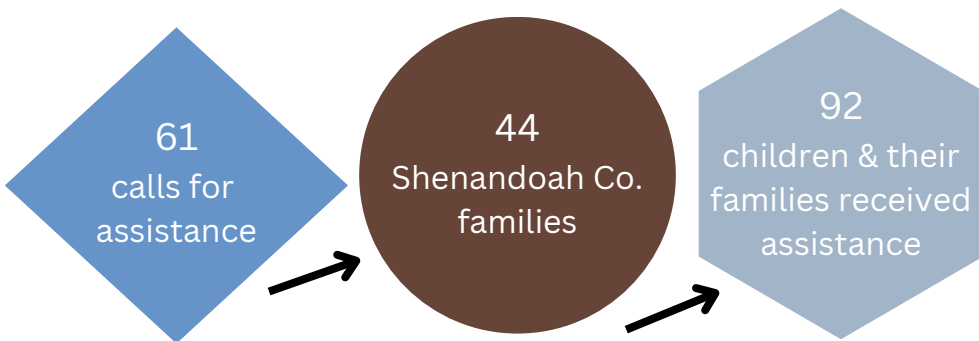
Are you familiar with the tradition of the Christmas Jar? In his novel of the same name, local bestselling author, Jason Wright brought popularity to this simple but profound practice. It involves collecting spare change in a glass jar throughout the year. The jar is anonymously gifted to someone in need during the Christmas season. I read this story years ago and thought it would be a wonderful tradition to begin with our own children. Like many good intentions, it got lost in the shuffle.

Fortunately, a ladies group from Zion Christian Church knew of the tradition of the Christmas Jar and practiced it this year. They reached out to Family Promise just before Christmas asking if we had a family that might benefit from this kindness. We did...a former guest family who had been in their own apartment since the fall of 2020. The mother worked full time and they were able to make ends meet. She suddenly lost her job when she had to miss work to do what we have all been afforded the privilege of doing; taking care of a sick child. Gifting her the Christmas Jar enabled her to pay her electric bill, pick up a few Christmas gifts and put a little aside for next month. She is actively looking for a job, but the Christmas Jar enabled her to make it through the holiday season.

The Christmas Jar reminds us to keep the spirit of giving alive not just during the holidays but throughout the year. This kindness cultivates generosity that embodies the true meaning of Christmas in our community. Family Promise was honored to be part of this tradition. As we enter the New Year, may we be reminded of these words from Galatians 6:10 *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..."*

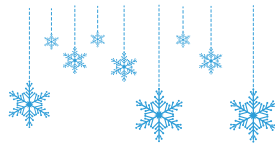
Wishing you Peace,
Kelly

December News:



- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags (small boxes)
- Dish Liquid
- Laundry Detergent (small bottles/pods)
- Dryer Sheets
- Toilet Bowl cleaner
- Spray All-purpose Cleaner
- Hand Soap





Case Manager Spotlight

One of my very favorite Christmas songs is the original version of “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” sung by Bing Crosby. The song has taken on new meaning for me the last few years. It’s difficult to listen to the words and not think about our families.

*I'll be home for Christmas
You can plan on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree
Christmas Eve will find me
Where the lovelight gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams*

We don’t just want our families to dream about a home. We want the children and their families to have a stable, permanent home. This December two of our sheltered families moved into permanent housing. Five children were given a home this Christmas. Seeing the excitement on their faces as they shared the news about getting their own place was the perfect Christmas present! I’m looking forward to seeing the success of these two families in 2025. What a great way to start the new year!

~ Holly



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

