

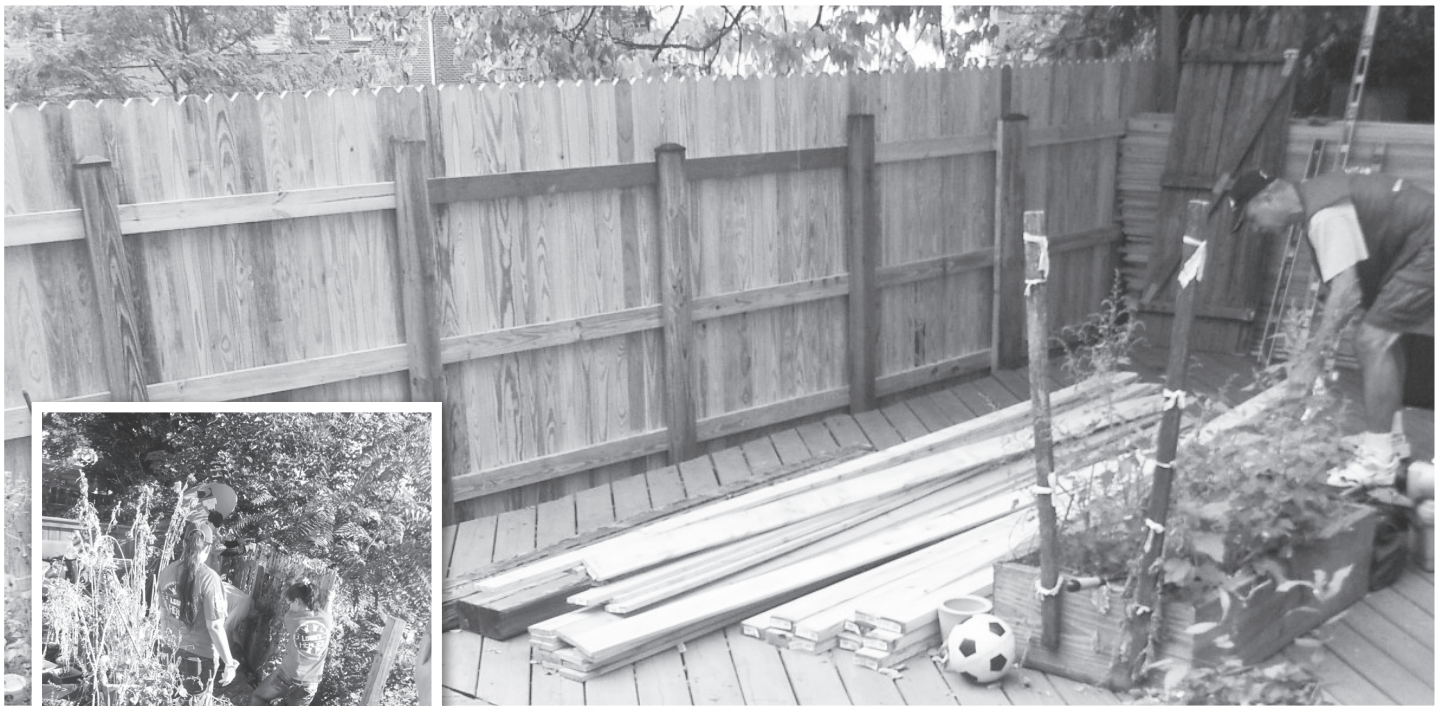


The
Advocate Current

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2014

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. | 216 Abrecht Place | Frederick, MD 21701 | 301-662-2003 | www.afhf88.org

Serving Frederick County for 26 Years



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK

With a generous donation of lumber, time, talent and tools, Lowe's employees replaced a backyard fence at one of the housing sites, where four contiguous townhouses share a backyard. The families who currently live there had been concerned about the safety of the old fence, since the deck is a major play area for their children. With a simple phone call, Lowe's stepped up to the plate, demolished the old fence and replaced it in three days with outstanding craftsmanship. The employees also installed all new exterior lighting, and touched by our homeless families' plight, donated a charcoal grill and gifts for each of the children living in the four units. We thank all of the employees who participated in this community effort.

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

On August 29, 2014, we held our 5th Annual Back to School Party in cooperation with Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) for the homeless children in our program. The Students Homeless Initiative Partnership (SHIP), Prospect Methodist Church of Mt Airy, and private individuals donated 50 backpacks stuffed with school supplies. Zoe Carson, FCPS Homeless Coordinator and partner in organizing this effort, and Case Managers Connelly Stewart and Charlotte Strine welcomed 22 adults and 50 children with a buffet and a cake provided by FCPS. Zoe also donated Staples gift cards for additional school supplies not covered by donations and scientific calculators for middle- and high-school children. The children headed back to school and those starting kindergarten and first grade were well equipped and very excited. Of course, the cake and other desserts helped fuel the excitement.

Throughout the school year Advocates case managers monitor each child's progress along with the parents and school personnel and coordinate interventions as needed. Academic achievement is a necessary component of a child's future success in life regardless of their current circumstances.



In Appreciation of Extraordinary Philanthropy

Last December 2013, Susan and Mark Butt approached us with the offer of renting a house on our behalf to house a homeless family with children, because they desired to support permanent solutions to homelessness. Through their extraordinary generosity we have been able to house a young husband and wife and their two-year old son who had been living in the wife's mother's dining room. When they first came to Advocates, the young parents had only high school diplomas and no marketable job

skills. The husband was working as a grave-digger for minimum wage. Since coming to our program, the husband has obtained his HVAC certification and completed his internship and the wife has completed her coursework in hospital administration and works at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Without Advocates support and the generosity of Susan and Mark Butt, the future of this family would have been bleak indeed. The family is now looking to move into home ownership with the help of Interfaith Housing Alliance.

Our Thanks To . . .

SAMANTHA F who donated the proceeds from her lemonade stand to Advocates for the second year in a row.

MARY ELLEN MITCHELL from Interfaith Housing Alliance who provides housing counseling for the future at our weekly Life Skills workshop and serves as a budget coach to one of our families.

UNITED WAY OF FREDERICK COUNTY for sponsoring the Financial Literacy Council's **Credit Café**, August 27, 2014 for 30 low-income and homeless families. The Credit Café provides free credit counseling with analysis of timely credit reports for each family. This is an invaluable resource for the homeless families and families at-risk of homelessness that we serve. We thank you!

The next Credit Café is scheduled for November 6th, 4:00-6:00PM and is open to the public with advanced registration. Please call the United Way for more information at 301.663.4231.



WORKPLACE GIVING

Gifts via payroll deduction from your workplace are a convenient and time-honored way to make a meaningful contribution to Advocates for Homeless Families – a gift that we receive throughout the year. When you donate to Advocates you are making a wise investment of your charitable giving dollars. Ninety percent of all donations go directly into participant support services. We have a 95 percent success rate of which we are very proud! Between March 2009 and June 2014, 98 adults and children exited our transitional housing program, and only five have returned to shelter. Our family graduates who exited our program into stable, permanent housing are still in housing, working or going to school, and have been able to establish sustainable lives with a decreased reliance on public assistance.

We know there are many, many worthy causes from which to choose. If long-term solutions to homelessness for women and their children touch your heart, we hope you will include Advocates for Homeless Families in your pledge for support. We are fortunate to be included in the following workplace giving campaigns:

COMBINED CHARITY CAMPAIGN (Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick City, and Frederick County) – **SELECT 0700**

MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN (Maryland State Employees) – **SELECT 2379**

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (includes federal employees working in Frederick County) – **SELECT 13775**

For the Frederick United Way Giving Campaign, you can **write in “Advocates for Homeless Families”** or **“AFHF”** on your pledge form and 95% of your contribution will help a family overcome or avoid homelessness.



celebrate FREDERICK

We want to thank all of the supporters who stopped by our booth during the IN THE STREETS celebration, held on a rainy Saturday, September 13, 2014. Congratulations to the three winners of our free raffle. Winning tickets were drawn for two Tasting Room gift cards and one gift card for a bicycle tune-up. No one walked away empty-handed: we gave away 300 balls, 200 bubble sets, and any number of stick-on tattoos and badges. Staff and Board members wore our new Advocates T-shirts, bearing the all-important slogan “Permanent Solutions to Homelessness.”

WISH LIST ITEMS The homeless and at-risk families in our programs are always in need of the following:

- Liquid laundry detergent
- Women’s deodorant
- Paper towels
- Dish detergent
- Body Wash
- Men’s deodorant
- Toilet paper
- All purpose cleaners

Donations can be dropped off at our office between 9:30am and 4:00pm. We ask that you call first, so we can make sure a staff member is available to receive the goods.





United Way's
Josh Pedersen and
Advocates' Ken Allread
harvest produce from an
Urban Garden

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

- 15,701** sheltered bed nights provided
- 53** adults and children housed
- 10** adults in vocational training programs
- 16** adults working full- or part-time
- 38** monthly housing inquiries and applications
- 98** families on our waiting list

HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES

- 45 ADULTS** and children served
- 15 FAMILIES** assisted with rent or utilities, \$5,297
- 11 WOMEN** working full- or part-time
- 8 WOMEN** enrolled in vocational certification classes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates achieves permanent solutions to homelessness by providing access to housing, education, and supportive services to Frederick County families motivated to overcome their circumstances. Families achieve success through a two-year structured program of education, job-training, housing, and intensive case management services. We maintain 15 single-unit, scattered-site properties to house one- and two-parent families with custody of one or more children in our Transitional Housing Program. We also provide limited financial assistance for rent and utilities to families at risk of homelessness in our Families Forward Program.

Follow Us On Facebook!

Please take a moment to look us up on Facebook to learn more about the work we accomplish with the families we support, our community partners, and upcoming events. We have a story to tell about folks who live in Frederick and are either striving for a better life or a better community. Newsletters, such as this one, serve a purpose, but cannot begin to cover the scope of the work in which we're engaged.