



The Advocate Current

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

2010 Annual Participant Achievement Gala

Friday, October 15 • 6-9pm • Great Hall – All Saints’ Episcopal Church • \$35 Ticket

Inspiring accomplishments, wonderful food and dancing will highlight Advocates’ 2010 Annual Participant Achievement Gala, Friday October 15 from 6-9pm in the Great Hall of the All Saints’ Episcopal Church in downtown Frederick, MD. Advocates’ largest annual public fundraising event honors both the organization’s highest achieving AFHF participant and Volunteer of the Year.

“Since January of this year, Advocates has helped to ensure shelter for 57 individuals who, because of the present economy or unusual circumstances would have been homeless,” said Joe Case, Advocates Executive Director. “The evening provides an opportunity to celebrate the fortitude and accomplishment of our participants and the contributions of local volunteers who have helped make this possible.” Festivities will commence at 6pm with cocktails and assorted hors d’oeuvres. Nationally



Miriam Meglan and Dr. Olivia White catch up at the 2009 Annual Participant Achievement Gala, which will take place this year in downtown Frederick.

recognized pianist and Shepherd University Professor of Music, Dr. Scott Beard, will entertain attendees with jazz standards. Guests will enjoy a diverse and exciting menu created by ML Carroll, owner of

Canapés Catering, showcasing her expertise in Asian, Italian, and American cuisine. During coffee and dessert, Advocates Board Member, Ted Luck, will name the organization’s 2010 Participant of the Year, as well as

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Advocates Receives Challenge Grant from Ausherman Family Trust

The Ausherman Family Trust recently awarded Advocates with a challenge grant in recognition of Advocates’ mission to help Frederick County homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. Effective July 1, 2010, the Ausherman Family Trust will match dollar-for-dollar donations made to Advocates by Board members, staff, private individuals, groups, and businesses.

The Ausherman Family Trust and Ausherman Family Foundation are major

supporters for many Frederick County institutions and non-profits that are focused on the ongoing vitalization of the county and its citizens. “We have partnered in the past with the Ausherman Family Foundation,” says Joe Case, “but this grant award is very special for Advocates. The award signals support for our mission, but also recognizes the support and generosity of the Aushermans to the Frederick community.”



Effective July 1, 2010, the Ausherman Family Trust will match dollar-for-dollar donations made to Advocates by Board members, staff, private individuals, groups, and businesses.

ADVOCATES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joe Case, Executive Director
Anne Soule, Family Advocate
Allison Calhoun, Business Manager
Ken Allread, Executive Assistant
Tracy Grubb, Family Advocate

MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates for Homeless Families' mission is to empower motivated families to overcome homelessness. Families achieve success through a structured two-year program of education, housing and support services.

Episcopal Grant to Fund Programs

Advocates is one of two Maryland non-profits that has been awarded a grant this year from the worldwide Episcopal Church. The grant of \$20,000 has been awarded so Advocates can hire a consultant to develop a Learning Map for our Life Skills Workshop. The Life Skills Workshop is provided free to Advocates' participants and focuses on four major learning modules: Finance and Budget, Health and Wellness, Parenting and Interpersonal Relationships, and Independent Living. The Learning Map will show individual courses of instruction under each module, the learning objectives for each module, and the desired behavioral outcomes for participants. Subject matter experts drawn from the Frederick Community will be teaching much of the individual courses and the Learning Map will help these instructors to develop their lesson plans. Most importantly, the Map will help our adult participants understand why a course is relevant to their individual journeys to self-sufficiency. Each year, the worldwide Episcopal Church sponsors a global, non-denominational grant competition for non-profits that provide human services. We are fortunate to have been selected and thank All Saints' Episcopal Church for sponsoring our application.

Schiffman Designates Grant for Advocates

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. is receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation in recognition of financial representative Daniel Schiffman, CLU's outstanding volunteer involvement. A Frederick resident, Schiffman is a representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.



Daniel Schiffman

Schiffman is one of 25 financial representatives who was recognized last month for his volunteerism by the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. "Dan's passion for volunteerism and commitment to strengthening the community is making a difference now and for future generations," said Kimberley Goode, president of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation.

"Advocates for Homeless Families have helped more than 800 families break the cycle of poverty, and this has been incredibly rewarding for me," said Schiffman. "Northwestern Mutual's grant will help the organization continue to make an enduring impact in my community."

New Website Educates and Provides Outreach

In July, the Advocates website was totally redesigned, providing a much more comprehensive overview of the organization, event information and technologies for online giving. Graphically designed to complement the organization's new logo, the site provides a concise overview of the organization's primary programs and eligibility requirements.

"It's vital for our organization to make a clear and professional presentation to the community, participants and donors," said Joe Case, Executive Director, who oversaw the project. Mark Perry with cm3solutions, inc. served as web developer for the project, providing their services at minimal fees. "We're all very indebted to Mark for his assistance with the project. The site makes a compelling case for support of the organization." To view the new site, visit, www.afhf.org

Frederick, Maryland | ADVOCATES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

http://www.afhf.org/

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. Give a donation

Home | Board of Directors | About Us | Links | News & Events | Contact Us | Mission & Programs | Become a Friend

Advocates provides motivated families the services necessary to end the cycle of homeless

Services Provided

- Access to higher education and/or career training
- Weekly life skills workshops
- Monthly support groups
- Intensive case management meetings, weekly, with Family Advocate
- Network of community resources
- Volunteer mentoring

Eligibility

- Frederick County, MD resident
- 18 years of age or older
- Children who live with parent/guardian at minimum part-time (legal documentation may be required)
- Clean from illegal drugs for the past six months and sober from alcohol use if history of

Advocates for Homeless Families . . .

- Assists homeless and at-risk families in achieving success and self-sufficiency
- Operates two major programs: a transitional housing program and a program to help families in economic crisis from losing their homes.
- Provides services to families only, not individuals.
- Makes up to a two-year commitment to each family and serves any family unit that meets eligibility requirements.

If you or your family needs help from Advocates, please contact us at 301-662-2003, extension 16

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Changed Lives

Participant Profile

Advocates is very proud to feature Doris M. this month. She is truly an inspiration and her's is a perfect example of the type of family that can do very well in our program. Doris was referred to Heartly House by the police and eventually to Advocates after her partner was incarcerated for domestic violence. At the time, she was unable to pay the rent to stay in her home with her two boys. Since coming to Advocates, her youngest son has remained in high school while her son has graduated and is starting college this fall.

In the thirteen months that Doris has been with Advocates, she enrolled in and completed the Certified Nursing Assistant courses at Frederick Community College last December. She passed her state exam and received her Geriatric Nursing Certificate this past January. She then found and has maintained the same employment for the past seven months. When asked what has been the best part of participating in the Advocates program, she replied, "Learning to be self-sufficient without being co-dependent is what Advocates has done for me."



Good Times at Participant Picnic

Advocates held its annual participant picnic Thursday, July 15th at Staley Park. There were over 45 attendees, including participant families, Advocates staff, board and volunteers. There was face painting and games for the children. Everyone enjoyed the activities as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes and desserts. Special thanks to Mike Tauraso, owner of The Black Hog, who provided the barbeque.

Thanks to You . . .

Since January 2010, Advocates has provided 57 previously homeless individuals (20 families - 20 adults and 37 children) with 8,297 bednights in safe, well-maintained separate housing units in our Transitional Housing Program. An additional 28 individuals (10 adults and 18 children) at-risk of homelessness received monthly stipends to assist with the cost of basic living expenses (e.g., utilities, rent/mortgage, food, childcare, medical/dental, transportation). All adults received extensive support services and group therapy at no cost to participants. 90% of adults are enrolled in an academic program and/or working full-time. 10% of adults are actively seeking employment. All school-age children attend school on a regular basis and all children over the age of 3 are actively engaged in supervised, summer play activities. 50 homeless, or imminently homeless, families are on our waiting list.

With your help, we can do more!

Charity Ride / Concert Benefit for Advocates

Planning has begun to hold a charity ride, auction and concert at the Baker Park Band Shell to Benefit Advocates on Saturday, October 23rd, 2010. Registration for the ride will begin at 9 a.m., with coffee and donuts available. The cost of the 1.5 hour ride will be \$25 per rider, and \$5 for an additional passenger. The ride will begin at 10:30. Food and drinks will be offered after the ride and the free concert featuring several local bands will begin at noon. The auction, sponsored by Meadowland Auctions, will begin at the concert's intermission. More information will be posted on our website event page soon.



Advocates' Executive Director, Joe Case, instructs two young participants in planting vegetables in the organization's new Victory Garden. Photos by Harriet Wise.

Advocates' New Victory Garden

The previously homeless and at-risk families participating in Advocates for Homeless Families' programs recently prepared and planted a small community, "victory" garden filled with herbs, vegetables, and flowers for their use. The harvested crop of several varieties of tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and pumpkins will be used in cooking classes held throughout the summer to teach participants the inherent value of growing simple crops to create healthy, delicious meals for the family. Homegrown basil, parsley, thyme, and cilantro also are being cultivated by the adults and children, and these will be used in the cooking classes as well. Participants will be able to cut flowers to beautify and personalize their residences, and the children will be able to make jack-o-lanterns for Halloween this fall. Joe Case explained the purpose of the victory garden was both symbolic and practical. "During World Wars I and II, victory gardens were planted all across the U.S. to reduce the pressure on the public food

supply brought on by the war effort," he said. "These gardens were also a great morale booster in that gardeners could feel empowered by their contribution of labor and the reward of growing some of their own food. In the current era, it is my belief that parents and children, who have been beaten down by poverty and circumstance, need to feel empowered to engineer the changes required to achieve economic and social independence."



Wish List

The following items are needed each time a new participant is inducted into the Advocates program for transitional housing. Your contribution of any or all of these items is always appreciated:

- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Pots and Pans (new or gently used)
- Towels/wash clothes
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Silverware
- Window cleaner
- All purpose cleaning detergent
- Pledge
- Bathroom cleaner
- Dish detergent
- Hand soap
- Gift cards to: Wal-Mart, Target, or local grocer stores, and gas stations

Gala cont.

2010 Volunteer of the Year, and other special members of the community. Following the program, guests are invited to celebrate, dancing to the tunes spun by Erik "Ewook" Legg and Jim Stanton, owner of Soundsations Entertainment Services, Maryland's premier event deejays.

Case noted that the 2010 event has been reformatted somewhat from years past to ensure the greatest possible attendance. "Because of demands – both social and financial – our board decided to lower the ticket price, thereby encouraging more people to attend. Thanks to the generosity of the All Saints' Episcopal Church, Dr. Beard, ML Carroll and Soundsations, we're able to do this."

Tickets for the 2010 Annual Participant Achievement Gala are \$35 per person. Invitations will be mailed in late August. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.afhf.org or by phoning 301-662-2003.