



The Advocate Current

SPRING | SUMMER 2019

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

Serving Frederick County for 31 Years



Congratulations, Sheena!

RAPID REHOUSING:

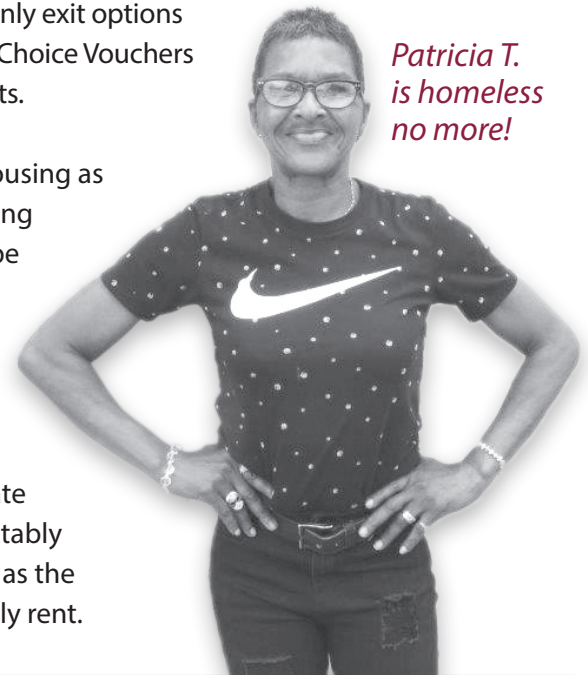
A Key Strategy to Exit from Homelessness

Patricia T was homeless for 20 years—living in shelters, couch surfing. She now has her own apartment and holds the lease in her name. She can now entertain her grandchildren and family in her very own home. She loves her apartment! Pat is one of our rapid rehousing clients who had been living in emergency shelter when we met her, and we were able to move her quickly into an apartment with some limited financial assistance. Sheena W, a single mother with three children, came to us from a shelter and had been homeless for two years. While in our emergency transitional housing program, she attended FCC full-time and maintained full-time employment.

With our assistance, Sheena and her family moved into permanent housing last November and has successfully overcome her homeless situation. She just graduated with an AA in business administration.

Rapid Rehousing is a federally funded program that began in Frederick County in April 2017, and Advocates is the primary provider in Frederick County. This program has permitted Advocates to assist 85 homeless individuals and families with children to move into permanent housing from shelters, transitional housing, and places unsuitable for human habitation. Before Rapid Rehousing began the only exit options for homeless families in our program were to public housing and to Housing Choice Vouchers (formally, Section 8 housing). Both of these programs have long, long wait lists.

Rapid Rehousing is designed to move homeless persons into permanent housing as quickly as possible, regardless of their individual circumstances. The operating philosophy for the program is that every homeless person can and should be permanently housed. To be eligible for this program, individuals seeking housing must be literally homeless, over the age of 18, have an income (regardless of source) and a Frederick County resident. Advocates case managers work with local landlords to help individuals and families find an affordable place to live. Once located, we help applicants with security deposit/first month's rent, review the terms of leases with them, and calculate the amount of financial assistance needed to keep the individual or family stably housed for six months to one year. Rental assistance decreases each month as the householder assumes increasing financial responsibility for the total monthly rent.



Patricia T. is homeless no more!





OUR THANKS TO...

- Ausherman Family Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Frederick County
- Frederick County Government
- Rotary Club of Carroll Creek
- United Way of Frederick County

For their generous financial support for our organization!

SERVICE STATISTICS

JANUARY - APRIL 2019

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

ADULTS	16
CHILDREN	25
ADULT ENROLLED IN RN PROGRAM FULL-TIME.	1

EXITS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

ADULTS	5
CHILDREN	10

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Homeless families moved directly into permanent housing

HOUSEHOLDS	33
ADULTS	44
CHILDREN	55

How Your Donation Helps

Every donation we receive is greatly appreciated and put to good use. No amount is too great or too small.

- \$25** will provide a 20-trip bus pass for a family without a car
- \$50** will full a linen closet with fresh towels, bedding, and/or blankets for a family
- \$75** will pay for a month's worth of non-perishable grocery items and diapers
- \$100** will pay for two hours counseling services for a domestic violence survivor
- \$150** will outfit a kitchen
- \$200** will pay for an RN textbook
- \$250** will provide work and school clothing for adults and children
- \$350** will pay for a month and a half of utilities for a family
- \$500** will outfit a housing unit with furniture

If you prefer to donate online, please go to our website at www.afhf88.org



Roslyn Cooley Prayer and the women from the Frederick Club of NANBPWC and the Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority host their Annual Mother's Day Celebration for the women in our program.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Many of the adults in our programs never received the essential skills training needed to function successfully in today's workplace and society due to many factors: reared in poverty, dysfunctional family units, poor or limited education, and, in some cases, mental illness. To address this, our Life Skills Training Program is focused on four major learning modules: Finance and Budget, Health and Wellness, Parenting and Interpersonal Relationships, and Independent Living Skills. The workshop sessions are held weekly

at All Saints' Episcopal Church in the evening, and babysitting services are provided so parents can attend without worry or childcare expenses. Classes are taught by subject matter experts drawn from the Frederick community.

We also take the time to celebrate these homeless mothers and fathers who are working diligently to overcome their circumstances to achieve a sustainable future. We also host Back to School and Good Grades parties for the children in our program.

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

We are seeking new members for the Board of Directors, the governing body of Advocates for Homeless Families. Serving on our Board of Directors is a great way to influence the future growth of Advocates and enhance our programs to help families achieve independence.

Do you love children? We always need babysitters during our Life Skills Workshop sessions. Life Skills Workshops are held every Thursday evening, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Babysitters engage from 15 to 30 children in constructive play while parents are in class.

We also have intermittent volunteer opportunities to help paint interiors of our houses and make modest repairs to our apartments and townhouses when vacated by families moving into permanent housing.

If any of these opportunities are of interest, please contact Executive Director Ken Allread at 301-662-2003 or kallread@afhf88.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DARLENE AULLS | *President*
KENDALL CAMUTI, JR. | *Vice-President*
JAN SAMET O'LEARY | *Secretary*
BRIAN WARD | *Treasurer*

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KATHY MOORE
KATIE SCHWARTZ

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CHARLOTTE STRINE | *Case Manager*
DAN HERBERT | *Property Manager*
ALLISON CALHOUN | *Staff Accountant*
DAVID BARKER | *Administrative Assistant*

MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates mission is to achieve permanent solutions to homelessness by providing access to housing, education, and supportive services to Frederick County families motivated to overcome their homeless circumstances. Families achieve success through a structured program of education, job-training, housing, and intensive case management services. We maintain 14 single-unit, scattered-site properties to house one- and two-parent families with custody of one or more children in our Emergency Transitional Housing Program. We also provide limited financial assistance for rent and utilities to individuals and families at risk of homelessness in our Families Forward Program.

Wish List

The homeless and at-risk families in our programs typically have monthly incomes of \$800 or less and are always in need of the following items:

- Liquid laundry detergent
- Body wash
- Women's deodorant
- Men's deodorant
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Dish detergent
- All purpose cleaners
- Trash bags

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. On behalf of all the families we serve, we thank you in advance for your generosity!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Please take a moment to follow us on Facebook to learn more about the work we accomplish with the families we support, our community partners, and upcoming events. See Advocates for Homeless Families Frederick MD from your Facebook page and friend us.