



The Advocate Current

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



Advocates Gala a Huge Success!

Advocates 2011 Gala raised \$18,142 thanks to all of our supporters. Rev. Sandra Kay Rice, board president of Advocates for Homeless Families, and Ken Allread, Executive Director, wish to recognize and thank all of the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the organization's Annual Gala, held September 23, 2011. First, thanks must go to Harry Lawrence, whose passion for fine food attracted the talents of Chefs Bob Fowle, Chris Standing, and Andy Tackman and enlisted the support of Giant Eagle Store Manager Steve Hines and his staff. We extend our appreciation to Dan Lajewski, who prepared all of the desert selections, and to Katie Goetz, creator of

the artful desert presentation. Our thanks also to chocolatier and owner of The Perfect Tuffie, Randy Olmstead, who created a truffle just for the event. And we can't forget the following: Bert Lams, of the California Guitar Trio, who performed classical music selections; DJ Bill Izer, who spun some tunes suitable for dancing; Tracy Boyd, who designed all of the signage; and Gary Zorechak, of Frederick Wine House, who provided beverages.

To all the event volunteers, Advocates' Board, staff, and participants, thank you for your time, effort, and commitment to our mission to help Frederick County homeless families achieve self-sufficiency.

Proudly serving the Frederick community since 1988.

Advocates empowers motivated families to overcome homelessness. Our families succeed through a two-year structured program of housing, education and support services



Ken Allread accepts Thanksgiving baskets and gift cards from Tracy Boyd, All Saints' Outreach Stuff-a-Turkey Chairperson.



**Maryland businesses
and individuals that
donate to Advocates
can earn tax credits
equal to 50% of
a monetary donation.**

Thanksgiving Day Celebration

We thank Aaron Prout, manager of **Bob Evans Restaurant**, 1505 Garrett Dr, Frederick, MD for selecting Advocates' families to be the fortunate recipients of a full Thanksgiving Day meal—5 lbs of turkey breast, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, pumpkin bread, and a whole pumpkin pie. We also thank the congregation of **All Saints' Episcopal Church** for generously donating Thanksgiving baskets filled with non-perishable food items for the 17 families currently in our program.

We Met the Challenge

The trustees of the Ausherman Family Trust awarded a Challenge Grant to Advocates in August 2011. Advocates was challenged to raise \$15,000 from private individuals, businesses, and churches with the promise that, once we raised that amount, the Ausherman Family Trust would award a grant equaling the donations. Thanks to all of you, we met the challenge in record time.

Advocates for Homeless Families has begun to accept sponsors for our newsletter. If you would like to be honored in an upcoming addition by sponsoring, please contact Ken Allread at kallread@afhf88.org or 301-662-2003.

There's Still Time . . .

to take advantage of the Maryland State tax credit program by making a donation to Advocates of \$500 or more before the end of 2011. Businesses and individuals that donate to Advocates can earn tax credits equal to 50% of the value of a monetary donation worth \$500 or more. For a minimum donation of \$500 (maximum \$250,000) in support of our Transitional Housing and Families Forward Programs, you will receive a tax credit that you can use to offset your Maryland tax liability at the end of the year. If you donated \$500, that would mean \$250 off the top of your state tax total! And, you still can claim the charitable deduction on the full amount on your federal and state taxes.

If you wish to take advantage of this terrific tax-savings opportunity, enclose a note with your donation to Advocates and/or write "tax credit" on the memo line of your check. We also are authorized to accept Visa and Master Card donations under this program. If you have questions about the tax credit program, please contact Advocates at 301-662-2003.

Your Donations Help a Family

\$20

will provide a 10-trip bus pass for a participant without a car

\$50

will fill a linen closet with fresh bedding, towels, or blankets

\$60

will fill a gas tank for a working mother with a car

\$65

will pay for a parent to take a first-aid class at the Red Cross

\$75

will pay for a month's worth of non-perishable grocery items and diapers

\$100

will pay for (2) hours of counseling services to a mother in need

\$150

will outfit a kitchen

\$200

will provide winter outer wear for a family of four

\$350

will pay (3) months of utilities for a family

Thanks to All of You . . .

Since January 2011, Advocates has provided 88 homeless individuals (33 adults and 52 children) with 11,607 bed nights in safe, well-maintained, separate housing units in our Transitional Housing program. We currently have **150 homeless families** on our waiting list.

- Three participants have obtained Certified Nursing Assistant certifications from Frederick County Community College and are working full-time
- One participant graduated from FCC with a certificate in Culinary Arts.
- One participant obtained certification as a dental hygienist and now is serving her internship with a Frederick dentist
- Four participants have graduated to stable, affordable housing
- Five participants are enrolled in academic programs at Frederick Community College

ADVOCATES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES, INC. is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization.

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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.



The Community Foundation of Frederick County Awards Grants

Advocates' Board of Directors, staff, and participants wish to thank **The Community Foundation of Frederick County** for awarding two major grants to our organization. The first award is from the foundation's FY12 Strategic Funding for Basic Human Needs and has been provided to assist participants who are transitioning to permanent housing with security deposits. The second award—and one dear to hearts—is a grant from The Educational Enrichment Field of Interest Designated Grant Fund to pay for registration, and other similar, fees for children's after school activities. We believe passionately that all children deserve the opportunity for play and joy regardless of their circumstances and the grant for children's activities helps us to make this possible.

Advocates Goes Green

This past summer, Advocates was invited by the Frederick County Office of Sustainability & Environmental Resources to participate in an energy conservation effort by submitting seven of our properties to comprehensive energy audits. Once the audits were conducted, Frederick County Youth Volunteers, under the leadership of Mike Uecker from Atlas Energy Solutions, followed up on the audits by weatherproofing each property to save energy costs. We now are preparing for comprehensive energy audits for an additional six properties, as part of our ongoing effort to provide our participants with comfortable living spaces at reduced costs.