

Greetings Supporters!

Hello Supporter's and Friends!

By the time this newsletter hits your inbox I will be in the start of my second year as Executive Director of Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter, and we will be starting a new Fiscal year full of promise and new challenges.

It's been quite a whirlwind year of learning for me; stepping into a new role during a continuing pandemic has been challenging at best. When Sheila retired last year, she left me with these words, "You'll figure it out!"

I have been blessed with a wonderful team who have helped guide me on this journey; together we have been, and continue to, figure it out.

In this issue, you will meet that team and learn more about what they each do here at SAS to help support the needs of our community.



Katie

In This Issue:

PAGE 2

CLIENT NEEDS & UTILITY ASSISTANCE:

Meet Lindsay and learn about her role as Program Service Coordinator.

PAGE 3

HOUSING FIRST:

Meet Megan & BJ; learn how they address housing needs.

PAGE 4

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS:

Exciting news about Empty Bowl can be found here!

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BJ Stout, Centralized Housing Intake Coordinator



A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT: CLIENT NEEDS & UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Lindsay Saffell, a native of Fort Valley, came to SAS in November 2021 in the role of "Program Service Coordinator". She is responsible for maintaining our Client Needs & Utility Assistance Programs, as well as keeping things organized and operating smoothly at SAS. More often than not, hers will be the voice you hear when you call!



Utility disconnects are now in full swing, with many residents contacting us for assistance after a shut-off has already occurred. In these situations, payment options are limited. SAS in conjunction with our community partners are struggling to meet the demand for households having bills totaling in the thousands.

We have been blessed with community support, and an additional matching SVEC CoBank Success Grant to help address these needs. Lindsay is taking steps to expand our budgeting services as well as developing a new database to help streamline and improve our program access.



204 Households Served

(July 2021-6/30/2022)



92

Households served through
Salvation Army Funds

46

Households served through
Private Grants & Fundraising

66

Households served through
Funds managed for local Church
organizations

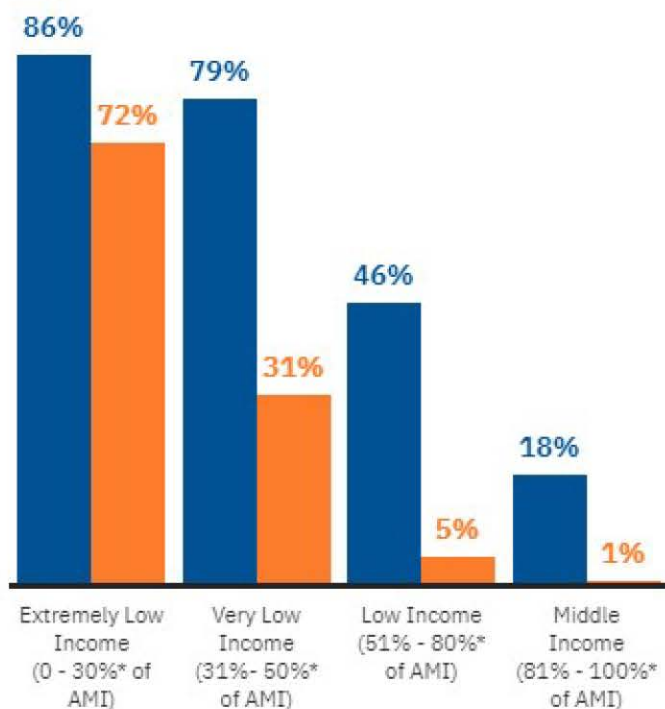
\$40,789.07

Total spent



HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP

■ Cost Burdened ■ Severely Cost Burdened

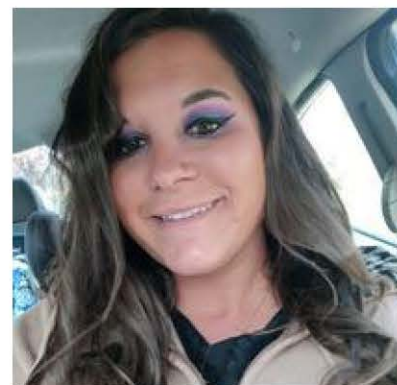


*Or poverty guideline, if higher.

Note: Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.

Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS

Virginia Housing Statistics from: <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/virginia>



Megan, a native of Strasburg, began as our housing assistant in December of 2020. She is a quick learner and became a Virginia Association of Housing Counselors Certified Housing Counselor in October of 2021.

It has been a challenging road for Megan as she started a new career in homeless services during a pandemic where "normal" housing rules went out the window. She has done an excellent job keeping up with the ever-changing guidelines and funding sources to help those in a housing crisis navigate the new normal. She administers our grant programs: Rapid Rehousing, Prevention, Tenant Based Rental and Emergency Shelter programs. Full program definitions can be found on our website: allianceforshelter.org

Effects of the COVID pandemic are continuing to be felt in the housing market. With many property owners raising rents or selling properties, affordable housing is harder to find. As a result, many households are now considered housing cost burdened and closer to financial hardship than before, as you can see from the chart to the left.

Centralized Housing Intake



Our CHI Coordinator, BJ, an Edinburg native, has been a constant, calming voice to those experiencing a housing crisis since 2018.

Although BJ works at SAS she really works for the Western Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC). All of the housing programs administered by SAS are grant funded and accessed by calling CHI at **540-271-1701** to complete the intake screening for eligibility.

It is BJ's role to field calls from the 6 counties and 2 cities within the CoC and help direct callers to the services (and agencies) that best meet their needs, or to provide diversion counseling to those callers that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Learn more about the CoC at: continuumofcare513.com

12,556

Calls received by CHI in FY22

SAVE THE DATE

31st Annual

Empty Bowl Soup Supper

Friday, November 18th

We are pleased to announce, after 2 virtual years, the Empty Bowl Soup Supper will be returning to Central High School.

We will be keeping ticketing on the on-line platform and are diligently working on a way to provide the auction both online and in person to accommodate those who may not be able to attend but still want to participate.

Stay tuned to future emails on what to expect for this years Empty Bowl!

We're excited to see you all again, face to face in fellowship and support.

