

WELCOME TO OUR
Monthly Newsletter
we're so glad you're here!

Hello, Supporters and Friends:

Time continues to go by quickly here at SAS; as you are reading this in your in-box today we are already well into our first week of April!

This April brings with it a sad milestone for Shenandoah Alliance as April 13th marks the 10th Anniversary of the loss of our shelter at the Alms House. In light of the recent fires wrecking havoc on our community, this anniversary seems particularly poignant. We are just as committed today as we were then to addressing the need for shelter and affordable housing in the areas we serve- Shenandoah, Page & Warren Counties.

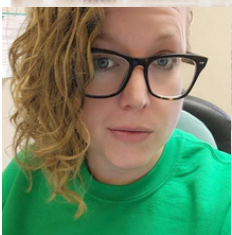
Since our last update, we have returned to our roots as a shelter with the creation of the Sibert's House, and have taken in our first resident. We are willing and able to help with those affected by the recent fires--please reach out to us!

We've expanded our Coordinated or Centralized Intake Process to access our Federal Grants , and we continue to address Housing Stability concerns with greater community partnership.

We do continue to be a small staff, but have made the commitment in this quarter to bring you regular monthly newsletters. Thank you for being here!

Read on to see what we have been up to!

With Gratitude,



Katie Furneisen
Executive Director

Housing Stability

Sibert's House Project

On December 14th 2023, our first resident moved into the Sibert's House after being homeless since 2015. He had resigned himself to being "worthless" or "hopeless". He had been given permission to set up a camp on private land, and had put his energy into creating a place he could survive in for the rest of his life. He's pretty handy and reported he found a way to utilize car batteries to power a TV, microwave and small heater. He had experienced harassment and bullying as a result of his way of life, and in November of 2023 one of his bully's burned down his camp with all of his belongings including his identification (photo ID, birth certificate, social security card) and clothing/personal possessions.

He has thrown himself into the opportunity the Sibert's House is providing him; every contact we have with him he expresses his gratitude to be able to find his motivation. In just 3 short months through assistance from SAS & his Stability Counselor BJ Stout-Ritter he has paid his fines to reinstate his drivers license, obtained new copies of his birth certificate and social security card, and gotten a phone. The walkable location has enabled him to start attending weekly meetings to address his mental health issues, and go to The Gym both to exercise and to get back into socializing with people again, including his young adult children whom he has been able to reconnect with. He has also been able to get new glasses, and remarked how he didn't realize how much better things look when you can really see them!

And, since he can now see better he has started helping out with odd jobs around the property, and working with a friend at a local landscaping company when he can access the jobs due to lack of his own transportation.

His current goals include getting a car (BJ has connected him with Cars Changing Lives), and accessing permanent housing by Summer--hopefully near the same neighborhood as he has made many friends, including the sweet lady across the street who bakes him cookies each week, and all the wonderful people from the Church who have supported and encouraged his success.

We are thankful to Saint Paul United Church of Christ for this opportunity.



BJ Stout-Ritter
Housing Stability Counselor



As our Housing Stability Counselor, BJ not only oversees the Sibert's House, but also administers our Community Partnership Funds/Grants for utility, rent & mortgage assistance for Shenandoah County Residents. These Households fall outside the bounds of our Federal & State Housing Focused Grants mentioned on the next page.

Community Partnerships

165

Households Served

\$47,459.60

In Assistance Delivered to Shenandoah County Residents

Client Story

**Joe is a veteran who fell behind on his electric bill following an accident in August of 2023 that left him with an extended recovery time. He received his medical care through the VA and was able to utilize his savings to stay current on his other bills, but it was depleted by March of 2024. With a disconnect pending, BJ was able to coordinate funds from St. John's Bosco, Maurertown Brethren Church, Salvation Army and the Department of Social Services Crisis program she was able to pay his entire past due bill of \$1603.68 (3 months of bills).*

**name changed to protect identity*

Partner Organizations &

Private Grants:

Woodstock Ministerial Association
Strasburg Local Relief
Maurertown Brethren Church
Wakeman's Grove
St. John's Bosco
Edinburg Ministerial Association
New Market Presbyterian Church
St. Mary's Church of the Pine
Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative
Shenandoah Community Foundation

Salvation Army Funds:

Funds from Shenandoah County Salvation Army Service unit to administer the funds collected in the Red Kettles for utility/rent/mortgage assistance to Shenandoah County residents.

Centralized Intake

Beginning in February, Wendy has been present at Page One of Page County on Tuesday mornings from 8:30am to 11am offering an in person access point to Housing Services in the Continuum of Care.

In her first day, Wendy was able to complete an eligibility assessment with a household experiencing a housing crisis, completed a referral to Megan at SAS, and within the week the household was able to be housed and out of crisis. Although all households cannot be helped this quickly, it proves having increased access points help streamline the process!

If you know someone who is experiencing a housing crisis please have them call Centralized Housing Intake at 540-271-1701 to complete an eligibility screening.

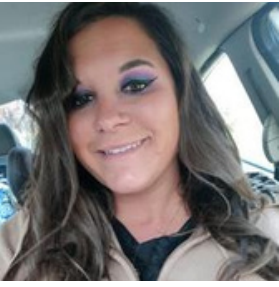


Wendy Stoneburner
Centralized Intake
Coordinator

Learn about the CHI
Program here:

continuumofcare513.com





Megan Bly
Certified Housing Counselor

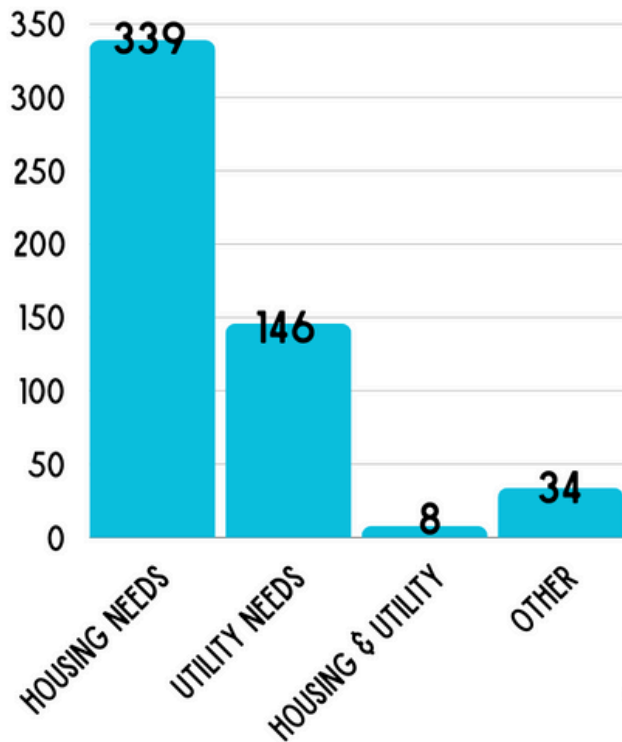
housing corner

It's hard to believe we are already a quarter through 2024, and boy, it's been a busy one. My name is Megan and I am the Certified Housing Counselor here at the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter. I administer all of our State and Federally funded Grant Programs – that's **Targeted Prevention**, **Rapid Rehousing**, **Tenant Based Rental Assistance** and **Emergency Shelter**.

Since January 1, 2024 – across all 4 programs there have been checks issued to landlords and utility companies alike across the Counties of Shenandoah, Page and Warren in the amount of

\$30,871.32.

QUARTERLY PHONE CALLS



Client Story

*Susan was displaced from her marital home when her husband ended his own life. Since her name was not on the title of the house, she was forced to move out and move in with family. She is also suffering from bladder cancer and will undergo a surgery for the placement of a colostomy bag. The home she is currently in is unsanitary for her condition and her doctor has recommended that she move to lessen the risk of infection, especially with her upcoming surgery. The consumer has located alternative housing and is in need of move-in assistance to start her life over. I was able to qualify Susan for **Tenant Based Rental Assistance**. We were able to provide a security deposit, a portion of her first months rent, and her electric and water deposits. In total, we were able to provide **\$1,732.21** in assistance to this household.

**name changed to protect identity*

Client Story

*Samuel was referred to us through the Centralized Housing Intake process for help with his rental arrears. Samuel found himself 6 months behind in his rent following the loss of his job. This is the first time that he had fallen behind in rent. His fiancée is 6 months pregnant and unable to provide financially due to pregnancy complications. She also looks after their toddler, as they have no financial resources for childcare.

We provided this household resources for childcare subsidies for once the baby is born and the fiancée is able to return to work. I was able to assist Samuel's household through the **Targeted Prevention Program**. In total, the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter provided **\$8,601.13** towards past due rent, current months rent, and utility arrears.

**name changed to protect identity*

Recent Events: Vintage in The Valley Car Show



SAS Choice: Andy Gentile
1977 Chevy Corvette



DJ Choice: Butch Dellinger
1962 Ford Galaxie



Best In Show 1900-1999: David Triplett
1964 Chevy Nova-SS

We had a great time on Saturday, April 6th helping put on the Vintage in the Valley Car Show. Thanks to Freddie Cheshire for running the show, Town Council Member David Woodson for handing out Trophies and all 50 Car Enthusiasts for braving the cold with us! Check out our [Facebook Page](#) for more photos and the winners of the Top 10 and Top 3 in each class!



Best In Show 2000s: Bret Cockerham
2021 Jeep 392



Peoples Choice: Scott Stroop
1970 Chevy Chevelle



Mayors Choice & Longest Distance Traveled:
Sonny Cocrane
1940 Ford Deluxe



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