

WELCOME TO OUR  
**Monthly Newsletter**

*we're so glad you're here!*

Hello, Supporters and Friends:

April signifies the beginning of spring, which evokes a sense of growth and renewal in the world around us.

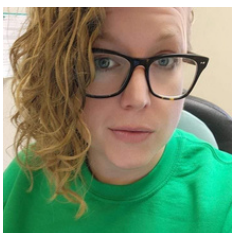
For me, this April restored the importance of our mission at Shenandoah Alliance-to Prevent Homelessness and Achieve Independence.

A young truck driver from Louisiana who had been stranded in Shenandoah County at no fault of his own found himself on our doorstep, homeless and lacking direction. He was motivated to get back to work, and followed through with all resources provided to him. In just 2 days he was able to find a new job in Dallas starting as soon as he could get there. One night in a hotel, a quick cab ride to Charlottesville and one Greyhound Bus Ticket all totaling just under \$480 and this young man was on his way to being successful, and not homeless in Shenandoah County.

As you will see in this issue, the struggle to prevent homelessness in our Valley is growing more challenging, and we find ourselves relying on more partnerships and community connections to ensure the success of those we serve--whether they be residents of the Valley, or those who find themselves struggling here.

Thank you for being here, and being a part of our community.

With Gratitude,



Katie Furneisen  
Executive Director

# Housing Stability

**Sibert's House  
Project**



**Community  
Partnership Funds**



**BJ Stout-Ritter**  
Housing Stability Counselor

**179** Households Served

**\$53,959.97**

In Assistance Delivered to  
Shenandoah County Residents

Fiscal year 2024 (July 2023–June 2024)



Our Shelter Resident continues to excel and is working more regular hours.

He is saving his wages to purchase a vehicle to help him further his goals as the wait list at Cars Changing Lives is long.

Do you know of someone selling an inexpensive, running vehicle that might be a good fit?

Let us know!

\*read his full story in last months newsletter available on our website, [allianceforshelter.com/newsletter.html](http://allianceforshelter.com/newsletter.html)

## Partner Organizations & Private Grants:

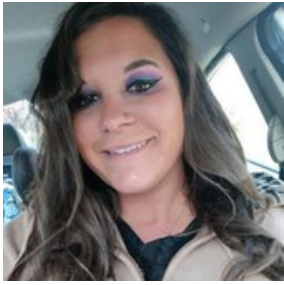
Woodstock Ministerial Association  
Strasburg Local Relief  
Maurertown Brethren Church  
Wakeman's Grove  
St. John's Bosco  
Edinburg Ministerial Association  
New Market Presbyterian Church  
St. Mary's Church of the Pine  
Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative  
Shenandoah Community Foundation

## 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.



Use the QR Code to  
Make a Donation to the  
Virtual Kettle Year Round!



Megan Bly  
Certified Housing Counselor

# housing corner

Rental Assistance provided by Grant  
Funded Projects in the month of April

**\$9,732.00**



You know when they say it takes a village? Well, it truly does. Although our jobs are very different here at SAS, our paths intertwine daily and our mission is the same - **to prevent homelessness and achieve independence**. That is exactly what happened for one of our consumers. When we are able to provide wrap around services to our consumers we know we are doing what we need to do to be successful social service providers for the community we serve. Read about **Michael's\*** story below to see how we work together to provide services.

## Client Story

**\*Michael** first called us in September of 2023 needing assistance with his electric. His electric was had been **shut-off**. Michael is on a fixed income and 100% of his disability check went to his \$1,150.00 rent. He did receive a small amount of child support for his daughter that was used to buy essentials - essentials that were not able to be provided by social service programs. Even with that, he relied on the generosity of family and friends for financial support. Michael worked with BJ, our Housing Stability Counselor, and she was able to get his electric cut on by collaborating with St. John's Bosco Catholic Church and Edinburg Ministerial Funds. Around that time, I was issuing the last round of our Emergency Housing Vouchers that we had received during COVID. I asked BJ if she had any consumers she was working with that were on a fixed income that could benefit from a voucher. Since she had just worked on Michael's case the week prior she thought he would be a perfect candidate for it. BJ provided the information to the consumer and he was interested in the voucher. I filled out the appropriate paperwork and sent it to Housing Choice Voucher Program at the Department of Social Services for approval. We didn't hear from Michael for months until he reached out to us here in April. He was in the hospital recovering from pacemaker implantation surgery. In addition to this health complication, Michael is also legally blind. Prior to this surgery, he had moved out of his home due to its unsafe conditions and he could just no longer afford the rent. He had been living with his cousin BUT he was in high spirits because he had FINALLY located permanent housing and was in need of assistance with the security deposit. I was able to get him connected with Centralized Housing Intake with Wendy, our Centralized Housing Intake Coordinator, and we received a referral for Michael for Tenant Based Rental Assistance. I was able to make a payment request to our Executive Director, Katie, for \$735.00 to cover the cost of his security deposit. Due to receiving the Emergency Housing Voucher, Michael will only have to pay a little over \$200 towards his rent, which is much more affordable than the \$1,150 he was paying and he is also now in a warm, safe, and healthy environment to recover from surgery and for the rest of his life. We are so glad to be able to help people like Michael!

*\*name changed to protect identity*



# Centralized Intake: April

**935** Total Strength Based Client Interactions

**402** of these calls & face to face interactions performed by Wendy

**22** Households Referred to Target Prevention

**35** Households Referred to Rapid Rehousing

**5** Households referred to Shelter Programs



Wendy Stoneburner  
Centralized Intake  
Coordinator

Learn about the CHI

Program here:

[continuumofcare513.com](http://continuumofcare513.com)

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.



This month SAS received 171 unique phone calls, broken down to the left by category.

This is a 26% increase in calls from March.

Here are some of the other ways SAS has embraced new beginnings--

Welcomed new income limits for all of our State & Federal housing programs; they have risen by approximately 1% from 2023 to 2024 and took effect on April 1st.

Participated in Safe Zone training with our friends from PFLAG Shenandoah County.

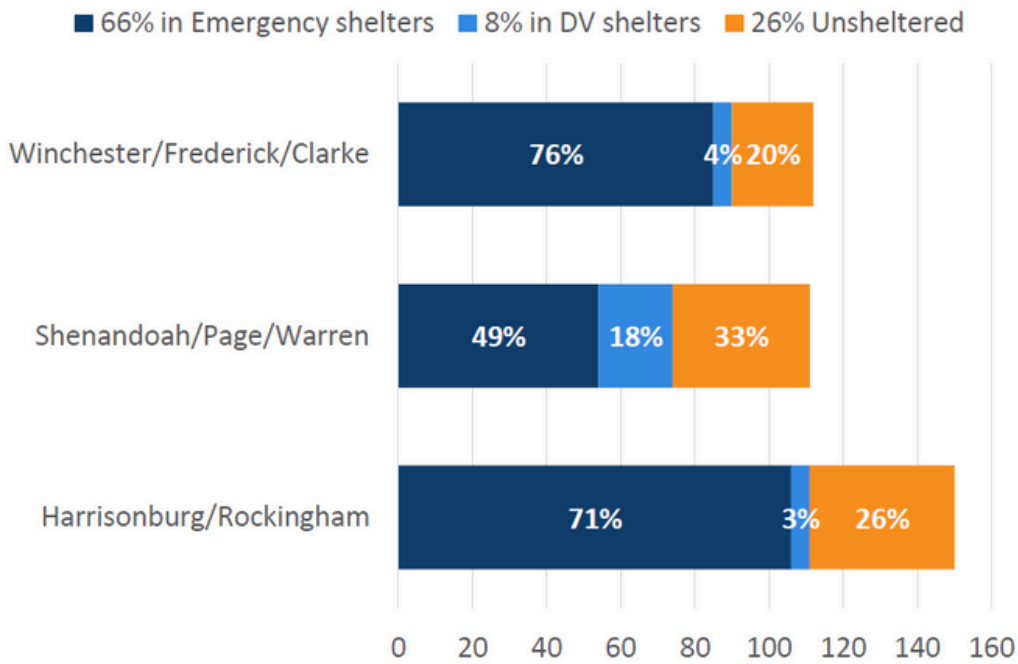
Joined the Page-Luray Chamber of Commerce to better coordinate with our partners there.





# Annual Point in Time Count (PIT)

373 people counted in 2024 Point in Time (PIT)



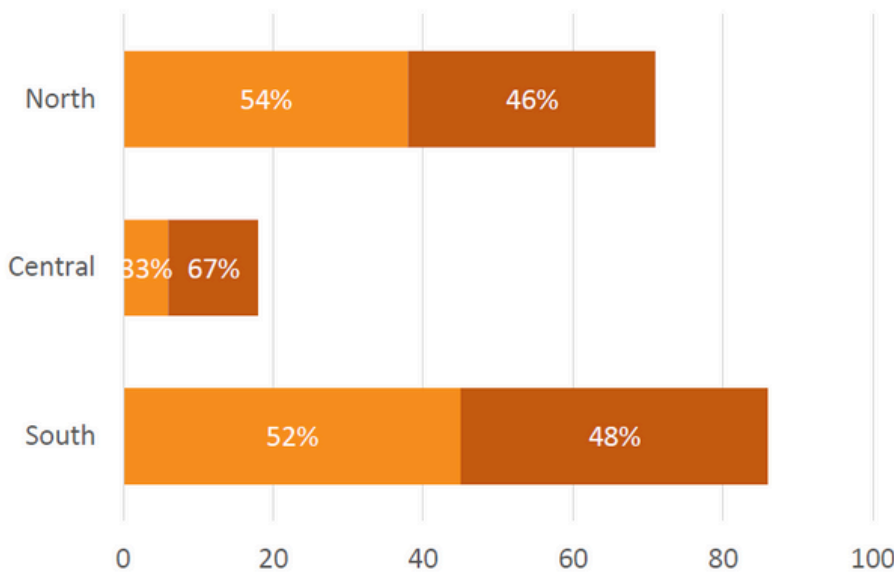
- All areas increased from 2023, with the biggest increase in the South
- Homeless rate by population:**
- 8.3 per 10k in North
  - 10.2 per 10k in Central
  - 11 per 10k in South
- Distribution by type:**
- Sheltered concentrated in the urban regions
  - Unsheltered in rural
- This chart reflects our service provision (esp. shelters), not just the homeless population

Data sources: 2024 PIT count & ACS 2022 5-year estimates

The Point-in-Time Count, or PIT Count, is an annual survey of homeless people in the United States conducted by local agencies called Continuums of Care on behalf of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The information gathered during the PIT counts is the main source of data used by the federal government to track the number, demographics and needs of people experiencing homelessness throughout the country over time.

## Amount of time spent homeless in the past 3 years

Less than a year (51%) More than a year (49%)



- Overall, time spent homeless in the past 3 years is evenly split between those more/less than 12 months
  - Center has higher rate of longer homeless (67%)
- Other groups with higher rates of longer homeless:
- White people (57%)
  - Unsheltered (64%)
  - Youth aged 18-24 (54%)

Data source: 2024 PIT questionnaire

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are individuals and families staying in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, transit stations, or any other place not meant for human habitation.<sup>3</sup> The unsheltered count does not include those at risk of homelessness or in temporary accommodations (e.g. temporarily “doubled up” in someone else’s home or “couch surfing,” etc.), which is one of the reasons the numbers from the PIT count are considered to be lower than the actual number of individuals who are homeless or precariously housed.

These numbers are also used to determine federal funding allocations to address homelessness. States and many local jurisdictions also rely on PIT data to inform strategic planning efforts, funding allocations and impact evaluations of current homeless programs and funding.

- 1 in 4** adults reported a **serious mental illness** (24%)
- 1 in 6** adults identified as **survivors of domestic violence** (17%)
- 1 in 7** adults reported a **substance use disorder** (15%)
- 1 in 33** adults identified as **veterans** (3%)
- 1 in 100** adults reported having **HIV/AIDS** (1%)

*Data source: 2024 PIT count*

If you want to know more about the annual Point in Time Count please visit  
<https://continuumofcare513.com/pit/>

**See an acronym you're not sure about? Send us an email or give us a call, we'd be happy to talk with you !**

Check out this article about this years annual point in time count:

<https://www.wmra.org/2024-04-25/more-shenandoah-valley-residents-are-experiencing-homelessness>

**Charts and Data Compilation courtesy of the Western Virginia Continuum of Care's HMIS Administrator, Kaitlin Heatwole.**

MAY

### What's Happening at SAS

- May 2nd: Partnership meeting with Family Promise
- May 3rd: Service Meeting with North Western CSB
- May 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th: CHI Walk-In Hours at Page One
- May 7th: Salvation Army Meeting
- May 7th: Tenant Based Rental Assistance Meeting
- May 8th: Built for Zero Meeting
- May 9th: Shenandoah County Non-Profit Council Meeting
- May 9th: Board Meeting
- May 13th: CoC Executive Committee Meeting
- May 14th: Page Alliance for Community Action Meeting
- May 21st: Compliance & Evaluation Committee Meeting
- May 21st: Media & Advocacy Committee Meeting
- May 27th: Memorial Day / Office Closed

### STAY IN TOUCH

Support SAS with a couple clicks-  
check out our Amazon Wish List!

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