

Greetings Supporters!

It has been a busy winter at SAS, full of beginnings & endings...

In December we said farewell to Janice Dickinson, our Office/Housing Assistant & all-around Energetic Woman of all things SAS. Her daily presence at the office has been missed, but we are comforted knowing she will be back to help at events...like our car show! More about that on [page 4!](#)

With Janice's departure, we welcomed **Lindsay Saffell** to our team in November under the newly created position of Program Service Coordinator. Lindsay will be heading our utility assistance & client needs program, see [page 2](#) for more information.

We have also welcomed new board member, **Stephanie Shillingburg**, and are excited for the experience she brings to the group.

Through staffing changes, and the lasting effects COVID 19 has had on our programs & services, I am proud of how the SAS team has come together to work through the challenges and continues to find creative solutions, see [page 3](#) for one such solution.

As we move into Spring, we continue to celebrate new beginnings and opportunities to serve households in Shenandoah County.




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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lindsay Saffell, Program Service Coordinator

BJ Stout, Centralized Housing Intake Coordinator



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



OPERATION ROUND UP GRANT RECEIVED FROM SVEC

FEBRUARY 2022

In February, SAS was presented with a Grant in the amount of \$2,150 from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperatives' Operation Round Up Program. The totality of these funds will go towards consumers with delinquent utility bills. This was a timely grant for SAS as in March, SVEC and Dominion have resumed utility disconnections for households with past due balances. SVEC alone reports 5,000 accounts with past due or delinquent balances that place the account holder at risk of disconnection.

Disconnect amounts are as high as \$5000, with the total balance due almost immediately.

142 Households Served

(July 2021-3/31/2022)



58 Households served through Salvation Army Funds

36 Households served through Private Grants & Fundraising

48 Households served through Funds managed for local Church organizations

\$36,009.73 Total spent



Housing Insecurity, a side effect of COVID-19

As the federal ban on evictions came to an end in December of 2021, we have seen a 40% increase in requests for households facing eviction. In the month of March alone we received 20 referrals for housing assistance-with most of those households already experiencing literal homelessness or on the verge of losing their housing within 10-14 days.

Many of these households applied for assistance through Virginia Rent Relief, and due to the backlog of requests, were just notified that they did not qualify and now face large balances in rental arrears; some balances are over \$10,000. As you can imagine, this creates a huge barrier for households maintaining present housing or accessing alternate/more affordable housing.

We are blessed to have federal grants that allow us to step in and mediate some of these situations, but there is a limit on the amount of financial assistance we can provide to these at-risk households.

With the winter season nearing its end the thermal shelters are closing their doors - which means the number of households exited into homelessness will be rapidly increasing.

Current Virginia Housing Statistics



Our Efforts to Address Shelter Needs:



As we have highlighted in a previous newsletter, SAS has joined forces with Family Promise of Shenandoah County to create the Scattered Site Housing Program. To date we have secured 12 units to provide shelter and wrap-around services to homeless households, both families and individuals.

Read more about how we're growing in the April Family Promise newsletter!

shenandoahfamilypromise.org/newsletters

Fundraising



Thank you to those who attended our *Captn's BBQ Fundraiser* on March 19th! You helped us raise vital funds to support our Client Needs Program!

Special **THANKS** to Travis Pangle of Captn's BBQ for his time & skill on the grill!

Come See Us Saturday at Vintage in the Valley in Strasburg!

Partnering with the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter 2nd Annual Vintage in the Valley Car Show!



VINTAGE VEHICLES ONLY: 2002 and OLDER!

April 2nd, 2022

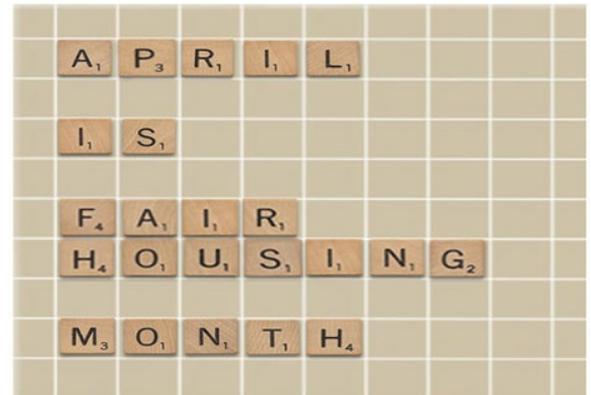
10-3PM ON HOLLIDAY ST. IN STRASBURG VA
15+ TROPHIES - DJ - AUCTION - DOOR PRIZES - FOOD

Freddie Cheshire: 540-335-0446 or fred.cheshire@gmail.com



All Proceeds go to benefit the Utility Assistance / Client Needs Program!

Upcoming Events



Stop by hud.gov/fairhousing to learn more!



Stop by and Say HI! to the SAS team on April 21st at the Chamber Volunteer Fair or April 23rd at the Woodstock Park during the DSS event listed below!



The Shenandoah County Department of Social Services presents:



Empowering Families, Nurturing Futures
It Takes a Village

In an ongoing effort to raise awareness for child abuse prevention, please join us for informational booths, hot dogs, balloon animals, face painting, and a magic show from 1 PM - 2 PM!

Where: 540 Park Ave., Woodstock, VA 22644

When: April 23rd, 2022 from 12 PM - 4 PM