

WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter we're so glad you're here!

Hello, Supporters and Friends:

Last month, I closed with a reflection that *opportunity grows from challenge*, and that continues to ring true as we navigate an uncertain and shifting landscape. Like many of our nonprofit partners, SAS is facing funding and service delivery challenges in the months ahead.

While we still don't know the full extent of the impact these changes will have on SAS, we remain committed to doing what we do best: meeting people where they are and responding with compassion. The most powerful tools we have in this time of uncertainty is connection, leveraging every available resource, leaning into our partnerships, and offering to our partners the same hand up we extend to our participants.

In this issue's Noteworthy Trends on **Page 2**, you'll see that we've fully expended a one-time funding source, but that resource allowed us to say yes to households we would have otherwise had to turn away. It also created a unique opportunity to partner with Shenandoah Community Health Clinic to help them secure a refrigerator for mobile vaccine services, one of many examples of how pooling our efforts multiplies impact.

You'll find more of these collaborative stories on **Page 3**, from a multi-partner success that included a furniture donation with some unforgettable (and comical) community connections with the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce and the American Woodmark Foundation, to a single mom whose housing was stabilized thanks to a network of support that included Family Promise of Shenandoah County.

This month, we were also overwhelmed with generosity: beautifully assembled hygiene bags from a neighbor who just wanted to help, and thoughtfully curated Household Essentials Baskets from Thrivent, Presbyterian Church, and a local supporter. These moments of care and connection remind us why we keep going.

We were honored to participate in Coffee & Conversations, hosted by the Shenandoah Community Foundation, an invaluable opportunity for nonprofits to share challenges and find new ways to lift one another up. If you're looking to connect with local nonprofits or learn how you can support their work, I encourage you to reach out to the Foundation.

On **Page 5** we continue our series on tenant rights. As the housing landscape continues to evolve, we hope this information empowers tenants and allies alike to understand and advocate for housing stability.

We hope the stories and updates in this newsletter inspire you to connect with us, with our partners, and with the people we serve. In challenging times, it truly takes a village, and this village shows up.

Thank you for being here, and being part of our village.

Kaw

MAY 2025 IMPACT SNAPHOT



CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

502

Strength Based **Intakes Completed** on the Coordinated **Entry Line**

> 25 Referrals



Utility Support:



In May, while the number of households directly assisted by Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter declined, enhanced community support from partner organizations played a pivotal role in sustaining utility assistance efforts, with 41% of households receiving additional aid to accommodate larger bills.

Housing Assistance (State & Federal):

The increased number of Rapid Rehousing (RRH) referrals in May reflects a greater need for rehousing solutions in our community. However, despite more referrals, the total aid provided in May was lower due to funding availability constraints and the complex housing barriers faced by those we are actively assisting.

Stability Support (Private):

Noticeable drop in both households served and total assistance as a result of a one time, short term grant being depleted.



SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

277

Service Connections made at SAS Level

> 394 **Hours of Effort**



STABILITY SUPPORT **FUNDRAISING, PRIVATE GRANTS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS**



RESTRICTIVE FUNDING STATE & FEDERAL HOUSING

GRANT PROGRAMS



STABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED



UTILITY **ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**



HOUSING **ASSISTANCE PROVIDED**

Rapid Rehousing

Targeted Prevention

Tenant Based Rental

Emergency Shelter

in Assistance



HOUSING REFERRALS RECEIVED

Rapid Rehousing

Targeted Prevention

Tenant Based Rental

Emergency Shelter

Total Referrals

Households Aided with Rent/Mortgage Payments

\$6,211.00 in Assistance **Households**

\$9,211.13 in Assistance \$4,719.76

Stability Support

May 2025

Moments of Impact: Housing Stability & Utility Assistance Stories

We've helped 22 families get back on track with their rent or electricity this month—and we wanted to share a few stories:

Our recent Sibert House resident has successfully transitioned into permanent housing. To support that move, we assisted with the first month's rent and security deposit using Salvation Army funds, and helped ensure they had the necessary items need to start housekeeping. They were incredibly grateful to have moved forward so quickly—from living in their car, to shelter, and now to a place they can call home.

A single mother of four children urgently sought our rental assistance to maintain her housing. She had lost her job and was struggling to pay off 7 months of past-due rent through a combination of part-time work. Although she recently secured a full-time position, her increased income made her ineligible for the restricted grant funds we administer. We were able to step in and cover three months of her back rent using a combination of our Sentara Grant, Salvation Army, and Client Needs Funds and connect her to a partner for additional assistance. The mother was overwhelmed with gratitude, relieved that she and her children would not face homelessness again.

Two families received critical utility assistance to restore or maintain their electricity. One household had already been without power for three days following a recent hospital stay and reduced work hours.. The second family was facing imminent disconnection, owing \$1,698.38, despite making regular payments, including a \$900 lump sum. Both households were doing everything they could, but still falling behind. Thanks to coordinated support from The Salvation Army, Woodstock Ministerial Association, St. John Bosco, and our Client Needs Fund, we were able to fully resolve both situations and ensure that power was restored and maintained for these families during a time of real vulnerability.





If you know someone who has a disconnection on their utility or needs heat oil or wood, have them call BJ.











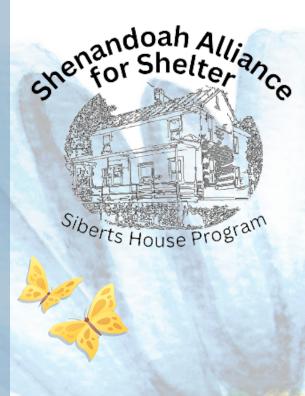
Sibert's House Program

We have a new resident in the Sibert House!!!

We currently have a single female in our site who is grateful to be in a more stable environment. She was evicted from her housing in Shenandoah County after losing her job and was unable to secure new employment quickly enough to keep up with rent. After her eviction, she was self-paying to stay in a hotel, which is expensive and hard to maintain on a limited income. She is currently working, but with her barriers and low wages, stable housing will still be a challenge to secure.

We're working closely with her to achieve her housing goals, and she understands her stay is temporary. During this time, she'll focus on saving, budgeting, reducing debt, and finding permanent housing—with consistent, structured case management to support her along the way.

Did you know the Sibert House has three bedrooms? We're working to find two other females to fill those rooms!



Centralized Housing Intake

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.



Becky ThorpeCentralized Housing
Intake Coordinator

Call volume remained steady throughout the month of May. A significant number of callers reached out for assistance with their electric and water bills. We were able to successfully connect them with local resources in their communities.

There was an increase in referrals completed this month compared to April, reflecting continued efforts to link individuals with the support they need. Additionally, many calls were related to current rent concerns—specifically for rent that is not yet past due. In those cases, callers were also provided with information on available local assistance programs. We remain committed to helping community members access vital resources and appreciate the continued collaboration with our local partners.







Megan Bly State Certified Housing Counselor

Housing Corner

"This assistance is beyond appreciated! We were homeless before we got into this house! A lot of stress times we went without food and we are beyond grateful and thankful for help with being able to keep our house and be able to get back up on our feet after a very unexpected medical situation with me having a stroke. We want to say thank you and we are forever grateful and thankful." - Private Grant Participant

Calls this Month

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

For the next few months, we will focus on tenant rights. Please note that we cannot provide any legal advice. If you have questions, we encourage you to contact Blue Ridge Legal Services directly or another law agency of your choosing.

VIRGINIA FAIR HOUSING LAWS

Fair housing laws in Virginia are designed to protect individuals from discrimination when renting, buying, or securing financing for housing. These laws align with federal protections under the Fair Housing Act but also include state-specific protections.

Virginia's fair housing law is enforced by the Virginia Fair Housing Office (part of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation). It prohibits housing discrimination based on the following protected classes:

RACE

COLOR

NATIONAL

RELIGION

CEV

FAMILAL STATUS

DISABILITY

OF ELDERLINESS FUNDS



















SOURCE

KEY RIGHTS UNDER VIRGINIA FAIR HOUSING LAW

Right to Non-Discriminatory Housing Access

Landlords cannot refuse to rent, set different terms, or falsely claim a unit is unavailable because of any protected characteristic.

Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Tenants with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations (like allowing service animals) or modifications (like grab bars in bathrooms). In some cases, tenants may have to pay for the modifications.

Equal Treatment in Advertising

Housing advertisements cannot express preferences or limitations based on protected characteristics (e.g., "no kids" or "ideal for young professionals" may be discriminatory).

Right to Use Housing Vouchers

As of 2020, Virginia law protects against discrimination based on source of funds, including Section 8 housing vouchers. Landlords cannot reject a tenant simply because they use a voucher.

Protection from Retaliation

Tenants are protected from retaliation for asserting their fair housing rights (e.g., filing a complaint)

Enforcement

If a tenant believes their fair housing rights have been violated, they can:

File a complaint with the Virginia Fair Housing Office within one year of the incident.

File a federal complaint with HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

Pursue legal action in civil court.



Financial Assistance provided in Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024-June 2025) to retain or obtain housing in the counties of Shenandoah, Page and Warren.

Our June Cafendar OOC

JUNE 3RD: LEADSHARE STRASBURG

JUNE 5TH: MEETING WITH FAMILY PROMISE

JUNE 9TH: COC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 10TH: STUDENT LEADERSHIP REALITY STORE

JUNE 10TH: PACA MEETING

JUNE 10TH: BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

JUNE 11TH: LEADSHARE WOODSTOCK

JUNE 11TH: BfZ CASE CONFERENCING

JUNE 12TH: SAS BOARD MEETING

JUNE 17TH: COC MEDIA & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 17TH: COC C&E COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 25TH: LEADSHARE WOODSTOCK

JUNE 29TH - JULY 2ND: NAEH NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Our Funding Partners

<u>Partner Organizations & Private Grants</u>

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

Sentara Health

United Way

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!



Support SAS with a couple clickscheck out our Amazon Wish List!

SHOP NOW!

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