

Shenandoah
Alliance for Shelter

Winter 2021

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 386 Woodstock, VA 22664
Physical Address: 135 S Main Street, 2nd Floor, Woodstock VA 22664
Phone: 540-459-3212 Fax: 540-459-3235
allianceforshelter.org
alliance4shelter@gmail.com

Preventing Homelessness/Achieving Independence

During the COVID pandemic we are operating under altered business hours. Our office is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please call to schedule an appointment to ensure staff availability. Call the central housing intake line at (540)271-1701 if you're experiencing a housing crisis.

Calling all Pork BBQ Lovers!



It is fundraiser time! On Saturday, March 27, from 11 am to 2 pm we will be selling Capt'n's pork BBQ behind the Friends of the North Fork office, located at 305 West Court Street, Woodstock, VA. For \$10 a plate you will receive a 1/3-lb. pork BBQ sandwich, a bag of Route 11 chips, a cup of baked beans, a cup of coleslaw, a 2-oz cup of sauce and a bun to put it all on. You will also be able to purchase the pork only at \$12/lb. All proceeds will go to support the prevention of homelessness. We strongly encourage you to place your order online to ensure availability. You can

purchase a ticket at <https://www.captnsbbq.givesmart.com>.

I decided to give Capt'n a call to find out a little more about him and his operation. The Capt'n, Travis Pangle, had received a call from one of our board members, Tommy Spiggle, and as soon as Travis heard the word kids, he was sold and wanted to help. Travis is a native to the Shenandoah Valley and his passion for cooking pork BBQ turned into a desire to help others. It all began when his daughter started playing softball many years ago and Travis realized that his passion for BBQ could raise money for the league. Since then, he has been selling his BBQ at little league games and mostly cooks for fundraisers. He has provided pork BBQ to other non-profits, like Family Promise, and many other organizations throughout Shenandoah County. You can check out his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/captnsbbq>



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SAS acknowledges an unsung hero, the Shenandoah Community Foundation

Early in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shenandoah Community Foundation (SCF) reached out to service agencies in the community inquiring about ways it could help. I received a call from Michael Funk, president of SCF, asking about the kind of requests we were receiving during the pandemic.

I told him that, although we had received additional funding from federal and state sources, use of these funds is limited. Our federal and state funds will assist only when there is an eviction notice or if a family is literally homeless. I explained that all evictions were under a moratorium and that utility companies were forgiving past-due bills. But the requests we were getting were from individuals and families struggling to keep up to date on their current rents and other bills due to loss of employment, reduced hours, illness, and/or being forced to choose between going to work or staying home with their children as daycares and schools were closed due to the pandemic.

SCF immediately developed a program to help fulfill these requests and collaborated with all the non-profit organizations in Shenandoah County to meet the emergency needs of community members who have been affected by COVID-19. I can't speak with other non-profits, but this outreach meant more than just providing streamlined funding to the community. It gave us hope that this is not our fight alone. We were forced to become more innovative in ways to serve our clients and how to supplement our federal and state funding with local funds to stretch the dollars and assist multiple families and individuals facing potential future eviction or loss of utility services, such as electric, water, or their heating source. The collaboration grew strong between all the non-profits and we all were working together to meet each need that came across our desks.

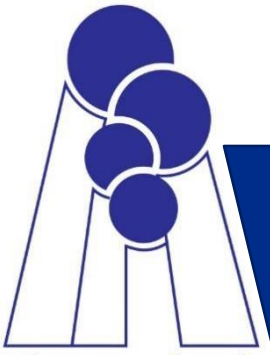
Shenandoah Community Foundation immediately implemented a grant application process entitled COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for Shenandoah County. We applied immediately and received \$10,000 to assist any or all Shenandoah County residents struggling with stabilizing their housing during the pandemic. We received two additional awards in 2020 for COVID-19, totaling \$20,000. These grant awards assisted 30 households of our neighbors, residents of Shenandoah County struggling to make ends meet during this national pandemic. In helping tenants pay their rent and stabilize their housing and keep their utilities on, funding gets paid forward to the landlord of these properties, the utility companies that employ our residents, and staff at the non-profits and state agencies such as the Department of Social Services. This grant program and gesture saved our community and bless the donors that give and support the Shenandoah Community Foundation. There is no question in our mind or the consumers we serve, you have made a huge difference in their lives and our community.

You are our unsung HERO!

Warmest Regards,

Sheila Orndorff, Executive Director





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The Salvation Army and our local churches have continued to provide generous financial support for utility assistance for Shenandoah County residents struggling through this national pandemic. Many families and individuals lost their jobs, became ill, and were forced to choose between employment or supporting their children with virtual learning. Even with the hold on past-due utility bills, the Salvation Army and the faith community continue to support these households looking for a hand up, not a hand out. Here at SAS, we feel extremely fortunate to have been chosen as the administrator for these funds. The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the struggles some of our residents were already facing and has increased the number of individuals and families working to sustain normal day-to-day necessities. Please feel free to spread the word that Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter, in collaboration with the Salvation Army and the faith community, is here to review any request that comes our way. You can do this by calling Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter at 459-3212 for a brief assessment.

Staff Changes

Exciting things have been happening at the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter over the past few months. In December of 2020 we hired a new housing assistant, Megan Bly, who will be training to become our next housing counselor.

Website Changes

Our website has a new look! Come check it out. Important information, resource listings, links for information about COVID-19, and information regarding our programs are available. Make sure to follow us on Facebook for live updates about events and happenings at the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter.



SHENANDOAH ALLIANCE FOR SHELTER

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Due to COVID-19, SAS is operating with limited staff to maintain the safety and health of our staff and clients. Our hours have decreased to Mon-Thurs, 8:30-4:30. Please contact us via phone at 540-459-3212 or email at alliance4shelter@gmail.com for any service needs, and follow us on Facebook for real-time updates. We will get through this together!

Preventing Homelessness / Achieving Independence

Our mission is to prevent homelessness by providing supportive services and/or temporary shelter to enable our clients to achieve independence.

Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter is a 501 (C)(3) tax exempt, non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law, and acknowledged in writing to our donors.

[DONATE NOW](#)



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Empty Bowl Soup Supper

Like many other things during this pandemic, we were dragged kicking and screaming into a new way of communicating and fundraising. This meant that our 2020 Empty Bowl had to go virtual. We purchased an on-line virtual platform and off we went on a new adventure. Happily, you, our supporters, joined the journey with us and supported us with generous sponsorships, ticket sales, and shopping our on-line silent auction. For each ticket that was sold, supporters received a gift-wrapped, handcrafted pottery bowl made by local potters and soup recipes to try out. If you didn't try the recipes you should and share them with your friends and family. I have tried three of the four recipes and all have been simple and delicious. Due to your loyalty and support, our 2020 Empty Bowl Soup Supper was one of our most successful and most profitable to date. We thank you for your support and generosity.

Words cannot express our gratitude

It's been a rough year for everyone, and here at the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter we've seen the very personal impact that the pandemic has had on local families. But we did not face this challenge alone. In this period of heightened need, the community—individuals, groups, churches, businesses, and organizations—has come forward with an astounding level of support for our programs. On behalf of the families and individuals that we have been able to help, **we deeply and sincerely thank all of you.**

Now with the number of COVID cases trending downward, one might expect the requests for help to ease off. That is definitely not our expectation. Currently there is a moratorium that protects families that fall behind on rent from possibly being evicted from their homes. A similar moratorium prevents utility companies from cutting off service for unpaid bills. Both of these moratoriums are likely to expire in the near future. The result: a rapidly increasing demand for assistance.

Once again, the Alliance for Shelter is counting on the continued support from the community to ensure that we are able to assist those of our neighbors still in distress. Based on this past year's broad support, we are confident that, with your help, we will be able to meet these needs.

-Message from the Board of Directors