



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

Hello, Supporters and Friends:

My first instinct for this month's newsletter was to copy and paste the opening from May, sprinkle in some June updates, and hope no one would notice...but alas, I did not!

June started off on a high note with the Shenandoah County Chamber Student Leadership program. We had the honor of working with local students to explore the role of nonprofits and the impact they have on our community. It's always a fun, energizing event and a reminder of how our emerging leaders can contribute to community stability, both now and in their future careers

Riding the positive wave from the students, I had the privilege of attending the National Conference on Ending Homelessness, hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington, D.C. *(I fully intended to write this intro during the conference, and even pushed my team to get their stats and stories to me early, but I didn't hold up my end. Sorry, Team! I owe you ice cream. And now that it's in print, I have to follow through!)*

Instead, I found myself deeply moved and honestly overwhelmed, surrounded by incredible people doing transformative work across the country, while major policy shifts loomed with the "Big Bill" on the verge of being signed. The weight of what remains uncertain for those we serve is heavy, and the impact of these new laws will be complex, with outcomes that may take time to fully unfold.

What I do know is this: no matter the policy landscape, the team at SAS remains unwavering in our commitment. Our presence, and our persistence, create pockets of stability for people navigating instability. That's what we'll continue to show up for. Every day.

As you'll read in the pages ahead, even as VHSP funding tapered off in June (we're finalizing those FY25 reports now and look forward to sharing them in our July newsletter), our impact in the community remained strong: **Page 2** highlights continued service delivery, **Page 3** features two powerful stories of stability support, and that theme carries through to our Sibert House update on **Page 4**, and **Page 5** underscores the critical importance of stability in moments of transition and uncertainty.

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

Katie



Katie Furnesen
Executive Director

JUNE 2025 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

470

Strength Based
Intakes Completed
on the Coordinated
Entry Line

15

Referrals

NOTEWORTHY TRENDS



Utility Support:

Utility assistance dropped in June compared to May. This seasonal trend is expected; many households receive cooling assistance through the Department of Social Services during the summer months, reducing the demand on our emergency utility program.



Housing Assistance (State & Federal):

With the conclusion of our FY25 grant cycle, referrals dropped. This decrease reflects the natural wind-down of available funds. We anticipate a slower start to services in July as new funding ramps up.



Stability Support (Private):

We received an additional grant allotment allowing continued support.



SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

225

Service Connections
made at SAS Level

309

Hours of Effort



STABILITY SUPPORT FUNDRAISING, PRIVATE GRANTS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS



STABILITY SUPPORT
SERVICES PROVIDED

4

Households
Aided with
Rent/Mortgage
Payments

\$3,609.10
in Assistance



UTILITY
ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED

9

Households

\$7,799.58
in Assistance



RESTRICTIVE FUNDING STATE & FEDERAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED

0

Rapid Rehousing

1

Targeted Prevention

2

Tenant Based Rental

0

Emergency Shelter

\$3,299.34
in Assistance



HOUSING
REFERRALS
RECEIVED

3

Rapid Rehousing

2

Targeted Prevention

7

Tenant Based Rental

0

Emergency Shelter

12
Total Referrals

Stability Support JUNE 2025

Moments of Impact: Housing Stability & Utility Assistance Stories

We've helped 13 families get back on track with their rent/mortgage or electricity this month—and we wanted to share a few stories:

Power Restored After Nearly a Year in the Dark

A gentleman reached out for help with his electric bill, which had been disconnected since September 2023. After losing his job due to car trouble, he fell into depression and shared that asking for help didn't come easily to him. Our team reassured him that reaching out is a strength—and that we're here to help when we can.

With support from community partners at St. Mary's Pine and St. John Bosco, we were able to assist with the full \$2,481.20 needed to restore service. Once he submitted the required documentation, his electricity was back on within 48 hours. He expressed deep gratitude, reminding us how life-changing even a basic utility can be when it's been out of reach for so long.

Stability for a Veteran Family

We also supported a disabled veteran who was at risk of losing his home. After a traumatic brain injury flare-up caused him to miss work, he fell behind on bills and was struggling to keep up. Using a combination of Sentara grant funds and Salvation Army support, we covered two months of mortgage payments—\$3,710.89 total—to help stabilize housing for him and his family.

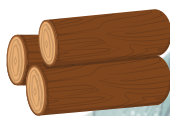
In a heartfelt gesture, he offered to volunteer with us and shared the many ways he could give back. His willingness to contribute, even in the midst of personal hardship, speaks volumes about the resilience and generosity within our community.



BJ Stout-Ritter
Utility/Housing
Coordinator



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



\$94,047.28

**In Financial Assistance provided to Shenandoah County
Residents in both Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance.
(July 2024–June 2025)**



Sibert's House Program

We currently have one resident at the Sibert House, a young man who was previously living in his car and using nearby locations for basic needs. He is now employed and actively applying to local housing opportunities. He's shown strong motivation and has already connected with mental health resources and housing leads, thanks to BJ's support. We're encouraged by his progress and proud to walk alongside him in this journey.

Our most recent resident has successfully exited the program and relocated to the Winchester area to expand her housing search. While her stay presented some challenges, it offered valuable insight into how shelter environments can impact individuals differently, and show that success looks different for everyone.

We continue to learn from each experience and remain available to support her as she moves forward.

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

Shenandoah Alliance
for Shelter



Siberts House Program



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 Thorpe
Centralized Housing
Intake Coordinator

Call volume has been lighter throughout June, likely due to the warmer weather.

However, we continue to receive a high number of calls related to mortgage assistance.

There has also been a consistent volume of inquiries about current rent—particularly from individuals who are not yet behind or involved in court proceedings.

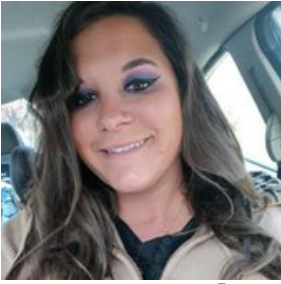
In these cases, callers were connected with local programs that may offer preventative assistance.

We remain committed to helping community members access the vital resources they need and are grateful for the continued support and collaboration of our local partners.



Learn about the CHI Program here: continuumofcare513.com

Housing Corner



Megan Bly
State Certified
Housing Counselor

Calls this Month
126

I've recently learned that a couple of individuals I had the privilege of working with have passed away. One of my clients had been given six months to live and passed away right around that timeframe. Through our program, we were able to provide over \$5,000 in assistance to help stabilize his housing during that time. It was a deeply unfortunate situation, but I'm grateful we could offer some support.

Another individual had been living in extremely poor conditions for many years and was dealing with serious health challenges. When an Emergency Housing Choice Voucher became available, I was able to assist him in relocating to a safe, well-maintained unit at Rugby Square. He passed away just a few months after moving in.

These situations are a reminder of how critical stable housing can be, especially for those with complex medical and personal challenges. I'm thankful we were able to play a part in offering some dignity and comfort during their final months.

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.

LAWS TO TAKE EFFECT JULY 1ST, 2025

HB 2430: Fee Disclosure Statement on Lease (Del. Simon)
HB 2430 requires landlords to include on the **first page of the lease** an **itemization of all charges** to the tenant including security deposit, rent, and any additional one-time charges.

HB 2218/SB 1356: Fees for Certain Rent Payment Methods (Del. Tran; Sen. Srinivasan) HB 2218/SB 1356 **prohibits landlords from charging fees for the collection of rent or security deposit payments**, unless they also offer an alternative payment method without fees.

HB 1867/SB 1043: Lease Nonrenewal Notice (Del. McClure; Sen. Ebbin) HB 1867/SB 1043 requires landlords **owning 5 or more** units to provide **notice of lease nonrenewal 60 days in advance**.

\$94,725.44

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 July Calendar



JULY 1ST : LEADSHARE STRASBURG

JULY 3RD : MEETING WITH FAMILY PROMISE

JULY 4TH : CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 8TH : PACA MEETING

JULY 9TH : LEADSHARE WOODSTOCK

JULY 9TH : BfZ CASE CONFERENCING

JULY 10TH : CoC CHI MEETING

JULY 10TH : SAS BOARD MEETING

JULY 11TH : LEADERSHIP NON-PROFIT DAY

JULY 14TH : CoC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

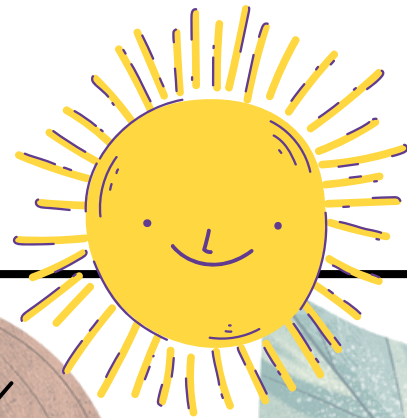
JULY 15TH : CoC MEDIA & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 15TH : CoC C&E COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 17TH : FEDERAL IMPACT CALL

JULY 23RD : LEADSHARE WOODSTOCK

JULY 23RD : SUMMER POINT IN TIME COUNT



Our Funding Partners

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
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!

Stay in Touch

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

SHOP NOW!



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