



WELCOME TO OUR  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
*we're so glad you're here!*

***Ciao, Supporters and Friends:***

September kicked off with a burst of energy as we connected with our fellow community organizations in a Housing Study Conversation sponsored by Shenandoah County and the Town of Woodstock. Conducted in partnership with Virginia Tech and funded by Virginia Housing, the study is designed to take a closer look at local housing challenges, explore barriers to development, and identify practical, community-informed solutions. We're looking forward to seeing, and sharing, those results once the study is complete.

Our Centralized Housing Intake line gives us a front-row view of challenges and barriers in real time (check out Becky's September insights on **Page 4**), which highlights why studies like this are so crucial for guiding our work and supporting the community.

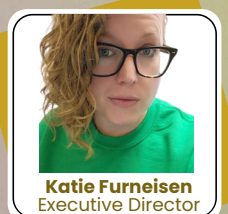
In that spirit, we also applied for a Housing Trust Fund grant opportunity this month to expand our capacity to meet growing demand. As you'll see on **Page 2**, the need remains steady across all service areas, and we're confident we submitted a strong application. Send some positive vibes to the review committee!

Shew. That was an action-packed two weeks—so I ran away for two more! Just kidding. I was thankful to take a planned family vacation to Italy, knowing SAS was in great hands. I'm happy to report that not only did I survive the chaos of gelato lines and winding cobblestone streets, but so did the office! The SAS team managed everything flawlessly (check out BJ's work on **Page 3**), which makes me think... maybe I should take time off more often?

They may disagree, but I'm proud of how they pulled together to keep services moving and represent SAS well in the community—at events like the Shenandoah Community Health Clinic Open House and ribbon cutting for the new HOPE Initiative, which strengthens behavioral and addiction health services. That was especially meaningful as September marked Substance Abuse Awareness Month. And Megan discovered new resources to share with you (see **Page 5**), a timely highlight as we step into October and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

A huge **thank-you** to my SAS team for keeping things running so smoothly in my absence (I had every confidence in them!), and to you for being here with us.

*Katie*



**Katie Furneisen**  
Executive Director

# SEPTEMBER IMPACT SNAPSHOT



## CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

**523**

Strength Based  
Intakes Completed  
on the Coordinated  
Entry Line

**22**

**Referrals**

## Noteworthy Trends



### Utility Support:

Utility needs remained high in September, with more households receiving assistance than the previous month. This steady demand underscores the critical role these resources play in keeping families safe and comfortable.



### Housing Assistance (State & Federal):

Housing support continued at a steady pace, with new referrals keeping our program pipeline active. Families are staying safely housed, reflecting the ongoing impact of consistent support.



### Stability Support (Private):

While slightly fewer households required stability support this month, the targeted help provided continues to prevent crises and build long-term security for those we serve..



## SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

**298**

Service Connections  
made at SAS Level

**477**

**Hours of Effort**



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



STABILITY SUPPORT  
SERVICES PROVIDED

**2**

Households  
Aided with  
Rent/Mortgage  
Payments

\$1,395.00 in  
Assistance



UTILITY  
ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED

**13**  
Households

\$6,552.07  
in Assistance



## RESTRICTIVE FUNDING STATE & FEDERAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS



HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED

**4**

Rapid Rehousing

**1**

Targeted Prevention

**0**

Emergency Shelter

**3**

Case Management  
Interviews

\$8,180.00  
in Assistance



HOUSING  
REFERRALS  
RECEIVED

**8**

Rapid Rehousing

**5**

Targeted Prevention

**0**

Emergency Shelter

**13**

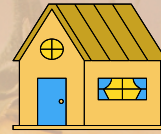
Total Referrals



**BJ Stout-Ritter**  
Utility/Housing  
Coordinator

# Stability Support

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



## Moments of Impact: Housing Stability & Utility Assistance Stories

### A Burden Shared, A Heart Lifted

One afternoon, an elderly client called, worried about a \$926 electric bill for just one month. BJ pulled up her account to confirm, and unfortunately, the amount was correct. As they spoke, the client shared that her HVAC system was failing and replacement estimates were between \$6,600 and \$13,000, far beyond what her fixed income could cover. Overwhelmed, she admitted she didn't know what to do. BJ reassured her that we could step in to cover the electric bill using Salvation Army funds, with help from St. John Bosco Church. For her HVAC needs, we connected her with Habitat for Humanity and other resources that might ease the burden. For now, she has turned off the unit to prevent further strain, but by the end of the call, her voice was lighter. She expressed heartfelt gratitude, repeating over and over how relieved she felt knowing she wasn't facing this challenge alone.

### Holding On Through Loss

A gentleman recently reached out in urgent need of rent assistance. He had been the full-time caretaker for his mother, sharing an apartment that her income was able to support. When she passed away in July, he suddenly found himself not only grieving but also without an income. Determined to move forward, he began job searching and had just completed an interview he felt optimistic about. In the midst of this transition, an eviction notice arrived. With no way to cover the rent or the electric bill, he feared losing his home—and even his beloved dog. BJ stepped in, quickly gathering the necessary verifications and using Salvation Army funds to cover his September rent and utilities. When he learned he could stay in his home, his relief was overwhelming. He expressed heartfelt thanks, grateful not only for the financial help but for the chance to keep his companion and a roof over his head as he works toward a new start.

Shenandoah Alliance  
for Shelter



Siberts House Program

We're excited to share some wonderful progress. Our previous resident has successfully transitioned into stable housing, and we've since welcomed a new female resident. Two more women have completed their intakes and will be joining us soon. With their arrival, the site will reach full occupancy for the very first time, a milestone that fills us with hope and energy for the work ahead.

In addition, new security cameras have been installed to provide greater peace of mind for both residents and staff, ensuring everyone feels safe and supported.

This program continues to grow stronger each day, but it's only possible because of the generosity and encouragement of our community. Thank you for standing with us and helping create a place of safety and new beginnings.

(occupancy is gender-specific and rotates based on current residents)



**\$32,527.14**

**In Financial Assistance provided to Shenandoah County  
Residents in both Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance.  
(July 2025-June 2026)**

# 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!

# 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:**

Call volume increased in September.

A consistent theme in these calls is that rent increases are making housing unaffordable for many families.

As a result, many callers are staying in motels or hotels, an unstable and costly option, especially for families with children.

### **Key Needs Identified:**

The lack of affordable housing continues to be a major barrier to stability, leaving families with few options.

### **Call to Action:**

This trend highlights the urgent need for more affordable housing opportunities in our community and reminds us of the work we can do together to help families stay safely housed and prevent homelessness.



Learn about the CHI Program here: [continuumofcare513.com](https://continuumofcare513.com)



**Megan Bly**  
State Certified  
Housing Counselor

Calls this Month

**204!**

# Housing Corner

## Expanding Knowledge to Better Serve Our Communities

Our Housing Programs serve Shenandoah, Page, and Warren Counties, and we stay engaged by attending community meetings across the region. Each month I participate in the PACA (Page Alliance for Community Action) meeting, usually virtually since crossing two mountains can be a challenge. However, I had inspections in Page County and was able to attend in person.

During the meeting, staff from the Attorney General's Victim Services Unit shared an insightful presentation on resources for victims of domestic and sexual violence - many of which were new to me. While we are not a domestic violence specific provider, many of our participants are currently facing these situations, or have in the past - making this knowledge especially valuable.

**Victim Notification Program:** Virginia law gives victims the right to know what's happening with the offender in their case, from court dates to release decisions, through a secure notification system called NAAVI. You can learn more about this program here:

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/programs-outreach/victim-assistance>

**Address Confidentiality Program:** Cost-free, confidential mail forwarding service for victims of Domestic Violence, stalking, sexual violence and human trafficking who have recently relocated to an address unknown to their abuser or stalker. You can learn more about this program here:

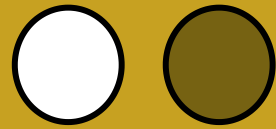
<https://www.oag.state.va.us/programs-outreach/domestic-violence/address-confidentiality-program>

 **\$26,358.97**


**Financial Assistance provided in Fiscal Year 2026 (July 2025-June 2026) to retain or obtain housing in the counties of Shenandoah, Page and Warren.**



# Our October Calendar



**OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> : RESPONSE OPEN HOUSE**  
**OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> : MONTHLY PARTNERSHIP MEETING WITH FAMILY PROMISE**  
**OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup> : SALVATION ARMY MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> : SAS YEARLY AUDIT**  
**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> : CoC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> : LEADSHARE WOODSTOCK**  
**BfZ MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> : CoC GENERAL MEETING**  
**SAS BOARD MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> : WORLD HOMELESS DAY**  
**OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> : OFFICE CLOSED / FEDERAL HOLIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> : LEADSHARE STRASBURG**  
**PACA MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> : CoC MEDIA & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**CoC COMPLIANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> : HOUSING VIRGINIA'S MOST VULNERABLE CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> : WARREN COALITION MEETING**



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

**SHOP NOW!**

**(540) 459-3212**

**[alliance4shelter@gmail.com](mailto:alliance4shelter@gmail.com)**

