



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

***Hello, Supporters and Friends:***

As we shared in our January newsletter, we continue to closely monitor changes in the federal funding process. Approximately half of our annual budget comes from federal funds received in partnership with HUD, making these developments critical to our work. Recently, the Trump administration announced plans to cut at least half of HUD's workforce. Without adequate staffing, agencies like SAS will face even greater delays and challenges in accessing approved funding for homelessness response and affordable housing initiatives. These cuts will make it even harder for vulnerable populations to receive the support they need.

We remain committed to advocating for stable funding and exploring alternative solutions to ensure our programs continue serving those in need. Join us in advocacy, click [\*\*here!\*\*](#)

As you'll read in the following pages, we are actively serving households in crisis through federal funds, private grants, and community partnerships. To safeguard our work against funding uncertainties, we're dedicated to growing our non-federal funding sources and strengthening community partnerships—so we can continue to help, no matter what happens.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for details on our upcoming fundraiser in partnership with the **Town of Strasburg** and the **Vintage in the Valley** festival on **April 5th!** Know someone who might want to sponsor the event? Send them our way—we'd love their support!

*Katie*



**Katie Furneisen**  
Executive Director

# FEBRUARY 2025 IMPACT

## Snapshot

### Noteworthy Trends:



**\$613** Average Cost to stabilize utilities, a **44%** increase from last month



This month we increased our households served by **133%** (from 3 to 7) for an average cost of **\$868** per person under our State & Federal Grant Programs.



**21%** increase in calls from January with an **257%** increase in service hours needed to address complexity of need.



### SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

**258**

Service Connections made at SAS Level

**193**

Hours of Effort

### CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

**384**

Strength Based Intakes Completed on the Coordinated Entry Line

**19**

Referrals



### HOUSING STABILITY

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



HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES PROVIDED

**1**

Households Aided with Rent/Mortgage Payments

**\$500**  
in Assistance



UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

**10**

Households

**\$6,130.01**  
in Assistance



### STATE & FEDERAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS



HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

1 Rapid Rehousing  
1 Tenant Based Rental  
1 Emergency Shelter  
4 Targeted Prevention

**7 Total Households**  
**12 Total Individuals**

**\$10,423.63**  
in Assistance



HOUSING REFERRALS RECEIVED

**9**

Rapid Rehousing

**6**

Targeted Prevention

**6**

Tenant Base Rental

**0**

Emergency Shelter

**21 Total Referrals**

# Housing Stability

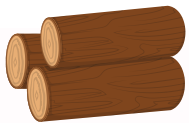
For the month of February we were able to assist 1 household that was facing possible eviction with our Salvation Army Rent/Mortgage funds. With our Utility Program we were able to assist 10 households. Our total spent this month for assistance was \$4,096.06 in Salvation Army Funds, and \$2,033.95 from Community Funds and partnering Churches. Our grand total in assistance was \$6,630.01 for the month.



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



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



## \$31,967.16

In Financial Assistance provided to **53** Shenandoah County Residents in both Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance.

**Fiscal year 2025**  
(July 2024–June 2025)

## Sibert's House Program

Our SAS Team has been working thoughtfully to improve operations at The Sibert's House, ensuring the program is both effective and responsive to the needs of those we serve. As we prepare to welcome residents, we have refined our program outline and are finalizing important details to strengthen the support we provide. We are also collaborating with Strength in Peers, an organization with experience in similar programs, to learn best practices. This will help us ensure the program is sustainable, participant-centered, and a responsible use of resources.

We are excited to share that we plan to welcome our first residents in March. We will continue to update you as we take these final steps, and we appreciate your ongoing support in making The Sibert's House a place where individuals can find stability and a path forward.

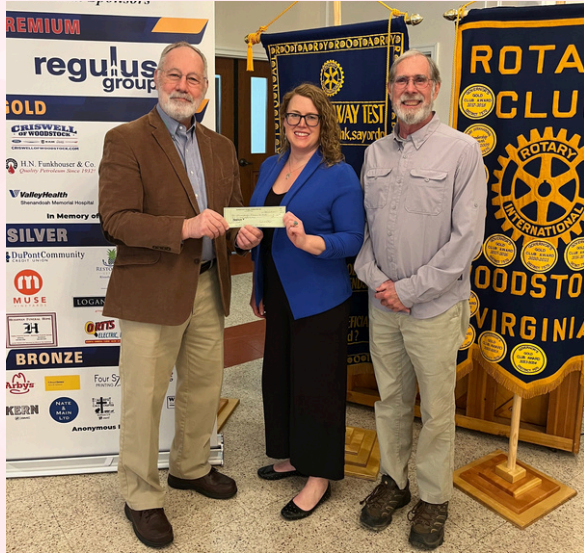
We also created a new logo--to your right--what do you think?

***Thank you for being part of this journey with us!***





# Free Firewood Program



We hope you've seen our new signs, made possible by the **Woodstock Rotary**! Thanks to our partnerships with **Seven Bends Church**, the **Town of Woodstock**, and the **Auto Care Clinic**, we're one month into our **Free Wood Project** — *and demand has been incredible!*

Wood is disappearing faster than we can restock it. As winter winds down, we're working on a more efficient system to keep the racks full, including purchasing a wood splitter and organizing wood-cutting days.

Want to get involved? Reach out to us!



## Centralized Housing Intake



**Becky Thorpe**  
Centralized Housing  
Intake Coordinator

This month, we've continued to support individuals in need, especially those experiencing homelessness. It's not easy to navigate the complex landscape of affordable housing, but we're proud to share resources and offer guidance wherever we can.

Every call is a chance to make a real difference. Whether it's providing information on available housing options or connecting people with local services, the gratitude we receive from our community is truly rewarding. One of the most fulfilling moments is when a person on the other end of the line says, "Thank you so much, you've been so helpful."

These words remind us why we do what we do – to be a positive force and a resource for those in need.

Together, we're building a more compassionate and supportive community.

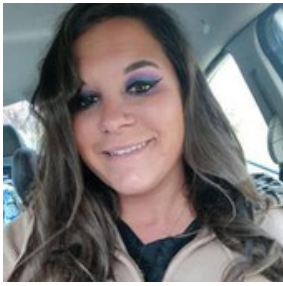


If you know someone who is experiencing a housing crisis, please have them call Centralized Housing Intake at 540-271-1701 to complete an eligibility screening.



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





**Megan Bly**  
State Certified  
Housing Counselor

# Housing Corner

## FEBRUARY

This past month has been exceptionally busy. However, I am pleased to report that we have seen an increase in the number of individuals finding affordable housing options.

This month, our organization was able to assist 4 households in transitioning out of homelessness, doubled-up living situations, or temporary hotel accommodations and into permanent housing units.

Additionally, we were able to prevent 2 households from being evicted. The stabilization services provided to these 6 households came at a cost of over \$10,000.00. Without these critical interventions, these individuals would have likely experienced homelessness.

**New Referrals**

**21**

**Calls this Month**

**156**

Rental Assistance by Grant Funded  
Projects in the month of February

**\$10,423.63**



## "Fun" Fact February

**PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE  
HOMELESSNESS DIE NEARLY 30 YEARS  
EARLIER THAN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN**

**69% OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS ARE MALE, WHILE 29%  
ARE WOMEN**

**TONIGHT 274,224 AMERICANS  
WILL SLEEP ON OUR STREETS**

**1 IN EVERY APPROXIMATELY 500  
AMERICANS IS EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS**

**THERE ARE 32,880 HOMELESS VETERANS**

**18% ARE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

All the Federal and State Grant Funded Housing Programs are administered by the Housing Counselor. In order to access any of our housing programs, you will need to contact Centralized Housing Intake at 540-271-1701 to complete an eligibility screening for a referral. Questions? Call our State Certified Housing Counselor, Megan, at 540-459-3212 ext. 305!

# 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

## 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!

## Our March Calendar



**MARCH 4TH: LEADSHARE IN STRASBURG**

**MARCH 5TH: RESOURCE FAIR IN WARREN COUNTY**

**MARCH 10TH: CoC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 11TH: PACA MEETING**

**MARCH 12TH: BfZ MEETING**

**MARCH 13TH: CoC CHI MEETING**

**MARCH 13TH: SAS BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 18TH: CoC MEDIA & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 18TH: CoC COMPLIANCE AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 19TH: PARTNERSHIP MEETING WITH FAMILY PROMISE**

**MARCH 20TH: SPECIAL SUMMIT: CoC STRUCTURE**

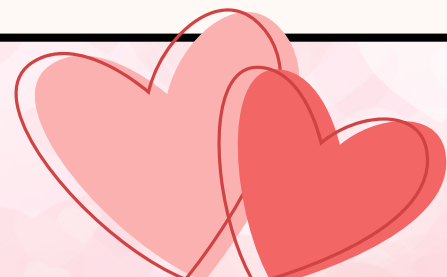


Stay in Touch



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

**SHOP NOW!**



**(540) 459-3212**  
***alliance4shelter@gmail.com***