

WELCOME TO OUR

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



Hi Supporters & Friends:

It's been a scary busy month here at the Alliance!

We've been haunting one event after another while still keeping our focus on helping families and individuals in need.

We celebrated our friends at Response with the ribbon-cutting for their brand-new office space (we're a little jealous... but in the best way!), highlighted some eye-opening stats for World Homeless Day (are you following us on Facebook? If not, go do that now—we share so many great things!), and attended the annual Lunch & Learn event sponsored by the Shenandoah County Chamber to connect non-profits with our amazing church partners.

We also created an awesomely epic pumpkin housing village for the Woodstock Enhancement Pumpkin Contest (we totally think we deserved a "most creative" mention!), and I attended the Housing Virginia's Most Vulnerable Conference in Richmond, returning with a whole bunch of new ideas—and a frightening amount of reading to help build new skills for the community and my

Of course, we've also been keeping up with our day-to-day work, connecting people in need to the services that help them thrive.

Read on if you dare for some hauntingly good updates, including the numbers (don't worry, you don't have to do the math!) behind what we've been up to on page 2, some somewhat concerning trends on page 5, and some very heartwarmingly unscary stories on pages 4 and 6.

Keep an eye out for a little Empty Bowl reminder too, because it's super scary how that event creeps up on us every year!

It's been a monster of a month, but the difference we get to make keeps it all worthwhile!

Thank you for being here with us—and for sticking through those horribly awful Halloween puns with me!







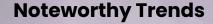
OCTOBER IMPACT SNAPSHOT



CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

417

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



Utility Support:

Helping families stay connected and comfortable, October's utility support prevented service disruptions and eased financial stress for those in need.



Housing Assistance (State & Federal):

Steady housing aid kept families safely housed, ensuring stability during uncertain times.



Stability Support (Private):

Even targeted support for a single household can prevent a crisis and reinforce long-term security.



SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

235

Service Connections made at SAS Level

376 **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



Rapid Rehousing

Targeted Prevention

Emergency Shelter

Households

Emergency Shelter

Case Management Interviews

> \$5,150.00 in Assistance

Households **Aided with Rent/Mortgage Payments**

\$1.000.00 in Assistance

\$4,446.56 in Assistance



HOUSING

REFERRALS

RECEIVED

Total Referrals



TOGETHER AT THE TABLE 34TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL SOUP SUPPER

ALL EVENT PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE SHENANDOAH ALLIANCE FOR SHELTER AND THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT HOUSING STABILITY IN SHENANDOAH, PAGE & WARREN COUNTIES.

NOVEMBER 21ST, 2025 DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

★FULL EVENT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE EVENT PAGE★

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW: HTTPS://DONORBOX.ORG/EVENTS/813961/

TICKET PRICES

ADULTS: \$40

STUDENTS: \$20



NEW THIS YEAR: TO HELP KEEP THE AUCTION RUNNING SMOOTHLY, WE ASK THAT WINNERS-OR SOMEONE ATTENDING ON THEIR BEHALF-BE PRESENT TO PAY FOR AND COLLECT ITEMS. ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE TAKEN HOME AT THE END OF THE EVENT.



Moments of Impact: Housing Stability & Utility Assistance Stories

Keeping the Lights On: A Story of Hope

One morning, an 87-year-old woman faced the frightening prospect of losing electricity in her home. Her daughter called for help just as a utility worker arrived at the door, ready to disconnect service. The initial amount needed to prevent the shutoff was \$365.28, but by the time assistance could be arranged, the bill had grown to \$946.16—a daunting sum for a vulnerable family.

With quick coordination, support from St. Mary's Pine Lutheran Church, and funds from the Salvation Army, the bill was fully covered. The electricity was restored, the account brought back to \$0, and a household that had been living on the edge of darkness was finally made whole. Both the mother and daughter were overwhelmed with gratitude and relief, amazed that such a large, urgent need could be met so quickly.

A Place to Call Home: Teamwork Helps a Family Find Stability

For at least two months, a family with young children had been living in a pop-up camper, moving from campground to campground to stay within the 21-day limit. They had relocated to the area seeking better opportunities, but those plans had unfortunately fallen through. When the we first connected with them, they were in a remote location with no cell phone service, making communication and support especially challenging.

While some community members had been providing occasional assistance, these efforts were unable to fully address the family's needs. Through coordinated, hands-on support from every member of the SAS team, the family was able to complete the intake process for housing assistance, and access necessary resources. A housing opportunity has become available, and we are working together with both the family and the landlord. With continued support, the family is expected to be housed by the first week of November, marking the start of a more stable and secure chapter in their lives.



This month, Sibert's House is home to two female participants who were previously in extremely unstable living situations—sleeping on park benches, couch surfing, or staying in a shed.

In the coming weeks, the focus will be on supporting both residents as they pursue employment and prepare for independent housing. Our community's generosity has made a real difference: Pleasant View Church of the Brethren shared pint jars of homemade pot pie, and Faith Lutheran Church donated spaghetti and meatballs along with desserts from their Spooky Spaghetti event, giving our residents the comfort of warm, home-cooked meals.

Sibert's House continues to grow stronger every day thanks to the compassion and partnership of our community. Would your group, church, or organization like to provide occasional meals or pantry staples to support our residents? Reach out to us at alliance4shelter@gmail.com!

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



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

Call Volume:

While overall call volume dipped slightly in October, the level of need remained steady—with 21 referrals this month compared to 22 in September. Many callers continue to struggle to keep up with rising rents amid reduced work hours and higher living costs. More families reported relying on temporary arrangements—such as motels, hotels, or doubling up with friends and relatives—just to stay sheltered.

Becky Thorpe
Centralized Housing
Intake Coordinator

Key Needs Identified:

Affordable housing options remain critically limited, and even short-term stability is becoming harder to maintain. Families are being pushed toward costly, temporary, or overcrowded living situations that make long-term progress nearly impossible.

Call to Action:

Even as call numbers fluctuate, the underlying crisis persists. This month's data is a reminder that sustained action and collaboration are essential to ensure every family in our community has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.



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: <u>continuumofcare513.com</u>



This month marked World Homeless Day, and followers of our Facebook page may have seen eyeopening statistics and heartfelt feedback from individuals and families served by the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter. For those who missed it, the highlights are gathered here.

Following the conclusion of state and federal housing assistance programs, surveys are distributed at the six-month mark to both landlords and clients. The goal is to gather feedback about their experiences and to check in on housing stability. While not all surveys receive a response, the testimonials shared highlight the meaningful difference the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter makes in the lives of individuals and families in our community:

♠Housing Testimonial #1:

"I don't know what myself or others in Shenandoah County would do without organizations like you all. Times get tough, it's great to know that there are resources. Thanks for everything."

♠Housing Testimonial #2:

"Thank you so much for all the help you provided. I could honestly say you all are wonderful and especially Megan. She has help me in so many ways that I continue to do my very best. Her words of inspiration stood with me every day."

♠ Housing Testimonial #3:

"Just knowing that my baby will have a safe roof over his head, makes me happy. My parents were and are drug addicts. Lost my dad in 2017. And my mother is no where to be found. I grew up in a bad environment so this sounds really nice. I really appreciate you!"

♠Housing Testimonial #4:

"Just wanted to drop a few words saying how much I truly appreciate you and all you've done. You are one of a kind. No one like you. You helped me in so many ways, you show love and caring for your clients especially with me. I just can't stop saying how grateful I am to have met someone so amazing like you. We need more like you. Stay safe and sweet. God bless you in everything and everyway. May all you deserve rain all over you."

♠Housing Testimonial #5:

"So it turns out that I took your advice under consideration and have been offered the management housekeeping position at......and will begin that job August 14th. I do have my rent already for August. I appreciate everything that you have done for me Megan and you can close my case and I hope that you help others out as you have helped me and I really appreciate your time and attention to my case."



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



NOVEMBER 4TH: STRASBURG LEADSHARE

NOVEMBER 6TH: FAMILY PROMISE PARTNERSHIP MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 10TH: CoC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 11TH: OFFICE CLOSED / FEDERAL HOLIDAY / VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 12TH: EMPTY BOWL MEETING

BfZ MEETING

NOVEMBER 13TH: CENTRALIZED HOUSING INTAKE MEETING

SAS BOARD MEETING

NON-PROFIT COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 18TH: Coc MEDIA & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Coc COMPLIANCE & EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 19TH - 21ST: VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S HOUSING CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 21ST: 34TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL SOUP SUPPER

NOVEMBER 26TH: WOODSTOCK LEADSHARE

NOVEMBER 27TH - NOVEMBER 28TH: OFFICE CLOSED / THANKSGIVING

