



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

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

Wow, does anyone else feel like January lasted a lifetime? With all its ups and downs, it certainly gave us a run for our money — and maybe even our sanity!

In this month's newsletter, we have a lot to share. First, we're kicking off with our *new* **Monthly Impact Report**, which highlights the progress we've made as a team and community in our mission to prevent homelessness. Our hope is that this report will provide greater insight into the important work we do.

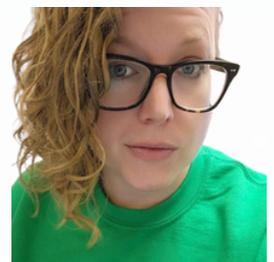
Each program page now showcases how those numbers translate into real impact for individuals accessing critical resources, including the **Housing Stability Program, Centralized Intake line, and Grant-Funded Housing Programs**. This month, you'll also get information on the **Annual Point in Time Count**, offering insight into homelessness in our community and our ongoing efforts to address it. A more in-depth report will come out in April.

We're also excited to unveil a new community project this month: the Free Firewood Bank. Head over to our **Facebook** page to read more about this initiative, and stay tuned for updates in future newsletters on ways you can participate.

As many of you know, changes to federal funding can significantly impact the work we do. Right now, we are closely monitoring potential shifts in federal grants that support our programs. While these changes bring some uncertainty, we remain committed to adapting and ensuring we continue to provide vital services to those in need.

We'll keep you updated as we gain more clarity, and, as always, we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support. Your contributions enable us to remain flexible and creative as we navigate these challenges, allowing us to continue delivering the highest level of care to our community.

*Katie*



**Katie Furneisen**  
Executive Director

# JANUARY 2025 IMPACT Snapshot



## CENTRALIZED INTAKE:

**437**

Strength Based Intakes Completed on the Coordinated Entry Line

**23**  
Referrals



## SAS DIRECT CONNECTIONS: ALL STAFF

**214**

Service Connections made at SAS Level

**54**  
Hours of Effort

## Noteworthy Trends:



\$426.36 Average Cost to stabilize utilities



\$2457.50 Average Cost to establish housing



\$1021.77 Cost of a 2 week hotel stay



## HOUSING STABILITY

### FUNDRAISING, PRIVATE GRANTS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS



### HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES PROVIDED

**2**

Households Aided with Rent/Mortgage Payments

**\$592**  
in Assistance



### UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

**9**

Households

**\$3,837.27**  
in Assistance



## STATE & FEDERAL HOUSING GRANT PROGRAMS



### HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

1 Rapid Rehousing  
1 Tenant Based Rental  
1 Emergency Shelter

3 Total Households  
4 Total Individuals

**\$5,936.77**  
in Assistance



### HOUSING REFERRALS RECEIVED

**7**

Rapid Rehousing

**5**

Targeted Prevention

**2**

Tenant Base Rental

**2**

Emergency Shelter

**16 Total Referrals**

# Housing/Utility Updates

For the month of January we were able to assist 2 households that were facing possible eviction with our Salvation Army Rent/Mortgage funds. One household needed assistance with electric which affected her rent if it was not paid. With our Utility Program we were able to assist 9 households. Our total spent this month for assistance was **\$2,431.49** in Salvation Army Funds and **\$909.85** from Community Funds and partnering Churches.



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

**\$25,337.15**

In Financial Assistance provided to 42 Shenandoah County Residents in both Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance.

Fiscal year 2025  
(July 2024-June 2025)

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



## Centralized Housing Intake



**Becky Thorpe**  
Centralized Housing  
Intake Coordinator

The calls for January have been very steady. I've been able to share resources with a couple of families that have been living in hotels for up to 11 months, now they are on their way to getting housing for their families.



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://www.continuumofcare513.com)

# Housing Corner



**Megan Bly**  
State Certified  
Housing Counselor

**New Referrals**

**16**

**Calls this Month**

**163**

**Rental Assistance by Grant Funded  
Projects in the month of January**

**\$5,936.77**

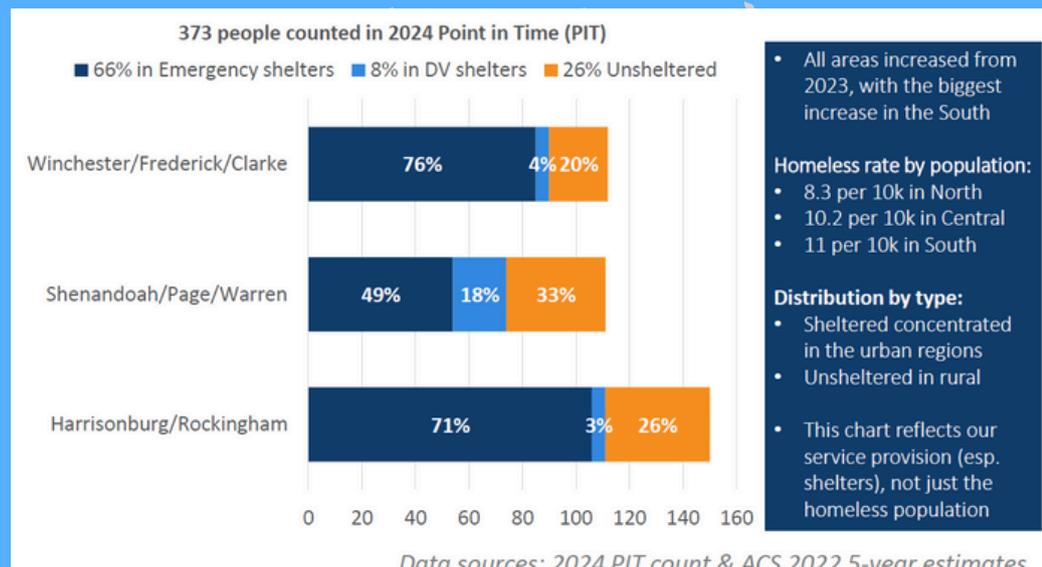
## JANUARY

### HOMELESSNESS:

HUDs Definition of Homelessness differs from the general population. HUD considers someone to be experiencing homelessness if one of the following statements is true:

- (1) Living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels/motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); or
- (2) Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, abandoned buildings, streets/sidewalks.

And every year to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night, a Point-In-Time (PIT) Count is conducted. The count is conducted by local agencies called Continuums of Care on behalf of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The information gathered during the PIT counts is the main source of data used by the federal government to track the number, demographics and needs of people experiencing homelessness throughout the country over time. Check out last years numbers below and stay tuned for data from this year's count in our coming newsletters. This years PIT count was on the night of January 22nd.



**Please note: These numbers do not represent a whole demographic of people who are not considered homeless per HUD definition. The Point-in-Time Count does not count those who are self-paying at hotels/motels or those living doubled up with family/friends.**

**Get Involved with PIT for next year:  
kheatwole@harrisonburgrha.com**

# Preliminary PIT Data:

The CoC has completed the first round of tallying and verification of the surveys completed on the night of January 22nd, 2025.

From our CoC Data Administrator:

**Update so far:** We counted 413 people who were experiencing homelessness across the Western Virginia CoC on the night of January 22nd. This is more than a 10% increase from the 373 people we counted last year, and a 40% increase from 5 years ago in 2020. Of those 413 people, 76 were in unsheltered situations.

Over the next few weeks, we will be entering all of the paper surveys, compiling the responses, and analyzing the data to provide more detailed information about the individuals behind these numbers.

A full report of these findings will be shared on **April 10th, 2025**, at the **Massanutten Regional Library in Harrisonburg, Virginia**, from **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. This meeting is open to the public, and people are also welcome to observe via Zoom:

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87269286067?pwd=V4v7WpnD0b1UowVPHMKARCyfJgjoyP.1>

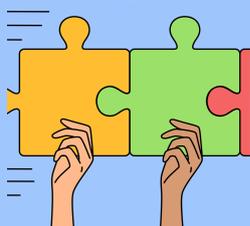
As Megan mentioned on the previous page, the data gathered during the Point-in-Time (PIT) count helps us make informed decisions and tailor our programs to meet the evolving needs of our community. For example, the Sibert's House Transitional Housing Program is directly impacted by this data. As we see increases in homelessness, particularly unsheltered individuals, we understand the importance of adapting and expanding our programs to provide a safe, supportive place for those working toward stability.

## Sibert's House Project



**Our SAS Team has met about improving operations at the Sibert House. We want to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in reaching our goals. As a team we will engage in regular team meetings to gather input and feedback to keep our site running smoothly.**

**The Pieces Are Coming Together!!**



Program Administered under  
"Housing Stability" by BJ Stout-Ritter



# Our February Calendar



**FEBRUARY 4TH: LEADSHARE MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 6TH: MONTHLY FAMILY PROMISE MEETING**

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

**FEBRUARY 11TH: PACA MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 12TH: BfZ MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 13TH: CoC GENERAL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 13TH: NON-PROFIT COUNCIL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 13TH: SAS BOARD MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 17TH: OFFICE CLOSED/PRESIDENT'S DAY**

**FEBRUARY 18TH: CoC MEDIA AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

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



## 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!

## Stay in Touch

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

**SHOP NOW!**



Follow us on Facebook  
for real-time updates.

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