WINTER 2019

COALITION NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR EMERGENCY HUMAN NEEDS IN FREDERICK COUNTY

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION
For Emergency Human Needs

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URGENT DAILY SUPPLY NEEDS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER

- ☐ INSTANT RAMEN SOUP IN A CUP
- ☐ SOCKS
- ☐ PLASTIC FORKS AND SPOONS
- ☐ TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS
- ☐ MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR
- ☐ SMALL LOTIONS AND SHAMPOOS
- ☐ SMALL DEODORANTS
- ☐ CHAPSTICKS AND COUGH DROPS
- ☐ ADULT GLOVES, HATS, SCARVES

Please search "Religious Coalition" on Amazon.com to find our complete list and donate online!

ALAN P. LINTON, JR. EMERGENCY SHELTER UPDATE

We started 2019 with snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures and have seen firsthand how weather can be a brutal reality for the homeless in our community. Many of the homeless in our community—who might otherwise be reluctant to seek refuge at our Alan P. Linton, Jr., Emergency Shelter—have come to us because of the extreme weather.

Our role in the community is to be the first place where someone can go when they find themselves homeless.

Many of the clients we serve at the Emergency Shelter don't stay more than a few days; a few are with us for a few weeks; a handful stay longer. We provide them with a warm bed, a shower, and a safe night of shelter. We do our best to keep these clients safe and protected until they can get on back on their feet. We will not turn anyone away.

This January we have averaged 90-100 homeless adults staying at the shelter each night. This equals 131 people receiving 2,323 safe nights of shelter. We are blessed with several partnerships with other agencies that are also able to provide shelter to our clients if we were to exceed our capacity.

EACH $10 you donate goes to providing one night of safe shelter for one homeless adult.

DONATE NOW AT WWW.RCEHN.ORG

FROM SHELTER RESIDENT » TO VOLUNTEER » TO STAFF MEMBER

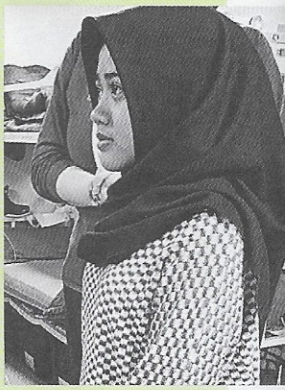
Sherry came to our Alan P. Linton, Jr., Emergency Shelter in December 2017 and is now her own apartment. She remembers vividly the day when she came to the shelter from the hospital after a series of medical procedures."My family couldn't help me," she said sadly. "I had never been in this position before. I was scared."

"Some people laughed at me when I started volunteering here while still a resident, but I lived here. Why wouldn't I want to help?"

Sherry started volunteering her time and energy while she was still a resident by folding towels and helping around the shelter. "It makes me happy to help others," Sherry says. "Some people laughed at me when I started volunteering here while still a resident, but I lived here. Why wouldn't I want to help?" After volunteering for a while, she was able to get a cleaning job at our shelter, and she feels she's an asset because she understands the needs and wants of the residents. She said she wants to help everyone that she can. "I know a lot of people who stay in the shelter, and I help them. I can't give them a place to live, but I can help them the best that I can"

WHAT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT LOOKS LIKE

VOLUNTEERING YOUR AWARENESS



Burqis came to the Frederick from Indonesia in August of 2018 as part of an international student exchange program. She was in the car with her host mother and noticed a man on the side of the road with a cardboard sign, asking for money. She was stunned because she didn't know that homelessness existed in the United States. "From what I saw in movies of America, things like this didn't happen here. I thought it was a land of plenty."

Burqis asked her host mother for more information about what poverty is like in this community. Her host mother contacted The Religious Coalition and Burqis was able to get a tour of our Alan P. Linton, Jr., Emergency Shelter. After walking through the shelter and talking to our shelter staff, she had a better understanding about the reality of poverty and homelessness in the United States. "I know it happens in my home country, but I didn't know it happened here," Burqis said. She said the experience will help her pursue her dreams of becoming an international ambassador so she can advocate for those in-need all over the world.

VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME

Janet has been volunteering once a week at The Religious Coalition Client Assistance Center for two years. After she retired, she started looking at the internet for local nonprofits that she could help. "Volunteering here is rewarding and humbling work," says Janet. "There are people in Frederick that really need help. They look just like you and me, they're just in a difficult situation, oftentimes compounded by lack of support or mental illness."

As to what brought her to this role—working directly with clients—Janet said that she prefers volunteering directly than to giving to a charity occasionally. But that may not be the case for everyone, she says, who want to volunteer. When asked what people should do if they want to volunteer but don't know where to start, she said, "You should know yourself in terms of personality. If you're a people-person, you may be more interested in being on the front lines. But there's a lot you can do, from filing to helping in the community garden! Ask organizations what help they need and they can match you with your interests and disposition."

MESSAGE FROM *the Executive Director*

Whether it's monetary donations, in-kind drives, support from your church, or simple advocacy via word-of-mouth, we are eager for community support!

WAS ONE OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

To help those less fortunate, those struggling, and those that you see on the streets? When many of us see problems in Frederick, we don't always know what to do. We want to help but we don't how, or even where to start. At the Religious Coalition, we know that the idea of volunteering and getting involved can seem daunting—many of us are busy and feel like we can't take on any more commitments. But we urge you, especially during this cold weather, to think about volunteering in broader terms. Volunteering doesn't have to involve your physical presence. It can simply be a discussion with your friends about who we are or a share about us on social media.

Curiosity and a desire to help are all that's needed to be a volunteer! But especially in the cold weather, we rely on you for help. Whether it's financial donations, in-kind drives, support from your faith community, or social media engagement, we are eager for your support!

Our mission is keeping people in their homes, keeping homeless families together, and providing medications and other emergency services takes support from the entire community. You can fulfill your resolution to do more. It's easier than you think!

Nick Brown, Executive Director

YES, I WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN MY COMMUNITY!

☐ $1,000 ☐ $500 ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ OTHER _____

PLEASE USE MY GIFT TOWARD A DESIGNATED PROGRAM.

(DESIGNATE PROGRAM HERE) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

SAVE TIME, SAVE RESOURCES.

MAKE YOUR DONATION ONLINE TODAY!

www.rcehn.org

STAY IN TOUCH!
PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION
For Emergency Human Needs

RETURN THIS FORM TO:
The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
27 Degrange Street | Frederick, MD 21701
301-631-2670 | ONLINE » www.rcehn.org

All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. All donations remain in Frederick County. We DO NOT sell or distribute e-mail addresses to anyone. N0219

Please join us for the 4th annual showing of

IT'S A Wonderful LIFE

Weinberg Center for the Arts
Saturday, December 7 • 3:00pm & 7:00pm

Continuing the community tradition with the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs.

Share with us the all-time classic inspirational movie as a reminder of community generosity.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING, THIS IS A **FREE** COMMUNITY EVENT

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE CONDUCTED

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION
For Emergency Human Needs

Dear Friend,

Frank Capra's It's A Wonderful Life is an iconic Christmas film about a community coming together to uphold one another's worth.

Frederick has the enchanting nature of Bedford Falls, the small town in the film. We are a tightly knit community that cares about its citizens, and views one another as worthy. We cherish and care about one another, which is why when

The Religious Coalition puts on a free viewing of It's A Wonderful Life every year at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, the response from our community is always resounding. The movie screening is so popular in the community that we host two sold out showings. The amount of love Frederick has for its citizens is widely on display during the December showings, so much so that we changed the date so that it coincides with First Saturday, and prepares everyone for the feel-good spirit of Christmas.

In the film, George Bailey's iconic and trustworthy bank, Bailey Brothers' Building and Loan, keeps the town afloat and its citizens supported.

We thank you for being a part of our community!

Join Our 2019 Sponsors

Woodsboro Bank

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Colonel Jim & Sarah Olson
Dr. & Mrs. P. Gregory Rausch
Dan & Lisa Schiffman

In Kind:

Valley Graphic Service, Inc.

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