





THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR EMERGENCY HUMAN NEEDS
REPORT to the COMMUNITY

www.rcehn.org



WE ARE BLESSED with such a giving community.

When there is a call for action for immediate needs, you provide generously and instantly. And we continue to make great strides in the services we provide, but we have to stress that we can't do it without your support and commitment."

Nick Brown **Executive Director** **OVER 1/3 OF FREDERICK COUNTY RESIDENTS LIVE ONE EMERGENCY AWAY FROM FINANCIAL DISASTER.**

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to provide you with our 2020 Report to the Community. There were many unique challenges that came with a pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.

Through the strange times we continue to face in 2021, I have rarely been prouder of this organization than I am right now. Our staff was quick to pivot in response to the ongoing health crisis. With support from local funders and Frederick County, we quickly housed many of Frederick County's adult homeless population in local hotels. Through a strong partnership with the Frederick County YMCA and Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp & Retreat Center we were able to house families in the Emergency Family Shelter.



The safety of our clients, staff, and volunteers is of the utmost importance and we were careful to follow CDC guidelines. It is important to note that while we had to change our current day to day operations because of the pandemic, we continued to provide our "normal" services. Government guidance on how to best protect vulnerable populations such as the homeless was slow to materialize. As a result, we developed our own protocols to minimize an outbreak of COVID, including temperature checks, mandatory face masks, and regular cleaning and disinfecting of the shelters.

The Religious Coalition's work became even more critical because of the unimaginable impacts of COVID-19. The historic unemployment meant an increased number of people at risk of losing their homes. In the Spring of 2020 the Frederick County Government asked us to be the fudiciary agent to disperse funds to those in urgent need of rental assistance support. Providing rental assistance has long been a service we've provided to our clients. As such, we were a logical fit to administer these dollars.

As an organization, COVID-19 gave us the unexpected opportunity to evaluate and strengthen our internal procedures. We identified many ways that we can be more efficient. We have implemented new processes that will help us maximize our resources.

It is important to acknowledge the incredible generosity of the Frederick community throughout a very challenging year. While Frederick has always been a giving community, you stepped up in an even greater way. When there was a call to action for immediate needs, you were there. Thank you for supporting the Coaltion, our staff, and most importantly the people we serve.

We hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,

Nick Brown

Executive Director

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION SENIOR STAFF

Nick Brown, Executive Director

Neil Donnelly, Director of Emergency Family Shelter

Catherine Dorsey, Director of Operations

Kavonté Duckett, Director of Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter

Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy

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WHO WE ARE:

In 1981, community leaders recognized that there were people suffering and asked local faith congregations to address homelessness in Frederick County. The most vulnerable in our community were not able to meet their own basic needs - shelter being the most critical. These congregations responded by forming the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs.

Over four decades, The Religious Coalition has continued to move our neighbors from crisis and despair to hope. We offer the County's only two emergency shelter programs, provide healthcare, dental, energy, and rental assistance to people and families in need, and work to prevent homelessness from becoming a reality.

our mission

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs seeks to prevent and alleviate the effects of poverty on the residents of Frederick County.

CONTACT INFORMATION

27 Degrange Street Frederick, MD 21701

Phone: 301.631.2670 Fax: 240.215.3019

Find out more: www.rcehn.org

Alan P. Linton, Jr., Emergency Shelter 27 Degrange Street Frederick, MD 21701

Phone: 301.631.2670 x112

Fax: 240.215.3019







[religious_coalition]

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

We are excited to announce that we have launched a NEW website! Our new site showcases the services we provide to move our neighbors from hopelessness and crisis to hope, through emergency shelter, housing, and healthcare assistance. There are many ways you can become a partner in our work as we tackle the impact of poverty in the Frederick community. Visit our website to see and learn more at www.rcehn.org.

THE ALAN P. LINTON, JR. EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter is an 88-bed facility that offers homeless adults a safe place to sleep, shower, and receive laundry assistance. Clients receive support from Case Managers.

When Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency it became clear the shelter would not provide the space to ensure social distancing. With funding support from the County and several foundations, the Coalition was able to shelter clients at local hotels. Volunteers stepped up to help deliver meals prepared by the Rescue Mission.

IN 2020, DURING THE PANDEMIC, THE COALITION SHELTERED

273 **INDIVIDUALS** WITH 27,101 BED NIGHTS

SINCE 2014 WE HAVE PROVIDED SHELTER TO MORE THAN

200 **FAMILIES**

61%

OF OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN 2020 WERE 18 OR YOUNGER



Last year, my fiancé was laid off work and you all helped us cover a few months of rent, which we are forever thankful for! It helped more than words could ever explain. At a time when there was so much unknown and fear, it was a blessing to be able to know someone was on our side. Thankfully, he found a new job shortly after being laid off and we were able to get back on track!"

Join our efforts to address homelessness and our work to keep people in safe and secure housing. Your investment will help provide shelter and the tools to achieve self-sufficiency to people in need.



There are many different ways you can make a gift to The Religious Coalition. To learn more about giving options, please contact Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy, at mkula@rcehn.org or call 301-631-2670, extension 117.

THE EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER

COVID-19 had many repercussions on our programs and the clients we serve. To keep everyone healthy and ensure social distancing, we were forced to shut down our rotating host sites and find another location to house the Emergency Family Shelter program. Thankfully, creative partnerships ensured we could keep our families sheltered. The Coalition was able to collaborate with the YMCA of Frederick County and Mar-Lu-Ridge. Through partnerships like this we have been able to ensure that clients have been able to access our services.

Thank you!

We appreciate the Congregations and Houses of Worship that have supported the Emergency Family Shelter through a very challenging year. Volunteers cooked and delivered warm meals, provided childcare, and hosted birthday celebrations for kids in the program.

All Saints Episcopal Beth Sholom Congregation Calvary United Methodist Church Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church **Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ** First Baptist Church Frederick Presbyterian Church

Good Shephard Lutheran Church Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church Peace in Christ Lutheran Church St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church St. Paul's Lutheran - Jefferson Third Day Community Church Trinity United Methodist Church Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick



Grace UCC

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Sheila has been volunteering with the Religious Coalition for more than 15 years, starting out as a volunteer with the Christmas Assistance Program. Sheila has been managing the program for the past five years.

The program connects families in need with church and individual sponsors to provide kids with gifts during the holiday season. Sheila gets satisfaction knowing that she can help parents provide for their kids during the holidays.

As a single mom, Sheila could not have provided for her son without the support of her family. She believes that anyone can end up being the person in need. Sheila understands the struggles that people go through and is proud that she can give back and help others.

We are grateful to Sheila for her hard work to ensure we meet the holiday wishes of the children in our programs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We can't fulfill our mission without our volunteers! We are grateful to our team of volunteers who give the gift of time. Whether you are available for just a day or are looking for a long-term volunteer opportunity, you can make a valuable contribution. We also often have opportunities for groups of volunteers.

Examples of opportunities include making and delivering meals to our shelters, assisting with client intakes (this involves determining eligibility for services), helping plant and harvest our Community Garden, or reading to the children in our Emergency Family Shelter program.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE.

We could not do what we do here at The **Coalition without** the compassionate service of volunteers.

ONE THIRD

of Alan P. Linton, Jr. **Emergency Shelter** residents are age 52 and older.



HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Many of us have a safety net when an emergency occurs, but often those in poverty do not. An illness, change in work hours, or loss of childcare can cause an ever-growing snowball of financial hardships.

We are here to respond to the immediate needs of those in crisis, but we are also here to prevent problems before they start. We provide financial support for energy, rent, and security deposits.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

Prescription assistance is available through our partnerships with local pharmacies to help cover the cost of life-sustaining medication.

The Religious Coalition provides emergency dental assistance for simple dental procedures, such as tooth extraction or fillings. Assistance may also be available for comprehensive procedures such as root canals, or dentures. Assistance is available to Frederick County residents.

GETTING AHEAD

The Getting Ahead program is an immersive 16-session workshop offering participants the opportunity to create their own individual plans to help them create a path toward self-sufficiency. The program helps people identify and recognize their own strengths and establish a strong support network of resources to help them achieve their personal goals. Each participant will complete a self-assessment and a vision board.

These workshops are provided in partnership with Steadfast and St. Vincent de Paul and the curriculum is taught by trained staff.

Thank you to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ for hosting this program.

BEYOND SHELTER CAMPAIGN

In December of 2019, The Religious Coalition purchased the 8,300 square foot White-Hayward Farmhouse to support families in Frederick County facing homelessness. The new Emergency Family Shelter will provide a temporary respite for up to 10 families as they work towards self-sufficiency and housing stability. The shelter will include family suites with personal bathrooms, laundry rooms, a large community kitchen and living area, counseling rooms, and a children's playroom.

The Beyond Shelter Campaign will allow us to renovate the house, to create a permanent family shelter, and expand our supportive services. Our fundraising goal is \$3.5 million.

During 2020 the following donors made leadership commitments to support this important initiative.

Delaplaine Foundation **Episcopal Churches of Frederick** Naomi and Paul Hemme Lou Ann and Lee Lushbaugh Sarah and Jim Olson Susan and P. Gregory Rausch Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ





To learn more about this initiative visit www.rcehn.org and follow our progress on Facebook.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Every summer, we collect financial commitments and in-kind donations to send our students in need off to school prepared for the new school year.

For the past eleven years, The Religious Coalition has partnered with the Frederick County Public School CASS (Community Agency School Services) Program, Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, and others to collect and distribute school supplies to Frederick City students.

This effort would not be possible without the leadership of Pastor Barbara Kershner Daniel, Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ. We are also grateful to the Bar Association for their longstanding support.

In 2020, gifts and donations from the community provided backpacks and supplies to approximately 2,100 students in the City of Frederick.

We continue to support our clients after they have established stable housing. Our After the Storm and Welcome Home programs provide additional assistance.

AFTER THE STORM

After the Storm is a one-year rehousing program to support people who are transitioning from the shelter programs to permanent housing. Clients who have secured a lease and permanent housing and have completed shelter program requirements receive continued case management support; ongoing budget coaching, possible security deposit assistance, rental, energy, and/or prescription assistance, family mentoring and training courses, and a car referral through Second Chance Garage.

WELCOME HOME

The Welcome Home program provides household amenities, like furniture and household goods, to those moving into housing that may not be able to afford these items themselves.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Everyone has been impacted by the pandemic. Unfortunately, those feeling the greatest impact are those already below or at risk of falling below the poverty line. The Coalition partnered with Frederick County Government and the City of Frederick to provide rental assistance for those impacted by COVID-19. With Funding from the CARES Act, The Religious Coalition provided rental assistance to 551 households in Frederick County in 2020.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Religious Coalition offices are in a food desert, one of six in the City of Frederick identified by the Frederick Food Security Network.

Food deserts directly impact those living in poverty. People in food deserts are more likely to suffer from higher rates of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and cancer.

The need for healthy and accessible produce is why we partnered with Hood College and Frederick Food Security Network to create a Community Garden. Our raised garden beds grow fresh vegetables and fruit year-round, right in our own backyard. In addition to the raised beds, we also have active beehives.

These crops are distributed to the low-income individuals and families we serve. During the year of 2020, the food harvested from the garden were given to the Rescue Mission Community Action Agency.

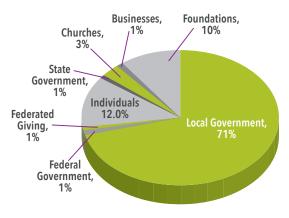


people received energy assistance

people received dental assistance



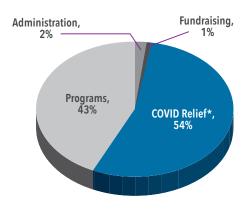
2020 REVENUE



Total Payanua		¢E 007 020 E4
Federal Government	1.0%	49,300.34
State Government	1.0%	50,000.00
Local Government	71.0%	3,611,115.76
Foundations	10.0%	487,480.37
Federated Giving	1.0%	40,643.38
Churches	3.0%	166,446.46
Business	1.0%	62,860.07
Individuals	12.0%	619,184.18

Total Revenue \$5,087,030.56

2020 EXPENSES



Total Expenses		\$4,425,832.01
COVID Relief*	54.0%	\$2,379,618.01
Programs	43.0%	\$1,910,082.82
Administration	2.0%	\$93,212.15
Fundraising	1.0%	\$42,919.03

\$2,376,207.00

*Rental Assistance

Note: This financial information is unaudited.

2020 DONORS

We are grateful for the generous support we receive from the Frederick community.

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Members of the Stewardship Circle are recognized for their generosity with gifts of \$5,000 and above during the year. Members include individuals, congregations, businesses, and organizations that have sup-

ported us throughout the year. All Saints' Episcopal Church Julane and Art Anderson Beth Sholom Congregation Chad Bieber The Blackbaud Giving Fund William Browning and Louise Webb Buckingham Choice/Acts Retirement Life Communities Christ Reformed United Church of Christ Anna and Frank Damazo George Delaplaine Evangelical Lutheran Church Evangelical Reformed United Church First Energy Frederick Christian Fellowship Frederick Church of the Brethren Frederick Presbyterian Church Christine and Jack Gilbert Naomi and Paul Hemme Simeon Hill Jack Leishea Christine Limparis Lou Ann and Lee Lushbaugh Middletown United Methodist Church Proximo - Golf Tournament Susan and P. Gregory Rausch St. Peter's Catholic Church Karen and David Thomassen Kirsten and Michael Vieira Karl Berger and Maribeth Visco Christine and Daniel Waldo James Wilken Krista and Mark Zodet

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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"I am really thankful for the Religious Coalition. I'm without a home and in need of emergency funds for a home for me and my daughter. It's places and agencies like these that give single mothers like me extra help. My job helps me put food on the table and clothes on my child's back, but when it comes to securing a home, it can get a little rough. I appreciate the help the Coalition provides to me and other single mothers."

AS ALWAYS, OLR GOAL

REMAINS TO RESPOND TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THOSE IN CRISIS, BUT ALSO TO PREVENT PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY START.