

COALITION NEWS

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



IN THIS ISSUE >>

- MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ■
- FAMILY SHELTER UPDATE ■
- THE COMPASS ROSE SOCIETY ■
- CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY TRADITION ■

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2.5 years after our world changed with the pandemic, we'd still be dealing with the effects and fallout of COVID-19. The fight to keep the residents of Frederick County housed has never been more difficult. We continue to face obstacles and challenges that cause housing instability. Housing prices have skyrocketed, and housing inventory is scarce. It has become a perfect storm of marginalization, lack of opportunity, and a lack of resources.

The question begs, *what do you want your Frederick to become?* I recently had a conversation with a man who's disabled father rented an apartment for 15 years. He had never been late with rent and had never caused his landlord any cause for concern. Yet, for no stated reason, he was forced to leave because his lease would not be renewed. And why? Supply and demand have allowed landlords to increase rent to unobtainable levels.

We see the subtle (and not so subtle) jettisoning of those in need daily. Coalition case managers feel the stress and pressure to come up with the least, worst solutions in an ever-changing fight for clients. *Again: What do you want your Frederick to become?*

Despite the odds and obstacles, our dedicated staff continue the fight each day to help those we serve retain or regain housing.

The last 2.5 years have seen the Coalition take on the influx of federal funding to address and prevent a housing emergency locally through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The strain has been immense, though we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to

provide this critical service. Those federal funds, however, will soon be exhausted and this comes at an unfortunate time when the need has more stamina than ever before.

We need your help!

We need advocates and supporters. We need empathy and compassion toward an often-stigmatized population. We need to encourage property owners and landlords in your tribes to work with housing programs. We need this generous community to continue its unflinching support of the Coalition, giving us the opportunity to build new and innovative programming, staffed with more minds and more hands to make the lift out of homelessness and into self-sufficiency.

With that support, we continue our critical role in stabilizing the lives of those without homes. We continue to rally against the obstacles to housing. We continue to make sure that those who want to remain housed in Frederick can do so. *This is what we want our Frederick to become.*

As the end of the year draws to a close, I hope you will consider a gift to The Coalition. Please visit www.rcehn.org to make your gift before December 31.

Regards,

Nick Brown, Executive Director

P.S. - Join our efforts to address homelessness and poverty in our community. Your investment will help provide shelter and the tools to achieve self-sufficiency to people in need. **Make your gift today at www.rcehn.org**

THE HOUSING CRISIS BY THE NUMBERS



- The minimum wage is **\$12.50**/hour.
- An estimated **7.0%** of Frederick County's residents live below the poverty line, which for a family of four, is an annual household income of **\$27,750** or less.
- Monthly housing costs for a family of four in Frederick is averaging **\$2,000** per month and rising.
- The median cost of a home is above **\$400,000**
- **14%** of Marylanders are behind on their rent, **78%** of whom represent low-income households

THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We work to prevent homelessness through our Emergency Rental Assistance Program. We continue to provide Emergency Rental Assistance to people behind in their rent.

Visit our website to learn more about eligibility and the application process.

FAMILY SHELTER: AN UPDATE



Can you imagine never having your own bed to sleep in until you are 8 years old? We recently admitted a family to our new Emergency Family Shelter whose 8-year-old son was excited when he learned he would have a mattress to sleep on for the very first time.

We are incredibly grateful to the Frederick Community for stepping up to make this program a reality. Your generosity has given this young boy a safe place to lay his head.

Since opening in April, the New Family Emergency Shelter has served 28 adults and 35 children. Twenty-four families have entered the program, and has frequently been at capacity.

ANNOUNCING THE COMPASS ROSE SOCIETY

While renovating the farmhouse that would become the home of the new Emergency Family Shelter, construction crews discovered a compass rose inlaid in marble in front of the original entry. A symbol of navigation, the compass rose always points North. The Coalition is also pointing our clients North - giving our clients the tools and support to put them on the path to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Donors giving \$1,000 and above will be recognized as Compass Rose Members, receiving special access and updates. Help us navigate our clients North. Become a founding member today.



MAKE YOUR GIFT Today!

Join our efforts to address homelessness and poverty in our community. Your investment will help provide shelter and the tools to achieve self-sufficiency to people in need.

Visit our website at www.rcehn.org/give to make a gift or to find out how you can make a philanthropic investment.



CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Help us with a gift of Christmas to our clients in need. We are seeking Target and Wal-Mart gift cards to make the holiday season special for the people we serve.

We are also looking for sponsors to provide gifts to our families.

To donate gift cards, please contact Colleen Baldree at cbaldree@rcehn.org or call 301-631-2670 x 103. We are asking for gift cards by November 30 to ensure gift cards are distributed in time for holidays.

You can find more information about program eligibility and application process on our website.

COME CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY TRADITION JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S SHOWING OF IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!

Featuring a performance by the Frederick Catoctones!

DATE: Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 3:00pm

LOCATION: Weinberg Center for the Arts

\$5/person, Free for children 12 and Under.

Visit weinbergcenter.org to purchase your tickets.

Thank you to Woodsboro Bank for their lead sponsorship!



Sponsorships are available!
Contact Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy



YES, I WANT TO HELP MEET THE URGENT NEEDS ONE PERSON AT A TIME WITH A GIFT OF \$_____.

PLEASE USE MY GIFT >>

- WHERE NEED IS GREATEST ALAN P. LINTON, JR. EMERGENCY SHELTER
 EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Check Enclosed (please make payable to The Religious Coalition)

Please charge \$_____ to Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Please charge my credit card monthly on the 1st of each month 15th of each month I am interested in talking to staff about planned giving opportunities.

– OR – MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY AT WWW.RCEHN.ORG



RETURN THIS FORM TO:

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
27 Degrange Street | Frederick, MD 21701

301-631-2670 | ONLINE » www.rcehn.org

27 DeGrange Street
Frederick, MD 21701



Thank you for the help we so desperately needed. It is help like this that makes it possible to keep a roof over the heads of so many families."

– Client that received Emergency Rental Assistance support.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY
AT WWW.RCEHN.ORG**

NEED HELP?

Scan the QR code or visit our website at www.rcehn.org for more information, eligibility details, and intake forms.



The most rewarding part of my job is meeting someone who has hit the bottom, who has tried so many different avenues, who has been rejected, who is dejected. Then the Coalition provides them a service that helps turn it all around. Even better is following up with them and hearing that they are still housed or that they got a new job, or that their confidence has been restored."

– Catherine Dorsey,
Director of Operations



EMERGENCY SHELTER | HOMELESS PREVENTION | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

STAY IN TOUCH

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION
27 DeGrange Street | Frederick, MD 21701
www.rcehn.org

**IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE,
PLEASE CALL 301-631-2670**

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

MANAGEMENT STAFF:
Nick Brown, Executive Director
Catherine Dorsey, Director of Operations
Kavonte Duckett, Director of Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter
Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy
Melanie Williams, Director of Emergency Family Shelter



The Religious Coalition is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. A copy of The Religious Coalition's current financial statement is available by writing 27 DeGrange Street, Frederick, MD, 21701, or by calling 301-631-2670. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.