

COALITION NEWS

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



THE RELIGIOUS
COALITION

For Emergency Human Needs

IN THIS ISSUE



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ■

BACKPACKS FOR BRIGHT FUTURES ■

POVERTY IN MARYLAND ■

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ■

LET'S KEEP OUR SENIORS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

I am growing more concerned by the day about what next year will look like in Frederick. Emergency housing resources face a cliff with the unfortunate reality that there is no calvary coming. I hear daily stories about rents being raised, about the lack of rental inventory, about unsavory landlord behavior and I don't see it improving. We've developed programming designed to try to address some of the problems, but the reality is that we'll always be working against the grain.

Frederick is facing a growing number of impoverished people. Our senior citizens stand to be the most impacted. We've seen a dramatic increase in the number of seniors seeking support from our programs – including emergency shelter.

This might be surprising. I think it is heartbreaking.

Scenarios we've heard all too often: A senior citizen, living in a long-time rental, a decade or more into a lease then the rent is raised, or a landlord refuses to renew a lease. A senior citizen on a fixed income, with no way to make more income, and no other affordable housing options available.

What does this person do? How does someone who did everything right suddenly find themselves without a home? We hear agonizing stories every day just like this, and the troubling part is that next year, we might not have the ability to fight back in these situations.

Some will get priced out of the area, some will wind up on the street. Many leaving the county in search of cheaper rent and adequate inventory will find similar circumstances in counties all around us. Once an affordable alternative to Frederick, Washington County is also facing a housing crisis. Do we as a community, want to see our elders get economically jettisoned out of the area, and is this the Frederick you want?

As a Frederick native this is NOT what I want for my Frederick, but how do we address this?

The Coalition's team will continue to provide the support and assistance our clients need, but a large part of the answer resides in you. Our entire community is responsible for responding to ensure that our parents and grandparents remain in their homes. We need YOU to keep us in the fight and address the humanitarian crisis at our doorstep.

You can help prevent senior citizens from becoming homeless. Your gift today will ensure that we can continue our programming and provide financial assistance to our clients.

Nick Brown, Executive Director

P.S. – Help us keep our elders home for the holidays. **Make a gift today** to ensure that our senior citizens are housed and sheltered.

BACKPACKS FOR BRIGHT FUTURES



EVERY STUDENT deserves to begin their academic year with all the necessary tools to succeed, including a backpack filled with essential supplies. This year, the Coalition raised funds to purchase backpacks for Frederick County Public Schools and organized the Frederick City School Supply Distribution Day in August. A record-breaking 2,230 backpacks were distributed.

This year's Distribution Day would not have been possible without the Coalition donors and volunteers. Special thanks to Amy Benton, the City of Frederick, Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, and the Church of Later-Day Saints for making this day a success.

>> ORGANIZE A HOLIDAY DRIVE

Consider organizing a drive this holiday season to support our shelters, which go through a significant number of items each month.

- 1,500 travel size toiletries (shampoo/conditioner/body wash)
- 2,400 snacks and waters
- 40 rolls of paper towels
- 100 rolls of toilet paper
- 10 boxes of trash bags
- 10 gallons of multipurpose cleaner
- 20 bottles of laundry detergent

For more information, contact Colleen Baldree at 301-631-2670, extension 103, or email Colleen at cbaldree@rcehn.org.

>> WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Justin Coen, Rabbi Jordan Hersh, and Helen Golibart joined the Coalition's Board of Directors this year.

"Justin, Jordan and Helen each bring enthusiasm and passion to our mission. Their experience and expertise are invaluable. We look forward to their contributions to the board."

— Ray Barnes, Board President

POVERTY IN MARYLAND DEFINED BY THE NUMBERS:

In 2021 the U.S. Government defined the poverty threshold as: **\$12,880** for 1 person, **\$26,500** for a family of 4.

10% of households in Maryland were living below the Federal Poverty Threshold in 2021.

\$85,692: The estimated cost of living for a family of 4 in Maryland in 2021.

28% of households in Maryland were living above the Federal Poverty Threshold but were unable to afford basic needs (housing, childcare, groceries, transportation, technology, and healthcare). These are referred to as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) individuals and households.

62% of households in Maryland live above the ALICE threshold.

Source: "Unitedforalice.org and United Ways of Maryland. (2023). Alice in the Crosscurrents: Covid and Financial Hardship in Maryland 2023 Report.

WHY THESE NUMBERS MATTER:

38% of households in Maryland are either living in poverty or just one financial emergency away from falling into it. The situation can become catastrophic due to the loss of a job, a health crisis, or an increase in rent.

HOW THE COALITION IS HELPING:

The Coalition is here to ensure that individuals and families facing financial hardships remain housed or can return to stable housing and self-sufficiency. Our services include:

- » Financial Assistance for Security Deposits
- » Emergency Financial Assistance for utilities and rental assistance
- » Emergency Shelter
- » Case Management Support provided by our compassionate and professional staff
- » Emergency Financial support for prescriptions and dental assistance

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

- » **A GIFT OF \$1,000** will help the Alan P. Linton, Jr. Shelter provide a safe place to sleep for one night.
- » **A GIFT OF \$750** will pay for one month of utilities at the Emergency Family Shelter.
- » **A GIFT OF \$500** will make housing a reality by providing a client with a security deposit.
- » **A GIFT OF \$250** will keep a family's lights on with emergency utility assistance.
- » **A GIFT OF \$100** provides a client with financial assistance for a lifesaving 3-month prescription, such as insulin.



Your gift allows our dedicated staff to provide comprehensive services to lift people in Frederick County out of poverty and homelessness.

Consider making your year-end gift through a tax-free distribution from your IRA or your donor-advised fund. Call Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy, at 301-631-2670, extension 117 for more information.

THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

was established in 2006 to support programs that enable and empower women in challenging situations to improve the quality of their lives. The Coalition has been fortunate to receive grant funding to support women residing in the Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter, and women and families residing in the Emergency Family Shelter. We are grateful to the Women's Giving Circle for their loyal and generous support since 2007.

"The Giving Circle chooses to support the Religious Coalition for the tremendous impact it has on the families and individuals in our community, helping them get back on their feet. It's a well-run organization, empowering lives."

~ Mimi Galanis, Chair, Grants Committee

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



MAX PELTZ was looking for a volunteer opportunity when he learned about us. Max says while he had initially enjoyed his retirement, he found he needed something fulfilling to do. Max's first task was to restore order to our storage area. Filled with essentials, the storage area is critical to our daily operations. Max used his organizational skills, creating a well-labeled system so items could be easily stored and then pulled when needed. Max helps us accept valuable in-kind donations as they come in and helps us track items that we need to replenish.

We appreciate Max's contributions, which have greatly impacted our organization. Although he doesn't work directly with our staff, the work he does enables us to better serve our clients.

☐ **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](http://WWW.RCEHN.ORG)



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NEED HELP?

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



“We connect clients to resources they are not aware of and emotional support during a time of crisis. Our interactions with clients are tailored to each person's needs. We have to avoid preconceived notions about what a client is capable of doing. We want our clients to succeed.”

— Claire Donnelly, Shelter Manager,
Emergency Family Shelter



EMERGENCY SHELTER | HOMELESS PREVENTION | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

STAY IN TOUCH

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION

27 Degrang 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
Daphne Rothstein, Director of Finance
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 Degrang 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.