

SPRING 2023

BEYOND SHELTER

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

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



We can't say enough to thank you for stepping up and showing up for the families that need us."

– Nick Brown, Executive Director

EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER

In April 2022, with the help of the Frederick community, we successfully opened a new Emergency Family Shelter. Together, with the support of the Frederick community, we reached the \$3.5 million goal that funded the renovation and construction of the White-Hayward Farmhouse. The Campaign also supported start-up costs, and the establishment of an endowment fund to provide for the program in perpetuity.

Now, the farmhouse provides temporary housing and supportive services for up to ten families at a time, offering private suites with personal bathrooms, a community kitchen, a living and dining area, counseling rooms, a children's playroom, and laundry rooms. In addition to providing safe and secure housing, compassionate staff provide integrated case management and support to assist families in achieving their goals of securing permanent housing and a road map out of poverty.



DEAR FRIENDS,

I am often asked how things are going at the new Emergency Family Shelter, and I'm aware of the irony in my response. The truth is that things are going really well. That may sound strange, but the reality is that the new shelter is doing exactly what we wanted it to do for our clients. We've been able to serve more families, provide a more stable environment for the children, provide more comprehensive case management services, and have been able to connect our families with mental health services.

The incredible generosity of our community has made this happen. *We can't say enough to thank you for stepping up and showing up for the families that need us.*

As we celebrate our one-year anniversary, we want to share how your generosity has made a difference and impact.



TAKE A TOUR!
To see a video tour of the new Emergency Family Shelter - [click here!](#)


Nick Brown, Executive Director

YOUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS*

*Numbers reflect 04/11/2022 - 03/01/2023

Number of Families Served:

45

Number of Children Under 18:

78

Average Age of Children:

5-12

Average Family Size:

3

Average number of people in the house on a given night:

30

MORE THAN JUST A HOUSE



"It is powerful for our families to have their own sacred space. Their own rooms, their own beds, their privacy, and the ability to spend time together. Our families are also taking advantage of the large kitchen - cooking and eating meals as a family. Our previous program didn't allow for families to enjoy what the rest of us take for granted. This new house does."

— Melanie Williams, Director of the Emergency Family Shelter



THE COALITION'S NEW EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Leadership Donors (with commitments of \$10,000 or more)

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PERSEVERING DESPITE REJECTION

While the Emergency Family Shelter expanded its ability to provide housing solutions when it opened the renovated Hayward house in 2022, the level of need for affordable housing in Frederick is beyond what any one agency can meet. One family which found itself on the shelter waitlist worked with the Religious Coalition in inventive ways to meet their needs. A mom of two was evicted from her apartment in the summer of 2022 after experiencing a series of setbacks: the death of a loved one, mental health issues, and loss of a job. Although there was not space at the shelter for this family at the time, staff provided case management support over the phone while they stayed in a hotel room, making the best of a difficult situation. Mom worked tirelessly to find an apartment, never giving up after receiving rejection after rejection due to her lower credit score and history with eviction. The Religious Coalition was able to support the family with a year's worth of subsidized rent so that the family could move out of the hotel into an apartment. Now mom is taking on more hours at work, saving up money, and steadily moving towards taking on the full amount of rent by the end of this year.

OVERCOMING WITH RESILIENCE AND RESOURCEFULNESS

One family, a mother and her two young daughters, arrived at our shelter with little more than just the clothes on their backs. After experiencing domestic violence out-of-state, they moved to the shelter when they ran out of short-term options. You might be surprised when considering their difficult circumstances how resilient, resourceful, and even generous many of our client families are. While the family's 5-year-old daughter was reserved when she first came to the shelter, she gradually opened up and became best friends with one of the other children that was staying there at the time. They shared their favorite toy kitchen gracefully, even making "coffee" for staff. Meanwhile, mom was hard at work taking on two jobs and qualified for an apartment within a month. Our programs were able to assist with the payment of the first month's rent and security deposit, and now the family has a kitchen of their own.

To learn more about giving opportunities to support ongoing programming at the new Emergency Family Shelter, visit our website or contact Meg Kula, Director of Philanthropy at 301-631-2670 ext. 117 or mkula@rcehn.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Delaplaine Foundation, Frederick County, and City of Frederick for supporting this project.



FROM DESPERATION TO STABILITY

One family arrived at our door after fleeing from a desperate political situation in West Africa. Mom struggled with unidentified and debilitating health issues for months without medical care. Dad was having a hard time adjusting to a life without employment after spending his whole life working a white-collar job. Our staff went straight to work collaborating with the incredible Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland, who assisted them with the family's asylum-seeking process. We also helped to enroll their young daughter in Head Start pre-kindergarten where she gets to play and learn with children her age. Mom is now connected to free resources for medical care, and she was able to receive a major surgery that she had needed for many months. Dad found work in a local restaurant, where he is thriving. The former shelter director even donated his bike to dad so that he could get to work quicker. At the end of last year, we were thrilled to learn that Advocates for Homeless Families lined up a place for this motivated, inspirational family. They now have a year-long lease at a place they can call their own as they work on taking their next step towards long-term stability.

THE BEYOND SHELTER CAMPAIGN

is the Coalition's largest fundraising effort in our history. The Beyond Shelter Campaign would not have been a success without the leadership of the Campaign Committee.

Pastor Barbara Kershner Daniel, Co-Chair

P. Gregory Rausch, MD, FACP, Co-Chair

Shelley Aloï

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“Thanks to your organization I have been able to secure a job offer at a company locally in Frederick. I am so grateful for everything your organization has done for me and my family... The Religious Coalition has truly been a blessing for us during this difficult time.”

– A Coalition Client

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

WHO WE ARE

In 1981, our community leaders recognized the need to help people who were suffering and asked local faith congregations to address homelessness in Frederick County. These congregations responded by forming The Religious Coalition. More than four decades later, The Religious Coalition continues to be the go-to resource for Frederick County residents facing homelessness and poverty.

DONATIONS NEEDED

As you can imagine our families go through a significant volume of household items, and we are always grateful for in-kind donations. The most frequently needed items are:

- Multipurpose cleaners (Mr. Clean, Fabuloso, Lysol Spray)
- Paper products (Toilet paper, Paper towels)
- Zip Lock bags (gallon & Sandwich)
- Trash bags (33 gallon and 4 gallon)
- Pull-ups (5T/6T)

If you have questions about in-kind donations, please contact Colleen Baldree at 301-631-2670 ext. 103 or cbaldree@rcehn.org.

***Please note that donations cannot be accepted at the Emergency Family Shelter and should be dropped off at our main campus at 27 Degrange St.*

EMERGENCY SHELTER | HOMELESS PREVENTION | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR EMERGENCY HUMAN NEEDS

SENIOR STAFF

Nick Brown, Executive Director
Catherine Dorsey, Director of Operations
Kavonté 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 301.631.2670 | FAX: 240.215.3019
27 Degrange Street | Frederick, MD 21701

Find out more at www.rcehn.org

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

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.

