



*The*  
**Advocate Current**

APRIL | MAY 2015

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. | 216 Abrecht Place | Frederick, MD 21701 | 301-662-2003 | [www.afhf88.org](http://www.afhf88.org)

*Serving Frederick County for 27 Years*

## SAVE *The* DATE

CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH OPS

# JUNE 8, 2015

Please join us from 6:00-9:30pm, at The Lodge Restaurant, 5100 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD 21704 to help us raise money for Advocates and celebrate our partnership with Other People's Stuff (or, OPS). A \$5.00 donation at the door will be appreciated, but is not mandatory.



The celebration will feature:

- A silent auction of affordable vintage estate jewelry, including earrings, necklaces, pins, and a few decorative items. A few of the items are pictured below.
- 50/50 raffle
- Free raffle drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to Dutch's Daughter Restaurant
- Free boneless chicken wings with every \$5.00 donation
- \$2 draft beers and guest bartenders
- 10% of all the night's proceeds will benefit Advocates

So, bring your family and friends and plan on ordering dinner at the Lodge, which offers organic and all natural food at affordable prices. You can see their menu at <http://lodgerestaurant.net/>.

Why are we celebrating? In large part to thank and recognize Laurie Zook and Steve Berryman, proprietors of OPS. Passionate supporters of Advocates for Homeless Families, Laurie and Steve donate a percentage of the proceeds of every sale to support the homeless families in our programs. In return, our all volunteer Board of Directors help to staff the sales, talk to folks about our mission, and greet customers as they walk through the door.



For more information about the event and OPS, call Advocates' Executive Director Ken Allread at 301-662-2003 and see <https://m.facebook.com/EstateMax> respectively.

*Board members Doug Stone and Darlene Aulls with Laurie Zook and Steve Berryman outside the OPS showroom.*

## ANTHONY OWENS:

### Enriching Frederick County

We are so grateful for the efforts of Anthony Owens and his work crew, who are remodeling the basement wash room in a 110-year old house. The house, converted into two flats in the 1950s, houses two homeless families with children each year. We provide washers and dryers to all the families in our housing program, but this washroom in particular has needed serious work to bring the basement up to code.

Anthony, his son, and co-workers have donated their time, talent, and materials to make the area bright, clean, and safe. Anthony believes in giving back to the community in which he lives and works, and is passing his work values on to his son and work crew. Anthony also donates his remodeling and building repairs work to the Boys and Girls Club, the Frederick Community Action Agency, and Heartly House. Frederick is fortunate to have Anthony in the community!



△ Anthony Owens and work crew with Case Manager Connelly Stewart and Executive Director Ken Allread

## The 2015

# State of Homelessness

Each year, the Frederick Community Action Agency spearheads the annual count of homeless persons in Frederick County in compliance with requirements of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The most recent Point-in-Time Survey for both sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons as conducted on January 28, 2015. All emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and motel placement providers were included in the survey. Highlights from the survey include the following:

### HOMELESS COUNT BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	2015	2014	2013	% CHANGE 2013-2015
Total Number Counted	311	246	275	13.0
Total No of Single Individuals	181	141	171	5.8
Total No of Families	37	36	38	-2.6
Total of Persons in Families	130	105	104	25.0
Total Adults in Families	43	41	39	10.3
Total Children in Families	87	64	65	33.8

The overall percentage increase is attributable in part to the Family Emergency Shelter, established by the Religious Coalition in 2014, which rotates between various church facilities, but serves as a more cost-effective alternative to motel placements. In addition, the Religious Coalition expanded the Linton Emergency Shelter for adults from a winter-only shelter to a 12-month shelter that is now open-year round. The Frederick Community Action Agency expanded its Housing First Program to a total of 25 beds in 21 units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless with mental and physical disabilities. It is important to keep in mind that the Point-in Time Survey is a “one-day snapshot” of homelessness and may not be reflective of all trends within Frederick County throughout the year.

# Expanding Advocates' Urban Gardens Project



This past March, 15 homeless families in our housing program met with Frederick County master gardeners to plan their vegetable, herb, and flower gardens for this spring and summer. Our partnership with the master gardeners and our urban gardens project started two years ago

with 8 families and grew to 11 families in 2014. This year, the urban gardens project will encompass all 15 of our scattered-site, single-unit properties. Each family has their own garden (containers, raised beds, pots, and trellises) to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers native to the area.

A typical garden may include blueberry bushes, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, onions, kale, lettuce, watermelons and cantaloupes, thyme, sage, parsley, mint, and dill. Every family has a master gardener mentor who provides weekly guidance and instruction on the proper planting, maintenance, and harvesting of the produce. The gardens serve as a great focal point as family projects, and children are engaged throughout the growing and harvesting season. For some, the lessons learned about growing their own produce for healthier diets and stretching food budgets are lessons that will last a lifetime.

Our urban gardens project is funded in large part by the Community Foundation's Don Doughty and Linda Moran fund for which we are so grateful.

## OUR THANKS TO... The Community Foundation of Frederick County!

We wish to thank the trustees and staff of The Community Foundation of Frederick County for their continued support and investment in our programs. Listed below are grant awards we have been so fortunate to receive this past year.

**STRATEGIC FUNDING FOR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS**, in support of our transitional housing program.

**MARK AND SUSAN BUTT SATURDAY MORNINGS FUND**, to assist with case manager salaries.

**DAN CROZIER MUSIC TRUST FUND**, to assist with the purchase of musical instruments for homeless children.

**THE CLYDE AND OLGA RONEY FUND**, to assist with our operational expenses.

**THE LAUGHLIN FAMILY FUND**, to assist with maintenance and utilities expense for our 15 scattered site properties housing homeless families.

**FREDERICK KEYS CARE GRANT**, to assist with expenses for homeless youth activities.

**U. MEHRL, MARGARET T., AND SHARON HOOPER FUND**, to assist with after-school activities for homeless children.

Even a quick review of the grant funds awarded to Advocates reflects the broad-based focus of the trustees into the health and welfare of the most needy within our community.

*Advocates for Homeless Families is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*



Advocates is a charter member of the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless

# WISH LIST ITEMS

The homeless and at-risk families in our programs typically have monthly incomes of \$800 or less and are always in need of the following items:

- Liquid laundry detergent
- Body Wash
- Women's deodorant
- Men's deodorant
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Dish detergent
- All purpose cleaners

Donations can be dropped off at our office between 9:30am and 4:00pm.

We ask that you call first, so we can make sure a staff member is available to receive the goods.

## STATISTICS: JANUARY - MARCH 2015

- 4,500** sheltered bed nights provided
- 50** adults and children housed
- 12** adults in vocational training programs
- 11** adults working full- or part-time
- 45** monthly housing inquiries and applications
- 101** families on our waiting list

## HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES

- 37** Adults and children served
- 13** Women working full- or part-time
- 6** Women enrolled in vocational certification classes

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEREDITH MCADAM | *President*  
DARLENE AULLS | *Immediate Past President*  
MELISSA MATEA | *Vice-President*  
LINDA CHRISLER | *Treasurer*  
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## ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANDREW DIPASQUALE

## STAFF

KEN ALLREAD | *Executive Director*  
CONNELLY STEWART | *Family Advocate*  
CHARLOTTE STRINE | *Family Advocate*  
ALLISON CALHOUN | *Accountant*  
DAN HERBERT | *Property Manager*  
KAREN GEOFFREY | *Administrative Assistant*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates achieves permanent solutions to homelessness by providing access to housing, education, and supportive services to Frederick County families motivated to overcome their circumstances. Families achieve success through a two-year structured program of education, job-training, housing, and intensive case management services. We maintain 15 single-unit, scattered-site properties to house one- and two-parent families with custody of one or more children in our Transitional Housing Program. We also provide limited financial assistance for rent and utilities to families at risk of homelessness in our Families Forward Program.

## Follow Us On Facebook!

Please take a moment to look us up on Facebook to learn more about the work we accomplish with the families we support, our community partners, and upcoming events. See Advocates for Homeless Families Frederick MD from your Facebook page and friend us.