



Advocates for Homeless Families
2012 Annual Report

SERVING FREDERICK COUNTY FOR 25 YEARS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



This year's annual report focuses on our philosophy that we at Advocates provide a hand-up and not a hand-out. We have transitioned from a housing shelter program with ongoing counseling for our homeless and at-risk participants to evidenced-based case management. Under this modality, our participants must meet strategic milestones and goals toward financial independence to remain in our two-year program. Simply stated, participants have to go to school and get a degree or vocational certification that will enhance their employment options. We are a program first and a housing shelter provider second.

I have to salute my dedicated staff for their tireless efforts to assist the families in our care. Like any business, it is important to have the right people in the right jobs to achieve success. They are properly credentialed and have a passionate belief in the human capacity to endure, survive and thrive! They work in close cooperation with other area non-profits and government agencies to ensure a coordinated delivery of services to the homeless, marginalized, and low-income citizens that we serve. I am also very proud to report that we operate the most cost-effective housing program in Frederick County. Our 2012 audit shows that \$0.90 of every \$1.00 donated goes directly into programs.

On April 29, 2013 Advocates celebrated its 25th anniversary. What an achievement! During the past 25 years, we have provided housing and supportive services to more than 2,000 homeless adults and children. I thank all of our supporters and our community partners for our collaborative efforts to help those who need us.

Sincerely,

Ken Allread

Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darelene Aulls, *President*
Meredith McAdam, *Vice President*
Robin Underwood, *Secretary*
Linda Chrisler, *Treasurer*

Sandra Kay Rice
Melissa Phillips
Ted Luck
Dan Lajewski
Kendyl Lovelace
Art Silverman

STAFF

Ken Allread, *Executive Director*
Connelly Stewart, *Case Manager*
Julie Muenzfeld, *Case Manager*
Allison Calhoun, *Accountant*
Dan Herbert, *Property Manager*
Karen Geoffrey, *Administrative Assistant*

OUR PHILOSOPHY AT WORK

Our mission is to empower motivated families to overcome or to avoid homelessness. Families achieve success through a structured two-year program of education, housing and support services.



7 homeless mothers and their children transitioned to permanent, stable housing in 2012!

STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS



Every day we strive to help our participating families overcome barriers to success and break the cycle of poverty. We have two signature programs available to one- and two-parent families who either are currently homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

We maintain 14 scattered-site, single-unit properties to house the families in our program. Participants must pay a monthly housing fee, based on 30 percent of income up to a maximum of \$300 per month. All utilities are paid by Advocates. The average annual cost of maintaining each property is \$5,500.00.

FAMILIES FORWARD

This program focuses on financial and family stability for those families who reside independently but require supportive services to avoid homelessness. For this segment of the population, we assist with family emergency financial needs for security deposits/first month's rent, current or back rent, and utilities to keep families housed.

Within 6 months acceptance into either program, adults must be enrolled in a vocational certification program or academic degree program to enhance their employment options. Advocates assists with childcare expenses for families that are going to school and working full- or part-time.

GOOD GRADES PROGRAM



**Zoe Carson
Homeless Coordinator
FCPS**

In 2012, 103 children attended school while in our care.

Advocates works closely with Frederick County Public Schools to ensure that each school-age child in our programs receives the education to which she or he is entitled. We monitor each child's scholastic achievement, attendance, and socialization skills and coordinate tutoring, mentoring, and interventions where needed.

Each June, we host a Good Grades party with pizza, soft drinks, and cash awards to honor children who appeared on the honor roll, showed marked improvement, and/or had perfect attendance. Frederick County Public Schools provides pizza and gifts, and we provide gift cards and soft drinks. Every child is recognized.

We also dedicate \$4,000 each year to afford each child the opportunity to engage in after-school and summer enrichment activities. We believe that every child should have the opportunity for fun and play regardless of their circumstances. Statistics show that children engaged in after-school activities have better grades, better attendance, and are less likely to fall into trouble.

BARRIERS TO SUCCESS



The families we serve frequently face one or more of the following formidable factors preventing full integration into the community:

Lack of affordable housing (2 bedroom unit in Fredrick averages \$1,506)

Cost of Childcare (with vouchers) \$250 per month for 2 children

Cost of Childcare at night, \$200 per week, per child

Lack of reliable transportation

Poor life skills (including household budgeting, daily organization, delayed gratification, problematic character traits, e.g., lying, manipulation, resistance to change)

Axis I (anger, depression, fears, anxieties) and Axis II (narcissism, paranoia) personality disorders

Co-Dependency, enabling relationships with drug/addicted/criminal individuals, including family members

Dysfunctional social networks

Lack of education/vocational skills

Limited earning potential

Poor credit histories

Lack of stable family nucleus (several children with different, non-supportive fathers or multiple short-term relationships)

Erratic daily rhythm inability to organize life

Turbulent, erratic work histories

Childhood trauma

2012 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Twenty-three homeless adults and 40 children were safely housed
- Seven adults and 10 children transitioned to stable, permanent housing
- Ten adults actively pursued vocational certification programs to enhance their future employment options
- Fifteen adults worked full- or part-time
- Twenty-two families received financial assistance to avoid eviction, move to more affordable housing, and/or avoid energy shut-off
- Twenty adults successfully completed our financial literacy program

“Advocates was not going to let me fail . . . there was someone by my side every step of the way.”

—Kendyl Lovelace, 2008 graduate

2012 FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets: 191,002
 Other Assets: 99
 Fixed Assets & Non-current Assets: 676,124

Total Assets: \$ 867,225

Liabilities and Net Assets (Equity)

Current Liabilities: 18,877
 Non current Liabilities: 337,108
 Net Assets: 511,240

Total Liability and Net Assets: \$ 867,225

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Revenues and Other Support

Grants	81,245	22%
Contributions	156,592	43%
Housing fees	32,826	9%
Tax credits	83,762	23%
Other	13,218	4%

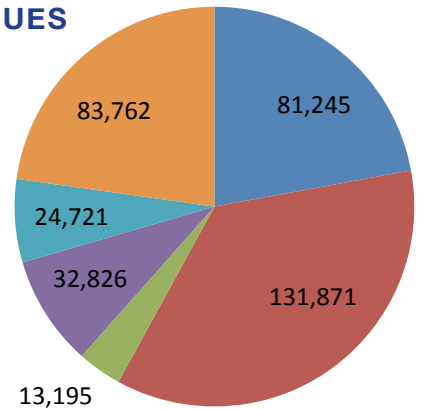
Total Revenues and other support \$367,643

Operating Expenses

Program services	302,421	92%
Fundraising	10,404	2%
Support services	17,520	5%

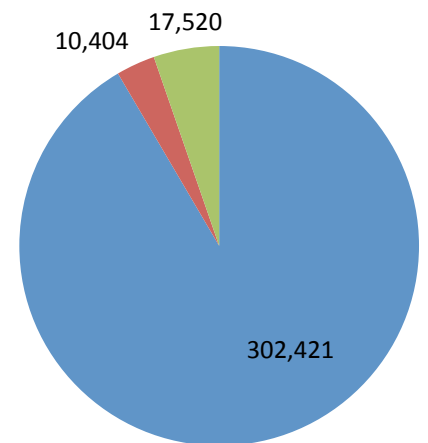
Total Operating Expenses \$ 330,345

REVENUES



- Grants
- Contributions
- Special Events
- Housing Fees
- In-Kind Contributions
- Tax Credits

EXPENSES



- Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management

Ninety cents out of every dollar donated goes into programs and client services.

Housing

Education

Life Skills Training

Employment

Intensive Case Management Services

Connections to External Supportive Services

ADVOCATES PROVIDES A HAND-UP AND NOT A HAND-OUT!



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