

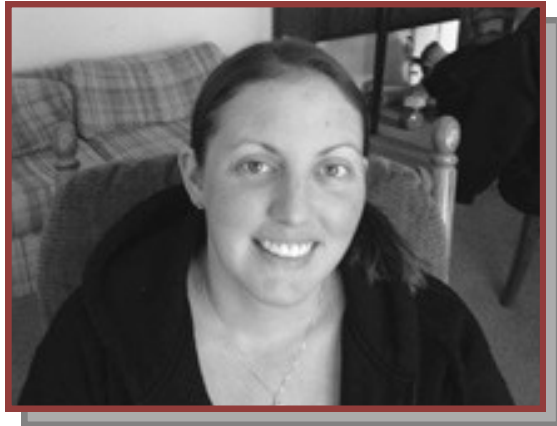


# The Advocate Current

March 2014

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

## Meet Our Participants!



Joy is enrolled in FCC's Legal Studies Program

Andrea is enrolled in the 2014 Registered Nursing Program at FCC

Andrea H. is a domestic-violence survivor and the single mother of four children, one girl age 9 and three boys, ages, 7, 3, and 1 years old. Andrea has been in our Transitional Housing Program for a year, and during this time she has worked full-time as a certified nursing assistant while attending Frederick Community College (FCC) part-time to satisfy pre-requisite courses for a Registered Nursing degree. Because of prior school debt, Andrea paid for all of her pre-requisite coursework herself, and Advocates has assisted her by paying for textbooks. An A/B student, Andrea recently was one of 30 applicants accepted into FCC's 2014 Registered Nursing degree program. Due to her diligence and good grades, Andrea is now eligible for scholarship funding. She has reduced her work hours so she can go to school full-time, and her only income sources are her part-time earnings and food stamps.

Andrea is a very determined lady! She is a devoted mother and astute budget manager. We are so very proud of her accomplishments and her willingness to build a better life for herself and her children. Like many of our participants, Andrea has grasped the concept that achieving personal milestones will lead her to financial stability.

Joy W. is a single mother of four children, two boys ages 17 and 16 and two girls ages 15 and 7. Joy was referred to us by Frederick County Public Schools and had been living in a motel room with funding about to run out just before Christmas 2013. Joy faces a number of barriers to success – an erratic work history with no clear career goals, some college coursework, a failed marriage, and an unmanageable debt load. Now, safely housed in our Transitional Housing Program, Joy has had time to take stock and develop a plan for the future. In the short time she has been with us, Joy has obtained a permanent part-time job with a local department store, enrolled in the food stamp program, and developed a plan for debt reduction. Working with Adult Services at FCC, Joy has enrolled in the school's Paralegal Studies Program and has paid for her first two classes herself. Her three teenagers are all active in the school band and Joy takes the time to ensure their full participation.

We are excited to be able to work with Joy and help her position herself for a brighter future and increased financial stability. She has hit the ground running and we want to help her over the finish line! Like all of our participants who need to re-establish themselves, Joy is beginning to understand and appreciate the adage that "time takes time," and her recovery from near homelessness will require steady measurable progress.

## Funds for Causes

**F**unds for Causes is a new, innovative online marketing platform that enables Frederick charities and organizations to raise much needed operating capital by offering supporters the opportunity to buy a wide variety of items at major discounts as well as participate in live and silent auctions.

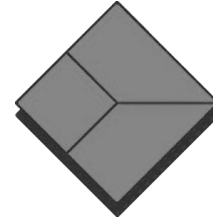
Funds for Causes represents a paradigm shift in charitable fundraising, moving away from traditional door-to-door or on-location direct sales methods. **By harnessing the power and popularity of online shopping, Funds for Causes innovative, web based fundraising and auction platform promises to change the way non-profit organizations and charitable causes raise funds forever!** This new system can successfully raise needed funds for worthwhile causes while providing businesses with unique branding and selling opportunities.

April 2014 fund-raising campaigns will benefit Thurgood Marshal Elementary School and Urbana High School's Athletic Booster. **Advocates' fund-raising campaign will run from May 19 – May 22, 2014.** Register now and earn 100 biddable points in live auction bids. Go to <https://www.fundsforcauses.com/> and follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Log on

Step 2: Click "Login or Create Account"

Step 3: Follow simple instructions to lodge your personal information in the secured web-site.



## Thanks to The Community Foundation of Frederick County

**W**e wish to thank the trustees of The Community Foundation of Frederick County for two generous grants in support of our programs for homeless families. The Strategic Funding for Basic Human Needs grant will assist with our Transitional Housing and Families Forward programs expense requirements. The Kiwanis Club of Suburban Frederick awarded a grant to Advocates to assist with children's after-school and summer activity fees. We are so very grateful for this financial support.



**ADVOCATES FOR  
HOMELESS FAMILIES, INC.  
is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization.**

## Wish List Items

**T**he homeless families in our programs are always in need of the following:

Liquid laundry detergent  
Paper Towels

Body Wash  
Toilet Paper  
Household Cleaners

Women's Deodorant  
Trash Can Liners

Men's Deodorant  
Dish Detergent

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

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

## Board of Directors

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## Our Eligibility Requirements

On average, Advocates supports 20 families in our Transitional Housing Program and 12 families in our Families Forward Program. We are very conscious of our mission to assist homeless and families at risk of homelessness achieve an increased degree of self-sufficiency and economic stability.

Our programs are fairly rigorous inasmuch as we require adults to go to school to enhance their future employment options, to work, and to effectively manage a household budget. Those families in our Transitional Housing Program are required to demonstrate responsible tenancy by paying a monthly housing fee, keeping an orderly clean house, and maintaining the yards and walkways. With limited time and resources, we strive to help those families in great need who are also willing and able to help themselves. To be admitted into our programs, applicants must:

- ◆ Be a Frederick County resident
- ◆ Be homeless, imminently homeless, or living in housing not suitable for human occupancy
- ◆ Have an annual income of less than 30% of the average area median income or less than \$26,000
- ◆ Be eligible for public housing
- ◆ Be able and willing to go to school
- ◆ Have custody of one or more minor children
- ◆ Be drug- and alcohol free where there has been a history of abuse
- ◆ Be 18 years or older
- ◆ Have proof of all income
- ◆ Not be on methadone
- ◆ Not be chronically homeless

Our operating philosophy is to provide a hand-up and not a hand-out. Parents who are not willing to go school and/or work to overcome their homeless status cannot stay in our programs.

## Board Members Sought

Advocates is seeking new members for the Board of Directors, the governing body of Advocates for Homeless Families. Board members typically meet once every month in the evening for one and one-half hour formal meetings, and each board member serves on a committee that meets monthly for one to two hours. The Board committees are the Development Committee, Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and the Program Committee. Serving on our Board of Directors is a great way to influence the future of Advocates and enhance our programs to help homeless families achieve independence. If you think you might be interested, please submit a copy of your resume and a letter explaining the value you can bring to the Board. Communications should be sent to Ken Allread, Advocates for Homeless Families, 216 Abrecht Place, Frederick, MD 21701.



Our community partner Frederick County Bank has launched a new rewards program for Frederick County Bank debit cardholders. The rewards program is called BuzzPoints, and under this program cardholders who shop local earn points on every dollar they spend. With the BuzzPoints program, customers are doing more than just earning points. They are keeping the dollars in Frederick County and helping all of us to build a strong, vibrant community. The points cardholders earn can then be turned around and used for contributions to participating non-profits /charities or favorite local businesses. Advocates is fortunate to be one of the non-profits selected to participate.

More money stays in the community and strong, healthy local businesses help support the program. Cardholders then reinvest those dollars into Frederick's own community. To learn more about the BuzzPoints program, go to [www.fcbmd.com](http://www.fcbmd.com).

## Collaborations at Work!

Advocates' Executive Director Ken Allread and one of our graduates has been asked to serve on the Frederick Rescue Mission's program committee to assist in the development of the programs for the Rescue Mission's Women's and Children's Shelter, planned to open in December 2014.

Working together we hope to create programs for women that will help them start their journey to overcome homelessness sooner rather than later. We envision a coordinated approach to address each adult participant's requirements to achieve financial and housing stability through job training and employment, education, life skills training, and case management services. The Rescue Mission's Executive Director Arnold Farlow and Ken Allread both believe that women can begin their recovery from homelessness while in shelter and then transition into Advocates transitional housing program for more intensive focus on job training and education to enhance their future employment options. Those women in shelter who enroll in the Rescue Mission's personal development program will be able to attend Advocates' weekly Life Skills Workshop.

## Statistics

### January - December 2013

#### *Transitional Housing Program*

69 adults and children housed  
15,032 bed nights provided  
13 adults in vocational training programs  
15 adults working full- or part-time  
7 adults and 10 children graduated to permanent, stable housing  
108 families on our waiting list

#### *Homeless Prevention Services*

87 adults and children served  
Security deposit assistance for 9 families \$3,850  
Rental or utilities assistance for 27 families  
\$28,380

### January – February 2014

#### *Transitional Housing Program*

44 adults and children housed  
8 adults in vocational training programs  
13 adults working full- or part-time  
1 adult and 1 child graduated to permanent, stable housing  
98 families on our waiting list  
35 average monthly housing inquiries and applications

#### *Homeless Prevention Services*

38 adults and children served  
Rental or utilities assistance for 14 families  
\$2,164.57