



# The Advocate Current

May 2014

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

## Overcoming Barriers to Success!

One of the biggest obstacles to self-sufficiency that homeless women with children face is the lack of reliable transportation. Can you imagine trying to care for one, two, three or more children with an income of less than \$1,000 a month while trying to find employment and go to school without a car? Sounds impossible, doesn't it? One of the solutions Advocates provides to the participants in our program is through our active community partnerships with **Second Chance Garage** and, most recently, with the **Students Homeless Initiative Partnership (SHIP)**.



Emily acquired her car through Second Chances Garage

Emily L is a homeless single mother of three boys (ages 6, 4, and 2 months) enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program. She works part-time in retail while attending Frederick Community College full-time. She is pursuing paralegal studies certification. Her monthly income is \$670.00. Emily is an excellent money manager and accounts for every dime. Even so, without the heavily discounted, previously owned vehicles offered by Second Chance Garage to those in great need, ownership of a car would be beyond Emily's means. To obtain the car, Emily had to demonstrate her ability to manage a household budget, including future payments for car maintenance and insurance, and save for the baseline price of the auto. Congratulations to Emily!

## Anita Acquired a Car

### From Community Support!

Anita B also is a single homeless mother of two children (a girl age 4 and a one-year old boy) and is enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program. Anita is attending classes in Frederick Community College's certified nursing assistant program and is currently seeking employment. Her monthly income is \$600.00 a month.

Three weeks ago Anita was driving back from a job interview when her 1996 Chevy broke down on I-70. After towing the car to Second Chances Garage, the verdict was that the cost of repairs far exceeded the value of the car and Anita's ability to pay for the repairs. We reached out to Ed Hines, chair of Students Homeless Initiative Partnership, to see if the organization could help Anita and her children. Ed posted Anita's situation on Facebook, and within two weeks SHIP supporters had donated \$500 toward the cost of a previously owned auto and a private citizen stepped up and advised that he had a second car he would sell for \$800.00. Advocates is putting up the additional \$300 to cover the total purchase price and Anita will be able to accept the car and title the first week in May 2014.

Anita did get the job that she had interviewed for the day her car broke down. She will be working at an insurance call center while finishing her studies. She now will be able to travel to and from work and school and transport her children to childcare with the comfort that comes with reliable transportation. It is amazing what an informed and caring community can accomplish in a very short period of time!

## Our Thanks To . . .

The Community Foundation of Frederick County's Laughlin Family Fund for a generous grant award to assist with utilities expenses for our 15 Transitional Housing properties

The Youth Group, Chapel at Fort Detrick, for donating Easter baskets for each of the 43 children in our programs

### Teens Load Up Easter Baskets for Homeless Children



The Frederick Community Action Agency's Green Jobs Corps for painting the interior of two housing units in preparation for the move-in of two new homeless families

Ed Hines, chair of Students Homeless Initiative Partnership, for soliciting sufficient donations from the Frederick community to purchase a car for one of the working homeless mothers in our Transitional Housing program

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

**Please Support Advocates  
on Funds for Causes  
May 19-22,**

## Please Support Advocates

### on Funds for Causes

**May 19-22, 2014**



### Win a Trip to Maui!

In a few weeks, Advocates for Homeless Families will be holding a unique and exciting new kind of fundraiser, which will take place completely online at [www.fundsforcauses.com](http://www.fundsforcauses.com). With the help of Funds for Causes, we have secured a number of great deals and items from local business sponsors that we will be selling at a major discount or auctioning off on the fundraiser website between May 19-22, 2014. By purchasing items such as 2 Medium Firehouse Subs for \$5. and bidding to win items like a trip to Maui, massage packages, golf outings and more, you can help Advocates raise money we need to continue our work to assist Frederick County homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. Everyone wins! To view the items up for grabs please visit the Funds for Causes website.

You can earn free bids for the online auction just by registering for the fundraiser! There is no obligation to buy or donate by registering. To register, follow these simple steps:

1. Log on to the Funds for Causes web-site at [www.fundsforcauses.com](http://www.fundsforcauses.com)
2. Click "Login or Create Account"
3. Follow simple instructions to lodge your personal information in the secured web-site.

*Funds for Causes principals have assured us that our supporters' personal information will never be sold or distributed to any other vendor whatsoever.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates for Homeless Families' mission is to empower motivated families to overcome or avoid homelessness. Families achieve success through a structured two-year program of education, housing, and support services. We maintain 15 single-unit, scattered-site properties to house families in our Transitional Housing Program, and provide limited financial assistance for rent or utilities to families at risk of homelessness in our Families Forward Program.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Statistics

January – April 2014

### Transitional Housing Program

53 adults and children housed  
10 adults in vocational training programs  
16 adults working full- or part-time  
101 families on our waiting list  
35 average monthly housing inquiries and applications



### Homeless Prevention Services Through September 2013

39 adults and children served  
Rental or utilities assistance for  
14 families \$3,237.90  
10 women working full- or part-time  
6 women enrolled in vocational certification classes

## Wish List Items

The homeless families in our programs are always in need of the following:

**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 9:30 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.



## How Your Donations Help

**\$20**

will provide a 10-trip bus pass for a participant  
without a car

**\$50**

will fill a linen closet with fresh bedding, towels,  
and blankets for a family

**\$75**

will pay for a month's worth of non-perishable  
grocery items and diapers

**\$100**

will pay for two (2) hours counseling services for  
a domestic violence survivor

**\$150**

will outfit a kitchen

**\$250**

will provide school clothing for a family

**\$350**

will pay for two (2) months of utilities for a family

**\$500**

will outfit a housing unit with furniture and  
supplies for a family

**Serving Frederick County for 25 years**