



The Advocate Current

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. 216 Abrecht Place Frederick, MD 21701 301-662-2003 www.afhf.org

Advocates for Homeless Families' Celebrates 25 Years

Advocates for Homeless Families kicked off its twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations with a luncheon held April 25, 2013 at All Saints' Episcopal Church. "Everything that could happen to a homeless mother with children happened to me before I came to Advocates," said keynote speaker **Kendyl Lovelace**. "Advocates was not going to let me fail—there was someone beside me every step of the way." A graduate of Advocates' Transitional Housing Program and a Board member, Mrs. Lovelace spoke of her journey from homelessness to that of a professional woman with a nursing degree. More than 85 invited guests gathered to enjoy a lunch prepared by chefs **Dan Lajewski** and **Bob Fowle**. Hood College students provided table service. **Reverend Mark Wakefield** from the United Church of Christ in Middletown delivered the invocation, and Board Member **Reverend Kay Rice** delivered the benediction.

Advocates for Homeless Families was founded in March 1988 through the efforts of two concerned citizens, **Marta and Colin Holden**. The couple observed an increase in the number of visibly homeless persons on the streets of Frederick. While there were emergency shelters and services in place, Marta and Colin thought more long-term solutions were needed. They placed an ad in the newspaper, inviting members of the public to meet



Keynote speaker Kendyl Lovelace, former homeless mother of two and now a successful business woman and Board member.

at All Saints' Episcopal Church to discuss the homeless population and seek possible solutions. They expected four or five people to show up and were amazed when more than 40 attended the meeting. Their initial concept was to build on All Saints' Outreach Ministry to more effectively reach people in need and connect them to shelter and services.

Advocates' origin as a long-term transitional housing and homeless prevention program resulted from those early community-based discussions. A truly grassroots organization, Advocates became incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1988 with a mission to help Frederick County homeless families achieve long-term success by providing access to housing, education, and support services. Between 1988 and 1990, homeless families were housed in four rental apartments. Today, it maintains 14 scattered-site, single-unit properties within Frederick County to house homeless families with children. Since 1988, more than 2,000 homeless adults and children have been housed by Advocates, with 80 percent graduating to stable housing with enhanced employment options.

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates for Homeless Families' mission is to empower motivated families to overcome homelessness. Families achieve success through a structured two-year program of education, housing, and support services.

Thanks to The Community Foundation of Frederick County

We wish to thank the trustees of The Community Foundation of Frederick County for two generous grants awarded this year to Advocates. One grant supports our transitional housing program and is funded from the foundation's Strategic Funding for Basic Human Needs Grant; the second grant assists with children's after-school activity fees and is funded by the Kiwanis Club of Suburban Frederick Grant. The Community Foundation currently holds over \$50 million in assets in over 600 managed funds. The proceeds from these funds are awarded to area nonprofits to help address



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of FREDERICK COUNTY

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unmet needs in our community—particularly those causes that focus on long-term solutions to social problems—as well as

scholarships that are awarded to Frederick County students.

Under the leadership of President **Betsy Day**, the Community Foundation is actively involved in the development of a 10-year strategic plan to address and reduce homelessness in Frederick County. The Strategic Planning Committee (a sub-committee of the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless) is composed of executive directors from the primary emergency and transitional shelter housing providers within the county, i.e., Advocates for Homeless Families, the Religious Coalition, Heartly House, the Frederick Community Action Agency, the Frederick Rescue Mission, Shelter-Plus Care, and Hope Alive. Representatives from the United Way also participate in deliberations. This effort is the logical extension of The Human Needs Assessment Report, conducted by the foundation in fall of 2010. Survey results showed that the lack of affordable housing remains a priority concern for all service providers in Frederick County. Homelessness is in part the ultimate outcome of unaffordable housing, while other factors such as mental illness and substance abuse may factor significantly.

SAVE THE DATE

October 18, 2013 We will continue our year-long celebration of our 25th anniversary Gala at the Francis Scott Key Holiday Inn and Conference Center. This year's event will be semi-formal with reception, seated dinner, a short program, and dancing. Further details will be announced as we get closer to the date. We hope to see you there!

Advocates for Homeless Families has begun to accept sponsors for our newsletter. If you would like to be honored in an upcoming addition by sponsoring, please contact Ken Allread at kallread@afhf88.org or 301-662-2003.



Statistics thru May 2013

Transitional Housing Program

Adults and children housed	47
Bednights provided	5,213
Adults in vocational training	6
Adults working full-time	11
Families on our waiting list	99

Homeless Prevention Services

Adults and children served	56
Security deposit assistance for 4 families	\$1,466
Rental or utilities assistance for 15 families	\$7,550

Life Skills Achievement

Congratulations to Jennifer and Eileasha who obtained driver's licenses this year! Jennifer, *left*, is a 28-year old, single mother of two boys and a participant in Advocate's Transitional Housing Program. She is a full-time student at Frederick Community College (FCC), where she is studying to become a drug and alcohol treatment counselor. Eileasha, *right*, also is a participant in our Transitional Housing Program and is a 34-year old, single mother of two boys and two girls. Eileasha obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant license in the first six months of acceptance into Advocates' program. She now is returning to FCC to obtain certification as a phlebotomist to increase her earning potential. Advocates paid for Eileasha's driver's education through our donors' generosity. Not only do these mothers now have their very first driver's licenses, but they also have their own cars. The lack of reliable transportation is a formidable barrier to success for homeless families.



David Esworthy shares the importance of financial planning.

Our Financial Literacy Program

Advocates' Life Skills Workshop meets every Thursday evening at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Attendance is mandatory for participants in our Transitional Housing

and Families Forward programs. One of the most critical learning modules is Finance and Budget. For this segment, we utilize a combination of DVD programs and instructor-led training. Our volunteer instructors are subject matter experts drawn from the Frederick community. Every participant receives a budgeting workbook and is expected to develop and maintain a monthly household budget with primary focus on housing,

food, transportation, utilities (for those who live independently), and debt reduction. The curriculum for this module includes the following topics:

- Psychology of Money
- Budgeting
- Understanding and Improving Credit
- Bankruptcy
- Planning for the Future
- Types of Insurance
- The Cost of Education

After completion of the module, participants are expected to pay their housing fee on time (based on 30 percent of income) and, after six months, save a minimum of \$5 per month. Advocates sets aside \$5 a month on behalf of each participant who pays their housing fee on time. Upon graduation, participants receive their accrued savings (potentially \$120) to help them with moving expenses.

A Salute and Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

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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.



Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc.
216 Abrecht Place
Frederick, MD 21701

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