



The Advocate Current

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

Volunteer Spotlight

“VOLUNTEERS are not paid—not because they are not worth it, but because they are priceless.” This anonymous quote is one we hold dear at Advocates. Without the ongoing support of our volunteers, our work to help homeless families achieve self-sufficiency would become more difficult. This is our opportunity to thank and recognize our regular volunteers who devote their time and their talent to help us achieve our mission. Volunteers serve as grounds keepers, babysitters, administrative support staff, and instructors.

Our youngest volunteers are two sisters, Maiella and Kirstesia Brown, who babysit the children of parents attending our weekly Life Skills Workshop every Thursday evening. Maiella is 17 years old, a recent high school grad, and will be attending Hood College this fall with a major in social work. She volunteers at Advocates because she wants “to help better my community.” Kirstesia is 16 and is starting her senior year at Tuscarora High School this semester. She “loves to be around kids and likes to help.” She plans to go to college next fall and major in early childhood education.



Babysitters Maielle (left) and Kirstesia (right) with two of their charges.

Bernie Yellin, a retired administrative assistant, is our office volunteer. She has been updating our low-income housing rental list, analyzing and collating statistical data on current and previous participant families, recruiting and scheduling our Life Skills Workshop instructors, and assisting our Financial Literacy partners. Bernie says she volunteers at Advocates because she “wants to donate some of my time to an organization that helps homeless families. I especially like that Advocates provides a two-year structured program that will give the family what they need to maintain an independent life style.”



Bernie Yellin, Administration Analyst Deluxe



Mick O'Leary surveying his domain.

Mick O'Leary's day job is Director of Frederick Community College Library. Most weekends, though, we find him mowing the grass, weeding, and trimming trees around our office. Mick's involvement with Advocates began when his wife Jan joined our Board of Directors several years ago. With Jan's involvement with Advocates, Mick says he learned about “the good work you accomplish and I want to help out where I can.”

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.

Our Thanks

Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County



Advocates received two very generous grants from the Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County to help house and provide assistance with transportation and childcare expenses for up to 20 single mothers in our program. Both grants provide incentives for these women to overcome barriers to attaining the education and job training needed to ensure a stable future for themselves and their children. Most of the women in our program have monthly incomes of \$1,000 or less and do not have cars. Access to childcare and reliable transportation are foremost on their minds, as they struggle to work and go to school to better their living circumstances and ensure a secure future. To receive financial assistance and remain in our housing program, however, participants must be going to school full- or part-time and/or working after a short stabilization period.

Advocates was one of 15 organizations serving women and children awarded 23 grants this year. The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County, founded in 2006, brings women together who share common philanthropic goals to benefit women's needs. This is an amazing organization! We wish to thank all of the members of the Women's Giving Circle for their support for the women and children in our programs. To find out more about the good works performed by the Women's Giving Circle, visit their website at www.womensgivingcircleoffred.org.

48 Hours to Meet the Need!

Advocates for Homeless Families is joining 21 other non-profit organizations in Frederick in a joint online fundraiser called Frederick 48 for those in need. This is one of Frederick's biggest collaborative efforts for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless in our community. Matching funds of over \$45,000 have been raised already!

We encourage you to participate on September 26 and 27 by logging on to www.frederick48.org and make a donation. Frederick48 raised more than \$300,000 in 2012. Let's aim higher for 2013!

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.

Transitioning to Independence!

Jackie and her son Ja'Kwon graduate to stable, permanent housing in September 2013. Before acceptance into our housing in July 2011, they were doubled-up with friends and sleeping on couches or the floor. At the time, Jackie was working as a part-time laundress at a local hotel at minimum wage. She now works full-time at an assisted-living facility. While in our program, she has taken major steps to stabilize her finances by eliminating old debt, establishing a savings account, and purchasing and maintaining a car through our partner Second Chance garage. Jackie also attended Frederick Community College for studies in computer science and is continuing a job search in that field. She is now positioned to start anew and move toward a bright future.



SAVE THE DATE

September 26-27, 2013 On September 26-27, Advocates is once again participating in Frederick 48, a 48-hour fund-raising event that raises funds for local nonprofits who are serving the poor, homeless, youth at risk, and those without healthcare. In 2102, over \$300,000 was raised to support over 20 local organizations supporting Frederick County citizens at risk. As with previous years, most donations will be matched by a local donor. To give on these dates or before, visit www.frederick48.org, click on "Give Now," and select Advocates for Homeless Families in the drop-down box. For questions, please contact Ken Allread at 301-662-2003.

October 18, 2013 We will continue our year-long celebration of our 25th Anniversary with a Gala at the Francis Scott Key Holiday Inn and Conference Center. This year's event will be a semi-formal reception, with seated dinner, a short program, and dancing with music by Trouble Brewin.' Todd Walker will be Master of Ceremonies and Commissioner Paul Smith will be our guest speaker. Further details will be announced as we get closer to the date. We hope to see you there!

November 12, 2013 The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble with more 300 costume changes will perform authentic folk dance at the Weinberg Center, November 12, at 7:30 pm. While not a benefit concert per se, this event kicks off the **2013 Season of Hope**, a Frederick County seasonal giving campaign sponsored by the *Frederick-News Post*. Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$12 and can be purchased online at <https://www.vendini.com/ticket>.

Statistics thru July 2013

Transitional Housing Program

Adults and children housed 52
Bednights provided 9,601
Adults in vocational training 7
Adults working full-time 13
Adults, children graduated to
permanent, stable housing...6, 8
Families on our waiting list 98

Homeless Prevention Services

Adults and children served 87
Security deposit assistance
for 8 families..... \$3,350
Rental or utilities assistance
for 26 families..... \$28,189

A Salute and Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

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

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Frederick MD
Permit No. 330

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.