

January Greetings!

Thank you to all who have already hosted this season! It is the love and compassion shared at our hosting sites that make such a difference in the lives of our 514 friends. I hear every day how much they appreciate all of you!

We welcome three new sites this season. All three hosted in December and what a blessing to witness their hospitality.

A warm welcome to our new partners in ministry:

Fresh Start Church
Severn Covenant Church
Kol Shalom

Reminders

We ask that all Site Coordinators submit a daily report via email, text or phone - these are posted for our Segment Coordinators to keep apprised of special needs, issues or concerns that can be passed on to future Sites. A thumbs up report is fine if there is nothing to report!

Our shower trailer is in its 8th straight week of operation and going strong! Thus far the weather has cooperated with us, but when the cold weather hits we will be winterizing it. Please continue to make contact with the schools a week ahead to make sure you have the number of the custodian to gain entrance to the showers. Showers have been arranged by AHOH through the county for sites that requested use of school facilities.

Vacancies (holes in our schedule)

Heartfelt appreciation to hosting sites who have stepped in to assist with vacancies this season. The Church at Severn Run, Severna Park UMC, and Mid-Atlantic Community Church have all agreed to host multiple sites during their assigned week. Ferndale UMC, and St. Christopher's Episcopal Church opened their doors to provide us a hosting location, and when the word went out for help, many came forth with meals, hosting and laundry assistance. Thank you for such an outpouring of support. What an amazing coalition of faith based organizations we have in the Winter Relief ministry!

Our next vacancy is in March for Site 2 (all men site in Glen Burnie). If anyone knows of any potential hosting sites, please let me know - I am willing to talk with leadership teams and congregations. I would love to obtain new sites so we can continue to expand.

Site Coordinator's Meeting: January 15 at 7:00pm

Our next Site Coordinator's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th at the Community Recovery Center at Arundel House of Hope.

12th Annual Bid for Hope

Our 13th Annual [Bid for Hope](#) is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 10th between 2 and 6pm at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie. Plan on joining us for an afternoon that promises to be lots of fun with live and silent auctions, raffles, door prizes and more!

Security Deposit Assistance Program (mid-year 2018 report): From Harry Caldwell, Chair SDAP Governing Board

Please print this out and hand deliver to your minister, lay leaders, and missions/outreach groups. With your generous help, we have begun this program very successfully. Our future success will depend on our continued contact with key leaders in our faith communities and others in our community interested in serving those less fortunate than we. Blessings to you and your families, especially during this holy time of the year.

Anne Arundel County churches and synagogues that support Winter Relief initiated the Security Deposit Assistance Program in April 2018. The goal of the Program is to assist qualified Anne Arundel County residents in obtaining rental housing by providing full or partial security deposits. The deposits are paid directly to landlords. If the recipient maintains the rental property in an acceptable condition, they receive the security deposit refund when leaving the property, thus incentivizing good care of the property.

Since the initial funding request was made to participating Winter Relief faith communities, a total of \$12,100 has been posted to the fund. A total of \$6,975.22 has been expended as of December 13, 2018, leaving a current balance of \$5,124.78. The Program includes no administrative costs; thus, all funds are provided directly and in their entirety for the purposes of the Program.

All grant recipients are referred by case workers at one of several housing organizations in Anne Arundel County partnering with Winter Relief faith communities through the Arundel House of Hope. The Arundel House of Hope administers the Program and provides regular financial reports to the Security Deposit Assistance Program Governing Board, made up of representatives of participating faith communities.

Contributions have been received from 10 faith communities involved in Winter Relief and several individuals from participating churches and elsewhere.

The funding expended to date has assisted 10 households in obtaining rental housing. These households represent 17 persons, including children. Some of the recipients have previously experienced homelessness, some have come from dysfunctional households, and some are simply seeking to relocate to be closer to jobs and educational opportunities. In all cases, the recipients are achieving stability in housing in order to stabilize and improve their lives and the lives of their families. To date, all recipients remain successful in their rental housing situations. The Governing Board continues to work with case workers to assess any special needs of the recipients; i.e. any additional services or mentoring, to ensure their continued success.

The Governing Board is deeply appreciative of the support provided by donors as well as the help of the Arundel House of Hope to administer the Program.

A formal request for additional funding to continue the success of the Program will be made to all Winter Relief faith communities this month. If you wish to provide financial support prior to that request, donations will be gratefully accepted at: Arundel House of Hope Attn: Security Deposit Assistance Program 514 Crain Hwy N #K Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Additional Winter Relief News:

Transportation to and from the sites continues to be a challenge - we have over extended the sites that have buses and assist with transportation throughout the season. If you know of any churches/synagogues with buses (even those that do not host), please let me know and I will contact them to see if they can join our partnership.

All three sites attended The Longest Night Memorial Service in Annapolis on December 21st to remember all of our homeless friends who died in 2018. Thanks to those of you who came out to show your support.

The Capital-Gazette Newspaper did an article on Winter Relief while Site 3 was at Temple Beth Shalom. Click to view: [Christmas at the Temple](#)

Channel 2, WMAR news did a newscast while Site 2 was at St. John the Evangelist. Click to view: [Bringing Home to the Homeless](#)

Luggage continues to be a very big challenge for us. Please remember when you distribute clothing and gifts, that they need to be packed and transported from site to site. The amount of individual gear is getting unmanageable as the season progresses. We ask that you consider gift cards to the Dollar Tree where guests can get just about anything that they need from toiletries to snacks in lieu of bulky clothing. We have a clothes room at the Center where clothing needs can be met.

New Year blessings to each of you!

In His service,

~Pam
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