

2008
Non-Profit Philanthropist
of the Year Award

2014
Wm Donald Schaefer
People Helping People
Award

2016
McDaniel College
Featured Nonprofit Award



2016
Carroll County
Chamber of Commerce
Non Profit Partner in Business
Award

2017
Sylvia Canon
Humanitarian Award

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

The idea for a cooperative ministry of churches began in 1989 with the clergy of the Westminster Ministerium and other community lay people. The vision was to create one place where anyone in need could find immediate assistance. Its goal was to consolidate the efforts among area churches to *avoid duplication* of services and provide information about available community resources. In 1990 the name *The Shepherd's Staff* was chosen and a mission statement was adopted.

On August 5, 1991, *The Shepherd's Staff* opened its doors in a tiny space donated by the Carroll County Human Services Program. In 1992, *The Shepherd's Staff* moved to a site on Main Street provided by the Westminster United Methodist Church. Within the first three years, beyond offering financial assistance, *The Shepherd's Staff* began targeting unmet needs that led to the creation of the year-round *Blessings Closet* program (distribution of non-food essentials), a weekly soup kitchen – *The Shepherd's Table*, and an annual *Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner*.

In 1994, *The Shepherd's Staff* moved to 30 Carroll Street, a 10-room house owned by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, which helped the organization expand into a more comprehensive on-site operation to include a *laundry and bath facility*, *book room*, *the first continuously run free clothing and household items shed*, a *non-food* distribution area, as well as an interview room, waiting area, administrative offices, production space, basement, attic storage, back yard picnic area and meditation garden. This location allowed for space to initiate such in-kind programs as the *Call for Coats*, *Back-to-School*, *Easter Baskets*, *4th of July Picnic*, and a *Christmas Celebration*. Guests are warmly greeted with a smile, eye contact and a compassionate and listening ear and are treated with dignity and respect. Guests may use the telephone to set up employment interviews and medical appointments, as well as use our facility as a mailing address. The daily newspaper is provided as a tool to search for housing and employment.

Through the years, our financial assistance outreach has grown and we've incorporated a more in depth case management process. In 2013 we began providing free haircuts (in addition to our free "Kuts for Kids" program during Back to School). In 2014 we launched our One Time Assistance program, in 2015 our Homelessness Prevention program and in 2016 we have expanded our outreach to extend to remote areas throughout the County. Both 2019 and 2020 saw us opening satellite locations; '19 at Wesley Freedom UMC in Eldersburg and '20 St. Paul's UCC in New Windsor. This has allowed us to fill an ever-growing gap for services in those areas. Other programs have increased as the struggles of low income families, seniors, children, veterans, and more recently due to COVID 19, others who never expected to need help continue to grow and the dynamics of who we serve continues to evolve. We continue to see more seniors with the added burden of the expense of raising their grandchildren, veterans, working families and those ages 18-24. As a privately funded organization, appeals are made to churches, organizations, businesses and individuals to sustain operations and services to support our grassroots efforts to help those less fortunate. *The Shepherd's Staff* solicits the community not only for monetary contributions, but also for in-kind donations to maintain various programs such as *Back-to-School*, *Call for Coats*, *Thanksgiving Day Dinner* and the *Blessings Closet* as well as our various fundraising initiatives. Volunteerism is critical to the continuity of services, and the time and talents of hundreds are needed to support the work. Also, in addition to small grants and fund-raising efforts such as "*Rex*" the Piggy Bank, we work hard to host events like our *Annual Festival of Trees*, *Yard Sale*, *Designer Bag & Basket Bingo*, *Empty Bowls*, *0.0 Fun Walk / Run* and *The Shepherd's Staff News* (a quarterly appeal newsletter) to help maintain the organization. Because *The Shepherd's Staff* is privately funded and does not receive Federal, State or County funding, it is vital that we continually implement new fundraising endeavors to ensure the continuity of service to the Carroll County community

Since the beginning, The Shepherd's Staff, within a supportive environment, has worked with children and adults in a spirit of dignity, compassion and respect. The future lies in fostering self-help initiatives and developing pathways for social and economic advancement for those we serve.