

How Your

"Gifts of Hope"

Helped *The Shepherd's Staff* Serve Others!

January 2021 - December 2021



Neighbors Helped - **4,463** Households Helped - **1,993**
New Carroll County Households Served - **289** (including 10 veterans)

Emergency Financial Assistance

528 Households

Rx Financial Assistance

44 Neighbors

Back-To-School Program & Year-Round Essentials

1,601 Students

Blessing Closet Items

1,344 Households

Call for Coats (new coats only)

441 Neighbors

Spiritual Easter Baskets

1,093 Children

The Shepherd's Table Noon Meal

2,800+ Meals

Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

292 Meals

Christmas Stockings / Senior Sacks

1,296 Distributed

Laundry Facility

6 Neighbors

Gas Vouchers

58 Neighbors

Mail Service

157 Neighbors

Emergency Food

259 Households

Pet Food

37 Pets

(A portion of Pet Food donated is through CFCC and distributed through The Shepherd's Staff)



Hundreds of Other Requests Were Granted For:

- Compassionate Listening
- Referrals to Eliminate Duplication of Services
- Advocacy Provided Based on Need
- Emergency Clothing & Household Items
- Religious Literature
- Referrals and Advocacy

Our Deepest Appreciation to All!

The Shepherd's Staff is the recipient of the 2021 Sylvia Canon Community Champion Award, the 2017 Sylvia Canon Humanitarian Award, the 2016 McDaniel College featured Nonprofit Award, the 2016 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Partner in Business Award, the 2014 Wm Donald Schaefer People Helping People Award and the 2008 Nonprofit Philanthropist of the Year Award.



2021 Sylvia Canon Community Champion Award
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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 greeted warmly with a smile, eye contact and a compassionate and listening ear and are treated with dignity and respect. Services provided range from a simple telephone conversation as guidance for those who don't know where to start, a location that serves as a mailing address, mentoring through crisis situations and / or emergency financial assistance for those in immediate need. In addition, the organization offers many in-kind programs that distribute coats, work attire / shoes, back to school supplies, personal care essentials, Christmas stockings, Easter baskets and more. These programs offer ways for the community-at-large to participate through in-kind donations in programs that help families free up funds they can utilize for rent, utilities, transportation, medical bills and more.

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 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. 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.