



The Shepherd's Staff News

Spring 2023



"I Felt A Sense Of Hope And Relief That We So Desperately Needed."

"The Shepherd's Staff truly is a blessing. My family enjoyed a comfortable life until my husband and I divorced. Overnight I had to reestablish a loving and stable home life for my children...and I had never known such desperation. Someone that I encountered recognized my desperation and referred us to The Shepherd's Staff. From the first moment we entered the home on Carroll Street, I felt a sense of hope and relief that we so desperately needed. They supplied us with some of the most basic general household items that are so often taken for granted, such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, and trash bags. They also provided my children with the required school supplies they needed to be successful. As a result my kids were able to continue to thrive in school and in our community. Shepherd's Staff is a beacon of hope in our community."

We have read and been lifted by this note many, many times. What a gift it was, and continues to be, to have received this letter; but, this letter was not meant only for us. It was meant for you, too. How humbling is it that together we are able to be there for families, like this family, that are struggling?

Two things in particular struck me as I read through the note, yet again. The first was the number of times the word, or derivatives of the word, desperation was used. Can you imagine being there? I struggle to wrap my mind around it; being at the darkest point of your life, and everything that goes with that, all the while working to assure that your children are okay (and know that they know that too). What an amazing Mom! She saw, acted, and worked hard to move passed the challenges. It's important to remember that she was able to do this, in part, because of you. You supplied the in-kind gifts; you supplied the financial piece and, perhaps most importantly, you supplied the love and prayers.

The second thing that struck me about her note was the number of times she used the word "hope." Once again, you delivered. We often hear the phrase, "It takes a village." Time and time again you exemplify that adage. You are there for us so that we can be there for families like this. It's because of your gifts, both in—kind and financial, that we are able to offer the hope she mentions—to her family and others—in fact, to over 2,300 families last year alone.

Mom ended her note with, "Thank you Shepherd's Staff (and those that support the organization) for giving my family hope when we needed it most!" To that end, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you as well and share a note from yet another Mom, "I really wanted to thank you again for your kindness. I really don't like asking for help, but I know the only way to not fall deeper in the hole is to take care of what's needed now." From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being there and lifting these Mom's and their families from the depths of despair. It is a blessing to walk alongside you; we are merely your hands and feet in this community and can't do what we do without your gifts.

Grace and peace, Brenda Meadows



PLEASE HELP FILL

The Blessings Closet!

Donate An Item, Make A Monetary Donation, Or Host A Drive.



Visit our website
for programs and
fundraisers!

www.shepstaff.org
info@shepstaff.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Please take a moment to visit
our website to keep
up-to-date with our
programs and events.

17TH ANNUAL



2023
SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 24th –
Sunday, November 26th

REFLECTION

**monarch butterflies will
not attempt to fly in the
rain**

Because the rain drops
will damage
their delicate wings
they will rest
and wait it out
it's self preservation

it's okay to rest
during the storms
in your life
take all the time
you need
you will fly again
once the storm passes
- Unknown

Back-To-School

We'll begin accepting
donations/registration
beginning in mid-June!

There may also be
volunteer opportunities
available. Later this
Spring please call or visit
our website for more
information.

Easter Will Be Here Before You Know It!

Assemble Easter Baskets for Infants through Teens

We are *now accepting donations of Easter Baskets through March 24*. Please mark with gender and age. Include items that signify the "True Meaning of Easter" (coloring / storybooks, crosses, bibles, etc.). Less candy is appreciated. Please use small baskets with a folding handle if possible and wrap in cellophane for distribution. Call for an appointment to deliver finished basket(s) to *The Shepherd's Staff* office, 30 Carroll Street, Westminster, MD for distribution by appointment between *March 27 – April 7, 2023*.

Good Friday Cross Walk

SAVE THE DATE -- The Westminster Ministerium is pleased to host this year's Good Friday Cross Walk on Friday, April 7 at 11 AM. Please follow our social media pages or call us for more information.

Gifts of Hope — In Honor or Memory

Our deepest appreciation goes out to the following individuals and families that have made a donation in support of *The Shepherd's Staff* outreach services and programs in honor or memory of a loved one. Each charitable gift helps us be a "Beacon of Hope, Empowering Change and Transforming Lives," providing short-term aid and encouraging pathways to self sufficiency. Each gift helps to keep our families working and productive members of the Carroll Community.

In Honor of **Joanna Canrey** by Diane G. Biddinger

In Honor of **Maureen Frevert** by Joanna Eaves

In Honor of **Curt and Sharon Greenway's 50th Anniversary** by:

Pam & Bill Cherundolo
Ann & Steve Heller
Frank & Cindy Potee, Jr.
Gary & Kathy Tackett

In Honor of **Angela Kent** by Robin Stanley

In Honor of **Shari McCourt** by Elizabeth & Nick McCourt

In Honor of **Michael Nyalko** by Bob & Teri McLeod

In Honor of **Cindy & Frank Potee** by Shari & Pat McCourt

In Honor of **Volunteers** by Austin Hewitt

In Memory of **loved family members** by the Darrell & Ditzel
families by Mary & Mark Darrell

In Memory of **Paula Ehmann** by Dan & Carla Clifford

In Memory of **Lynn Eisman** by Betsy Eisman & Linda Bluth

In Memory of **Pete Hammersla** by Susan & Joe Hall

In Memory of **Frederick & Charlotte Ludwig** by

Greg & Stacie Dowling

Donna Smith-Seeley

In Memory of **Scott Moser** by Laura, Justin & Ashley Moser

In Memory of **Helen Rotondo** by Ann Beirne

In Memory of **Mark Strine** by Sharon Strine

In Memory of **Jill Thomas** by Ron Thomas

In Memory of **Bill & Jackie Thompson** by Laura Moser

"I wouldn't be here without you. Once I met you and you helped me out, I knew I was in good hands. You have been the best thing that happened to me since my accident. Shepherd's Staff is the only place that would help me. Thank you for praying for me."

I am pieces of all the places I have
been, and the people I have loved. I've
been stitched together by song lyrics,
book quotes, adventure, late night
conversations, moonlight,
and the smell of
coffee.

Brooke Hampton



A Message from our Board President

I have just begun my 14th year as a member of the Shepherd's Staff Board of Directors. Preparing to write this article caused me to really acknowledge the things about this marvelous organization that keep me wanting to stay involved:

- Shepherd's Staff is a Christian organization that follows the teachings of Christ when it comes to helping others but doesn't limit support to only Christians.
- We are blessed by an incredible staff for whom Shepherd's Staff is not just a job but a calling. Brenda Meadows, Velma Green, Lois Giles, Cindy Potee and Karen Rau are talented, caring people.
- We are blessed to have the support of dedicated volunteers who are the backbone behind events like Back to School, Festival of Trees, Thanksgiving Dinner and others.
- The business community and citizens of Carroll County continue to support us financially in a big way.
- The Shepherd's Staff makes a difference in the lives of our clients as evidenced by the thank-you letters that are received every month.

If you are already involved with The Shepherd's Staff – THANK YOU! If not, why don't you check us out? Larry Bohn

Please check our website for more details about programs and fundraisers!

A PRAYER FOR LENTEN GRACE

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.

Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.

THE SHEPHERD'S TABLE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Is your Organization interested in joining our rotation hosting the Friday noon meal a few weeks a year? If so, please call 410-857-5944 for a tour or for more information!

WISH LIST

PRO BONO NEEDS
Off-site Storage Unit- (please put us in touch with anyone that can help fill this urgent need)
Housekeeping
Year-round workspace
Program Coordinators

DONATIONS NEEDED

New Office Supplies,
Silent Auction
Items, Collectibles,
Jewelry, Gift Cards

Please be sure to "LIKE" and Follow The Shepherd's Staff on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn!



Exciting New Prize Packages

BINGO 2.0

Friday, April 21, 2023

20 GAMES • 3 SPECIALS • RAFFLES • DOOR PRIZES

Doors Open 5:30PM/Games Start 7:00PM
PLEASANT VALLEY FIRE HALL
2030 Pleasant Valley Road South, Westminster, MD 21158

\$30 (must purchase ticket in advance)
go.rallyup.com/bingo2-0shepstaff23
NEW PRIZE BUNDLES
DESIGNER BAGS
+ MORE

Children must have paid admission ticket. No refunds.
This event typically sells out. Please purchase your tickets early.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF'S
BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Come hungry and support the Pleasant Valley Fire Hall kitchen!

This Fundraiser is in no way connected with Coach™ Michael Kors® Kate Spade®. Selection of prizes subject to change. Remember to speak to your financial advisor to be sure to get the most out of your deduction.



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

How Your "Gifts of Hope"

Helped *The Shepherd's Staff* Serve Others!

January 2022 - December 2022



Neighbors Helped - 5,549 Households Helped - 2,315
New Carroll County Households Served - 369 (including 12 veterans)

Emergency Financial Assistance	543 Households
Rx Financial Assistance	77 Neighbors
Back-To-School Program & Year-Round Essentials	1,798 Students
Blessing Closet Items	1,430 Households
Call for Coats (new coats only)	229 Neighbors
Spiritual Easter Baskets	951 Children
The Shepherd's Table Noon Meal	2,800+ Meals
Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner	300 Meals
July 4th Picnic	125 Meals
Christmas Stockings / Senior Sacks	1,211 Distributed
Laundry Facility	3 Neighbors
Gas Vouchers	72 Neighbors
Mail Service	97 Neighbors
Emergency Food	191 Households
Pet Food	49 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.

Donations by Request Only

We continue our policy of identifying and asking for specific items. I've taken the liberty of listing some of them here, but feel free to call or email the office and / or follow us on social media for urgent needs throughout the year. Please be sure to make an appointment to drop items off (we are able to be flexible and work around your schedule). Currently we are asking for Blessings Closet items (personal care essentials), Easter Baskets, gift cards to local grocery stores, Walmart, Target, and fast food restaurants to help our guests. In addition, we are looking for specific donations for our upcoming Bingo 2.0, as well as gift cards to local businesses. If you'd like to help and would like more information, please don't hesitate to call 410.857.5944 or email info@shepstaff.org. Thanks for your consideration!

REND YOUR HEART

A Blessing for
Ash Wednesday
by Jan Richardson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt, as if all you
had to do was turn
your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial –
did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.
This is the moment
we ask for the
blessing that lives
within the ancient
ashes, that makes its
home inside the soil
of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made and the stars
that blaze in our
bones and the
galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

In Appreciation of our Community Partners

Our deepest thanks to the Carroll County Times, The Kalthert Foundation and NWSB for all they did to make the 2022 Holiday Hope Campaign a rousing success! You are a gift to the Community!

A special thank you to Giant Food for including The Shepherd's Staff in their Community Bag Program. Not only does it raise funds to help people in our community, but it raises awareness about our organization. It's a win-win!

What can we about Pipe the Side? Always there for the for local nonprofits in whatever way they can be. We received an extremely generous donation from their December fundraiser and are thankful for their support and grateful that there are such good people in this world.

And then there are the good folks Walmart. They are there for us throughout the year supporting our programs like the Back to School program, the July 4 picnic and Thanksgiving Day Dinner. What can we say but we appreciate you!

Target is yet another local business that is always there for us and those we serve. Their regular and generous donations help our guests, support our fundraisers, and support our general operations. We are truly blessed that they are there for us and those we serve.

We get the warm and fuzzies when we think about The Murrow & McCullough Team, Freestate Title Consultants, LLC, Team Chad Jones – Cross Country Mortgage, Inc and Sykesville Station for another wonderful winter coat drive. What a way to close out the cold winter weather months!

What a blast! Music, bingo, and a Winter Luau all rolled in to one. Blowfish Poke and Brewery Fire sure know how to put together a fun event and raise funds at the same time.

Shout out to the Westminster Tuesday Morning BNI group for hosting a great January networking event at Johansson's Dining House in support of the Call for Coats program. It certainly takes a village.

Blessings Closet

When The Shepherd's Staff opened its doors in 1991, we quickly realized the overwhelming unmet need for non-food household essentials. We found that people, whether earning poverty level wages, newly employed or unemployed, temporarily out-of-work, or simply without a home - all need these basic items so necessary for everyday living.

The first Blessings Closet was started in a jelly cupboard which we crammed full of non-food necessities. Throughout the years the small closet swelled to the point where one room and basement storage now accommodates the onsite program. It is from our present location at 30 Carroll Street, in conjunction with our satellites at Wesley Freedom UMC in Sykesville and St Paul UMC in New Windsor, that thousands of items are given out on an "as needed" basis each year. Anyone in Carroll County is eligible to request items from the closet provided we have stock on hand to fill the request.

This is where you come in. We rely upon the generosity of churches, schools, businesses, organizations, and individuals to keep the Blessings Closet filled each month. With the increasing cost of these items, along with the increasing amount of requests each year, we are finding it difficult to keep the closet stocked sufficiently to meet the demand. We need your continued donations and dollars to keep the Blessings Closet stocked year round. Your donations are most appreciated: but don't take that from me - hear it directly from one of our guests:

"(Tears in her eyes) - Oh no, This can't be all for me. How can I ever thank you enough for all you are doing for me and my family. I don't need anything for me, just my family. I just can't believe this! Shepherd's Staff is so kind. All I wanted was for my family to be helped. I don't need anything. Thank so much. I really mean thank you."

Testimony: "I want to thank you for helping me find a place to live. I had to get out of the situation I was in and my first thought was to contact Shepherd's Staff. I knew they were a safe place that could help me. Thank you for working with me and guiding me through the process and paperwork. I'm glad to be in such a caring community. God Bless you."

A Dose of Inspiration

Don't forget,
while you're busy
doubting yourself,
someone else is
admiring your
strength.

— Kristen Butler



As believers,
We are all just
walking each
other Home.



In seed time
learn, in
harvest
teach,
in winter
enjoy.

William Blake



May your life
preach more loudly
than your lips

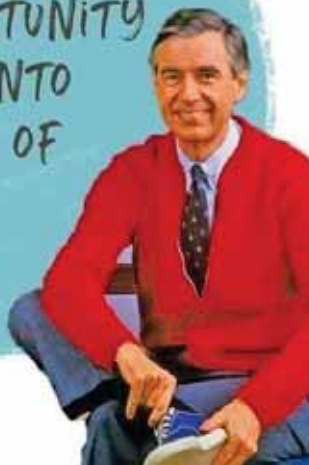


Never trust a mirror,
For a mirror always lies,
It makes you think that all you're worth,
Can be seen from the outside.
Never trust a mirror,
It only shows you what's skin deep,
You can't see how your eyelids flutter,
When you're drifting off to sleep,
It doesn't show you what the world sees,
When you're only being you,
Or how your eyes just light up,
When you're loving what you do,
It doesn't capture when you're smiling,
Where no-one else can see,
And your reflection cannot tell you,
Everything you mean to me,
Never trust a mirror,
For it only shows your skin,
And if you think that it dictates your worth,
It's time you looked within.

~e.h

"KNOWING THAT WE
CAN BE LOVED EXACTLY
AS WE ARE GIVES US ALL
THE BEST OPPORTUNITY
FOR GROWING INTO
THE HEALTHIEST OF
PEOPLE."

— MR. ROGERS



DON'T WAIT
FOR THINGS TO GET BETTER
LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE COMPLICATED.
LEARN TO BE HAPPY RIGHT NOW,
OTHERWISE YOU'LL RUN OUT OF TIME.



The Shepherd's Staff's

EASTER

basket drive

Help us celebrate Easter by donating small baskets or buckets with folding handles to be given to children in Carroll County! Last year we collected and distributed over 950 baskets and we need your help again. If you or your group would like to make Easter baskets to donate, here are some ideas of items to include:

Coloring Books
Christian Story Books

Crayons
Ear Buds

Stickers

Small Puzzles

Bubbles

Craft Kits

Sports Balls

Small Toiletries

Shower Puffs

Card Games

Small Toys

Yo Yo's

Play Dough

Brain Teasers

Candy

Snacks

Baby Rattles

Teethers

Sippy Cups

Please mark gender and age.

We are collecting baskets for children ages infants through teens. Please call for an appointment to deliver finished baskets to The Shepherd's Staff at 30 Carroll Street, Westminster between

**February 27, 2023
through March 24, 2023**

Hours of operation are M-T-F 10am-2pm and Thurs 1-5pm.
410-857-5944 info@shepstaff.org

*Baskets will be distributed March 27 - April 7, 2023
(by appointment only)*





Non-Profit Organizations
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 919
Westminister, MD 21158

WAYS TO HELP



- Donate an Item.
- Make a Monetary Donation.
- Host a drive.



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Please Help Fill The Blessings Closet

PLEASE HELP FILL
The Blessings Closet!
Donate An Item — Make A Monetary Donation — Host A Drive

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

<i>Toilet Paper</i>	<i>Kitchen Trash Bags</i>
<i>Powdered Laundry Detergent</i>	<i>Dish Soap</i>
<i>Deodorant</i>	<i>Cleaning Solution</i>
<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Paper Towels</i>

Monetary Donations Always Welcome

Checks payable to The Shepherd's Staff. Please discuss donations with your tax advisor.
Funds in excess of the need for this program may be used for other Shepherd's Staff programs at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Cash__ Check__ Amount Enclosed \$250__ \$100__ \$50__ Other \$_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Mail: The Shepherd's Staff, P.O. Box 127, Westminister, MD 21158 or Drop Off by appointment: 30 Carroll Street, Westminister, MD
Online: <https://www.shepstaff.org/giving/ways-to-give/donate-online/>