



LARS
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2013-2014 Highlights

Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.

Making a difference in the Laurel Community...

- Served 2,733 individuals and families in crisis.
- Assisted 172 individuals and families with rental stipends totaling \$71,589.30 to prevent eviction and secure permanent housing.
- Provided housing, case management, and supportive services to 23 homeless families.
- Empowered 7 chronically homeless individuals living with disabilities to regain control of their lives by providing housing and case management.
- Assisted more than 255 clients with the completion and submission of Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) applications and provided financial assistance to prevent 16 utility shut-offs.
- Provided outreach and supportive services to 83 homeless individuals, including referrals for substance abuse and mental health treatment, funds for housing, dental services, identification cards, birth certificates, and prescriptions.
- Coached more than 50 job-seekers on building résumés, writing cover letters, and applying for jobs online.
- Distributed over 13,600 bags of food from our pantry worth an estimated \$272,000 to 2,543 unique individuals.
- Secured balanced meals for our clients by supplementing our pantry with fresh fruits and vegetables from the Capital Area Food Bank and the Laurel Community Garden, bread donated by local stores, and frozen food from Olive Garden.
- Enabled 40 adults and children to visit the eye doctor and receive eyeglasses through a partnership with The Laurel Lions Club.
- Engaged more than 75 volunteers from local congregations, businesses, and community groups. Our volunteers logged over 600 hours organizing the food pantry, distributing gifts and food during the holidays, and helping out at fundraisers.
- Raised \$18,916 through the Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Community Walk Program, with the support of 15 local congregations, businesses, schools, and community groups.
- Registered over 750 participants for the 9th Annual Thanksgiving Morning 5K Turkey Trot & 1 Mile Walk, raising \$22,791 for LARS.
- Successfully organized the 10th Annual Silent/Quarter Auction & Dinner, which raised over \$9,000 for LARS.
- Brightened the holidays for 145 Laurel families and seniors by providing food and gifts during Thanksgiving and the December holidays.
- Helped prepare 143 children for the new school year by collecting and distributing school supplies.