

# Our Impact

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

# 1,730

households served

42% were visiting LARS for the first time

12% were homeless



13 chronically homeless, disabled individuals safely housed through Permanent Supportive Housing

14 homeless families, including 30 children, were stably housed in Transitional Housing; 11 of these families went on to secure permanent housing

# 105

evictions prevented



# \$63,825

total rental assistance provided

# 8,655

bags of food distributed



# 334

households submitted applications or renewals for food stamps



# 543

children had their holiday wish lists fulfilled by generous donors to LARS' Holiday Program

# 74,400 lbs

of food was donated to LARS' food pantry (that's more than 37 tons!)

# 582

volunteers contributed 3,733 hours to LARS, lending a hand in the food pantry, in the office, and at special events



## LARS

311 Laurel Avenue  
Laurel, MD 20707

# 2016

Phone | 301-776-0442

Fax | 301-604-7076

[www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org)



[facebook.com/laureladvocacy](https://facebook.com/laureladvocacy)



[@laureladvocacy](https://twitter.com/laureladvocacy)



Shopping on Amazon?  
Start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to designate LARS as your charity of choice, and we will receive a donation every time you make a purchase - at no extra cost to you!

# Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.

Serving the Laurel  
community since 1987

LARS' mission is to enable homeless and low-income people in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

LARS was founded in 1987 by a group of local congregation leaders and community members who sought a consolidated approach to responding to those who came to their doors for food and financial help.

## Volunteer

We rely on support from individuals and community groups who care about the work we do and the people we serve!

Contact Angelica Christian at 301-776-0442 ext. 32 or [achristian@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:achristian@laureladvocacy.org) for more information on volunteer opportunities at LARS.

## Donate

By setting up a monthly or quarterly gift to LARS, you will help light the way for someone who is fighting their way out of poverty. Go to [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) to set up a recurring gift or to make a one-time donation by credit card. Checks can be made out to LARS and mailed to 311 Laurel Ave, Laurel MD 20707.

Food donations are always needed to help stock the LARS food pantry. Drop off non-perishable, non-expired food to LARS during business hours.

## Participate

Register to run, walk, or sleepwalk at our two 5K events held at McCullough Field in Laurel! The 12th Annual Thanksgiving Morning 5K Turkey Trot is Nov. 24 at 8AM. The 3rd Annual Spring into Summer 5K & Family Fun Walk takes place in late May.

# what we do

## Emergency Services

LARS' Crisis Center provides support for Laurel residents facing crisis due to illness, injury, loss of a loved one, loss of employment, or other hardships. Services include a food pantry; financial assistance to prevent evictions and utility stoppage; assistance with security deposits or first month's rent; referrals for shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment; vouchers for free clothing, furniture, eye exams and eyeglasses; holiday and back to school programs, and more. LARS also conducts outreach and assessments to Laurel's homeless population during the winter months as a the point of entry for the Laurel Winter Shelter.

## Supportive Housing

LARS' Supportive Housing Programs provide subsidized housing and long-term case management to 23 homeless individuals and families. Participants in this program literally go from living on the streets or in shelters to living in their own apartment in the Laurel community. Ongoing support from LARS includes weekly case management visits, drug and mental health treatment, employment coaching, and financial education/life skills workshops.

## Self-Sufficiency Program

In spring of 2016 LARS began the pilot phase of this innovative new program designed to break down the barriers that prevent people from maintaining financial independence after they are helped by LARS or by other social service organizations. Participants in this program work closely with a LARS case manager/mentor over the course of 1-2 years to maintain permanent housing, gain employment, improve financial habits and remove other barriers to self-sufficiency.



# how to get help

LARS' service area covers the four Laurel zip codes of 20707, 20708 (Prince George's County), 20723 (Howard County), and 20724 (Anne Arundel County).

The first step is to come in and meet with a caseworker at LARS during operating hours:

Monday 9:00AM-2:00PM & 5:00-7:30PM  
 Wednesday 9:00AM-2:00PM  
 Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

No appointment is necessary, but please plan to arrive at least 1 hour before closing to ensure that you are seen. A caseworker will conduct a brief intake session lasting approximately 30 minutes with the individual or family to assess their needs.

Please bring these documents with you on your first visit to LARS:

- Valid picture ID for all household members over age 18
- Dates of birth for all household members
- Social Security cards for ALL household members
- Birth certificates for all children under 18
- Proof of all income received by each member of the household (pay stubs, child support, food stamps, SSI, SSDI)
- Proof of need (such as a BGE bill and cut-off notice, court eviction notice, etc.)
- Copy of a lease or a letter from landlord to verify your Laurel residence
- Bank statements for the past 3 months