February Greetings!

Our 13th Annual Bid For Hope is this Sunday, February 10th at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie. For additional information click here. It is not too late to get your tickets by contacting Jane Hudgins at 410.218.1747 or BID4HOPE@comcast.net

Site Coordinator's Meeting: February 12 at 7:00pm

Our next Site Coordinator's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th at the Community Recovery Center at Arundel House of Hope. At this meeting, we will begin to plan next season's hosting schedule. We will be using a "modified" lottery system this year. We will have specific weeks for sites to sign up dependent upon guest capacity. This will allow us to have our largest capacity sites during the coldest weeks of the season. Lottery numbers will be handed out upon arrival (early arrivals do not get better numbers). Once your lottery number is called, your week will be secured. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I think this is the fairest way to do the schedule - I recognize that some sites can only host during specific weeks, and we will certainly try our best to accommodate your requests. Please send a representative from your site if you are unable to attend.

Broken Cots & Excess Gear:

Please remind guests not to sit on their cots. Sites should provide folding chairs beside each cot for that purpose. The side bars break on the cots when guests sit on them. If cots do break, please return them to the Day Center. We can repair many cots by sacrificing a few for parts!

We continue to experience a tremendous amount of excess gear. Please encourage downsizing to 2 pieces of luggage, and avoid distributing additional "material" gifts. Dollar Tree gift cards are a perfect gift for our guests. They can be used to purchase needed items at a reasonable price.

Reminder!

Daily reports help us to keep our Segment Coordinators in the loop... please remember to send these to me via email, phone, or text. Information should include any special transportation needs, dietary needs, or issues at the site.

Security Deposit Assistance Program:

Attached is a 2019 solicitation letter for the Security Deposit Assistance Program from Harry Caldwell, Chair of the program's Governing Board. In addition, he sends this message:

"Please make this available to your head of clergy, or missions group, as appropriate, and post somewhere in your house of worship for your members to see. We had several individual gifts made to the program with our initial request, in addition to gifts made by churches and synagogues, and we would like to make this giving opportunity as widely available as possible. Thanks in advance for your support of this and other initiatives of Arundel House of Hope. Your continued commitment is making a real and lasting impact on the lives of many of our under-served neighbors."

Next Season:

It is hard to believe that it is already time to start thinking about next season! Thank you in advance for your continued partnership with Winter Relief! If anyone is interested in taking on a larger role next season, please let me know. We are always looking for additional Segment Coordinators!

In His service,

~Pam

Pam Biddlecomb
Director, Day Center & Winter Relief Program
Arundel House of Hope
410.863.4888 ext. 112
Security Deposit Assistance Program
in cooperation with the Arundel House of Hope
514 Crain Hwy N #K, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

January 25, 2019

To our partners in Winter Relief,

In April, 2018, the Governing Board of the Security Deposit Assistance Program requested a contribution from your congregation to help provide security deposits for qualified Anne Arundel County residents seeking affordable rental housing. Many faith organizations, generous members and friends responded, allowing us to kick off this effort with great success.

Since last April, we have helped place 11 households, representing 20 adults and children into stable, rental housing by assisting with their security deposits. At this time, all 20 remain successfully housed in their rental property of choice. We have accomplished this with an average grant of approximately $500.

We are working with several Arundel County housing organizations to identify individuals and families who need this help to stabilize and improve their lives and we are receiving requests weekly. Our ability to sustain this program depends on the continued generosity of our faith communities. Please consider prayerfully how your church or synagogue, or individuals within your church or synagogue, are able and willing to help in this effort.

To restate the need, in recent years we have seen a large increase in the number of newly homeless among us, many gainfully employed, who simply cannot find affordable rental housing in Anne Arundel County. Many, even those who find an affordable situation, lack the cash needed to pay the security deposit, generally the equal of one or two month’s rent. This becomes the final hurdle for them to gain stable, secure housing. The Security Deposit Assistance Program has been instrumental in helping overcome that final hurdle to secure housing.

Contributions to this fund should be made to the Arundel House of Hope at the above address, earmarked for the Security Deposit Assistance Program. If you have questions regarding this request or wish to have someone speak to you or your congregation, please advise your Winter Relief Site Coordinator.

With gratitude,

Harry Caldwell, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church
Chair, Governing Board
Security Deposit Assistance Program
443.926.9439

Governing Board
Amy Blank, Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church
Mike Daponte, St. Beradette’s Catholic Church
Sam Davies, St. Mary’s Catholic Church
Michele Tornabene, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church