



FAMILY SHELTER

A Newsletter for Friends of Family Shelter

Family Matters

Summer 2016

www.FamilyShelterSC.org

New Family Center Opens for Residents of Shelter



On June 2, 2016, the community came together to celebrate the opening of Family Shelter's new Community Family Center. Over 3 years ago, past Board Member Julian Dew walked into Shandon United

Methodist Church to build a friendship. That relationship cultivated a plan that would provide the residents of Family Shelter with a place for fellowship and respite.

Shandon UMC was in the process of planning a capital campaign for needed improvements to the church. After prayerful consideration, they decided to give Family Shelter 25% of all donations received through their campaign to build a Family Center for our residents. Bobbitt Design Build and The Boudreaux Group were on board to provide all services at cost for this project. The vision was in place, and on November 12, 2015, the ground was broken to

bring that vision to life. Three years and nearly \$600,000 later, our new building is complete and ready to be enjoyed by our residents.

The multi-purpose building includes a new kitchen, dining facility, security office, and family room, as well as program space for children and their families to stabilize and reconnect with one another. "We are so grateful to our friends at Shandon UMC for providing us with this gift that will surely make a difference in the lives of our residents," said Kim Snipes, Family Shelter Board Member. We look forward to many years of success in our new building!

Family Shelter Welcomes New CEO and Director of Philanthropy

After a three month long candidate search, the Family Shelter has named Natascha Gochett as our new CEO and Director of Philanthropy. Joy Goodwin, Board Member states, "As the Shelter celebrates 37 years of helping homeless families regain independence, we need a leader who will help us advance in our efforts to find stable and permanent housing for families in crisis. Natascha has a commitment to The Family Shelter's mission and the capacity to guide this organization into the future. The Board of Directors has great confidence that Natascha will develop meaningful relationships with our stakeholders and members of the community to build a network of support, volunteerism, and philanthropy."

Natascha brings over a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership to this role. Having

previously held positions in executive leadership and development, she has the experience and the knowledge to advance the organization's strategic plan and build upon its strong foundation of values. Natascha shared,

"It is an honor to be chosen to lead this organization that has such strong roots in the community and a history of demonstrated success. While very rewarding, this position will also be deeply challenging. The fight against homelessness is not a sprint—it's a marathon that requires patience and determination. Our obligation to the families we serve is to provide the tools and resources necessary to help them achieve success in overcoming homelessness. This task cannot be achieved by one, but requires the help and support of the entire community. My vision is for every child in the Midlands to have a place to call home."





Women in Philanthropy Awards Family Shelter \$70,000 Grant

United Way
of the Midlands



With over 85% of adult residents at Family Shelter being single mothers with children, Women in Philanthropy (WIP) decided to take us under their wing to help.

Their passion is improving the lives of women and children, but their support does so much more. They provide reliable volunteers who regularly prepare meals, sort donations, and even read to our children at the shelter. We can also count on them to hold drives for us to ensure that our in-kind needs are met throughout the year. And because WIP understands the need for programs and services for the homeless, they have

once again awarded us with a grant in the amount of \$70,000!

We are so grateful for this partnership and the support of WIP as we help homeless families regain independence and secure stable and permanent housing. Last year, Family Shelter provided hope to 80 families who had nowhere else to go. Thanks to WIP and all of our generous donors, we can continue to provide this service to the community and those in need of help.

Women in Philanthropy is an organization dedicated to revolutionizing the way women give by transforming charitable contributions into philanthropic investments into the community. For more information on WIP, contact Sarah Brennecke at sbrennecke@uway.org or call 803.733.5107.



Family Shelter Mission: To provide emergency shelter in a stable living environment for homeless children and their parents and help our residents build life skills needed to regain independence. It is our vision to be the most supportive emergency shelter in the Midlands for homeless families. By strengthening the family, we strive for 100% of active program participants to move to a life of independence.

We're Building Community, Will You Help Spread the Word?



Can you imagine the strength that it must take for a man or woman to tell their children that, "It's going to be ok," when they have nowhere to go? Can you imagine the pride that is set aside when a parent has to ask for food for their family? I assure you that family homelessness is not a choice-it is the outcome of a series of problems that affect

thousands of low-income families every day. But even though these families are fighting one of the hardest battles they will ever face, we see them come together and accomplish things that seem to be impossible. They help each other with childcare, chores, transportation, and job referrals; they are a community of families working together to overcome homelessness.

I ask all of you who feel moved by our work or called to help to become ambassadors for Family Shelter in any of these ways:

- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- Forward our e-news
- Tell people about us
- Tour the shelter and bring friends
- Attend our events

Every bit of support you can offer helps us achieve our mission for homeless families in the Midlands. Get involved, and make a difference in someone's life today!

Thanks for your support, and have a great summer!



Family Shelter



@FamilyShelterSC



Town Theatre Fundraiser A Success



Earlier this month, 300 homeless children and their parents were treated to a performance of The Little Mermaid at Town Theatre.

Thanks to our amazing donors and generous sponsors, we were able to distribute tickets to our sister shelters, as well, ensuring that every homeless child in Columbia had an opportunity to go to the show.

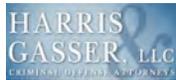
Special thanks to the stars of the show!



LEIGH J. LEVENTIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Scott & Mary Elliott
Ken & Laurie Walden
Pam Beasley



Get your GLOW on!

Join us at Spirit Communications Park and support the Family Shelter as the Columbia Fireflies take on the West Virginia Power! Visit our kiosk at the game to make a donation and learn how YOU can help homeless families go HOME.



August 30
@7:05pm

Wish List

It takes a whole lot of supplies to support the daily living needs of 50 adults and children! Thank you to the many people and groups who respond to our Wish List needs. Much needed items for the summer are:

- Rubber flip-flops for children in all sizes
- Outside games and toys
- Children's socks and underwear
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Individually wrapped snack foods
- Laundry Pods
- Bus Tickets
- Toilet Paper
- Cleaning Supplies

For more information, contact
NGochett@FamilyShelterSC.org

How much do you really know about HOMELESSNESS?

The major cause of homelessness in the U.S. is a lack of affordable housing. People cannot find places they can afford, particularly in urban settings where homelessness is more prevalent. United Way of the Midlands organized a survey asking people about their experience of homelessness.

Here's what more than 300 people had to say.

A frustrating life

Homelessness is **STRESSFUL**.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition says housing is "out of reach" for people who earn minimum wage in every state in the U.S.

A HIGH COST



In South Carolina, someone would need to be paid \$14.57 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

FAIR MARKET RENT



For apartments in Richland County: \$656 for a 1-bedroom, \$778 for a 2-bedroom, \$1,025 for a 3-bedroom.

JOE LOSS



Nearly 1/3 of respondents said losing a job was the main cause of their homelessness.

A LONG WAY UP

Research shows it's difficult for people to work their way out of homelessness. Forty-eight percent of respondents say it's their first time being homeless, and 40% have been homeless for one year or longer.

THE CHALLENGES

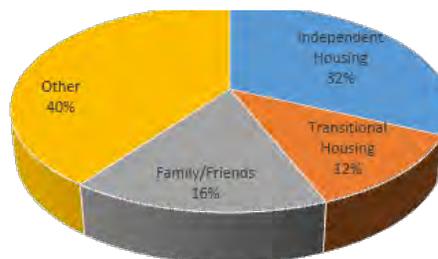
Sixty-one percent of the homeless population surveyed said they have trouble finding a place to stay, 58% said they have trouble getting enough to eat and 47% said they have trouble staying safe.

"I'm looking for housing someplace safe where a single parent can afford."

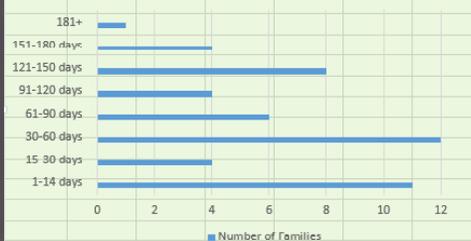


"I'm looking into a house or apartment but do not have enough money for a security deposit and first month's rent."

Where do families go when they leave the shelter?



Average Length of Stay at Family Shelter



Board of Directors

Kimberly Snipes, President
Nancy Koons, Vice President
Becky Grantland, Secretary
Chris Gibbons, Treasurer

Rose Alford
Pam Beasley

Joshua Bennett

Sean Branham

Penny Cothran

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Columbia, SC 29204
803.771.7040

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Donate Generously. We are the only shelter in Columbia that provides emergency services to the entire family, including fathers.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Is this donation _____ an Honorarium or _____ Memorial?

If yes, please include person's name and notification information:

For: _____

Notify: _____

**YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION**

\$500 \$250 \$150 \$100 \$75 \$50

Payment Method (check one):

Check Visa MC Amex

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: _____

Would you like to make this a recurring monthly donation?

Yes No Thanks

Mail this form with your donation to: [2411 Two Notch Road, Columbia SC 29204](http://2411TwoNotchRoad.com)

- **OR - DONATE ONLINE** at www.FamilyShelterSC.org/donate

Your gift helps homeless families go HOME