



COALITION NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

A publication of The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs in Frederick County

The Face of Poverty is Changing

The unemployment rate in Frederick County fluctuated between 3,400 and 4,200 between 2007 and 2008. For the first three months of 2009, the number of unemployed people has taken a huge jump to more than 7,900 Frederick County residents without jobs. "We expect this trend to escalate for the rest of 2009," said Rev. Scott. "There is a whole new population of people in crisis needing help."

"We already feel the increase in demand for our services from middle class families, many of whom are former donors," said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition. "Many of these families have exhausted their own reserves and credit lines before they get to us."

During the first three months of 2009, there was a noticeable increase in emergency financial assistance to families, who have never applied for aid before.

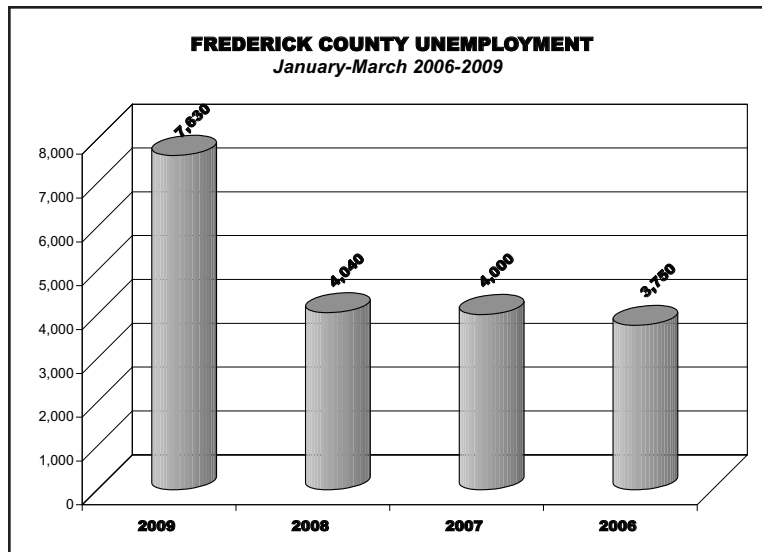
Judy's job has been terminated and her world is coming apart. Her

husband, Jonathan, has a serious brain aneurysm that requires extensive care. The Religious Coalition temporarily helped with the health insurance co-pay to keep them from losing their insurance. Jonathan's health is failing and more brain surgery has been scheduled. Through the Coalition, Med Bank is helping with prescription medications. This former middle class family has never sought help before.

After working for the same company for 43 years, Jim was laid off and lost his health insurance. He and his wife have serious medical issues. The Coalition provided emergency prescription medication assistance. Their finances have collapsed. Their home is being repossessed and they have applied for affordable housing. This middle class

family is losing everything.

The Coalition is dealing with the problems presented by these new clients by reaching out to the community for additional financial support.



Religious Coalition Plans for 21st Century Ausherman Family Foundation Provides Capacity Building Grant

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs has received a Capacity Building Grant from the Ausherman Family Foundation, \$19 thousand for planning and \$6 thousand for technical upgrades. The Religious Coalition has been operating on the basis of year to year planning and will use these funds to establish a new Strategic Plan that will be valid for the next three years. Capacity Building Grants are used to evaluate programs, and decide what changes should be made to better serve the community. The structure of the organization will also be reviewed to make it more effective in the years ahead.

"After an extensive search, we hired an outstanding consultant to help us develop a long term strategic plan," said Rev. Brian Scott. "The Chesapeake Group has decades of successful experience working with nonprofit organizations as well as faith based organization and we are



Marvin Ausherman



Lisa Ausherman

looking forward to working with them." TCG has worked previously with the Religious Coalition on the development of Exodus Project, providing analysis and planning.

Ms. Norine Haas, Executive Director of the Ausherman Foundation indicated the Religious Coalition will use this grant to move into the future. "We greatly appreciate and support them in what they do," said Norine Haas, Executive Director of the Ausherman Foundation. "The community would be much poorer without them." She described the Strategic Plan as the methodology used to move the organization into the future. "It is extremely important to have the right plan," she said, "and funding a consultant will help make this possible." The study will take 6 to 9 months and will have lasting impact on services being provided by the Religious Coalition in Frederick County.

Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive Benefits Frederick County Food Banks

On May 9, 2009, the National Association of Letter Carriers conducted its' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in more than 10,000 communities, including Frederick. Mail carriers picked up sacks of food as they delivered the mail.

Eight Food Banks in Frederick County serve an average of 1,335 families each month. "The Religious Coalition coordinates the activities of the Food Banks and refers families to them," said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition. "We have seen a 42% increase in families using food banks over the past 2 years and this drive will provide food for the hungry in Frederick County for about three months."

"We are excited to do this for the community," said Laura Hennessey, Branch 644 President of the National Association of Letter Carriers. "We were also excited to announce that NALC Local 644 contributed \$500 to purchase food items for the drive.

"The support from the community was incredible this year," said a spokesperson. "The carriers just kept coming and coming with collected items. Their postal trucks were full of collected food."

At the Frederick City Post office alone, 13,000 lbs of food were collected that day. Overall, this year's food drive collected over 19,000 lbs

Brunswick Food Bank Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Congratulations to Sandra Cox, Manager of the Brunswick Food Bank and her volunteers on their 30th Anniversary keeping food on the table for needy families. "Many families in Frederick County are dependent on the food banks to keep from going hungry," said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of RCEHN. "I don't know what we would do without them." The Brunswick Food Bank, 7 S. Maryland in Brunswick is open Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm. and the first Saturday of every month.

RELIGIOUS COALITION SPECIAL EVENTS

August 29, 2009

**1st Annual Frederick Bar Association 5K Run
(or 2 Mile Family Fun Walk)**

**Saturday, August 29, 2009, 8:30 AM,
Baker Park.**

www.frederickbar.org to register.

September 16, 2009

**Golf Tournament, Beaver Creek Country Club,
Wednesday, September 16, 2009.**

**Contact the Religious Coalition for Golfer
Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities.**

Call: 301-631-2670.

www.thereligiouscoalition.org



Letter carrier Earlene LeCompte participates in the Stamp Out Hunger Drive.

of non-perishable food items, compared to last year's drive of 13,000 lbs. "This is a true indication that everyone is trying to help; we live in a caring community," said Laura Hennessey.

Schools Support Food Drive

Frederick County High Schools participated in a one week food drive, April 14-21 to benefit area food banks. The student government and service learning boards at Walkersville High School, Tuscarora High School, Middletown High School and Urbana High School ran a food drive competition to determine school could collect the most canned foods to distribute to food banks in their community.

"I was very impressed with the sense of competition and entrepreneurial skills demonstrated by our students," said Jim Ferrant, spokesperson for Frederick County Public Schools. "Two of the schools, Walkersville High and Frederick High School finished the week with student- staff basketball games where admission was a canned food item."

The winner of the Food Drive was Middletown High School, collecting over 1,700 food items for their food bank. Teachers said their students had shown great enthusiasm for the event.

"Middletown has great residents and they continually support the services we provide," said Phyllis Thompson, manager of the Middletown Food Bank. "This is a great time of year for these drives in advance of summer."

Community Foundation Funds Medical Needs, Updates Shelter

The Community Foundation of Frederick County has provided a grant of \$28,000 to the Religious Coalition to fund prescription medications, emergency dental services, new laundry equipment for the Cold Weather Shelter and an LCD projector. "This money comes at a critical time for the Coalition," said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition. "The number of clients needing medical assistance is growing rapidly."

In March, 2009, the Religious Coalition provided emergency financial assistance to many more clients, including medical referrals to an additional 321 clients; a 54% increase over February.

1st
Annual

Bar Association of Frederick County 5K Run

(or 2 Mile Family Fun Walk)

To Benefit

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs
www.thereligiouscoalition.org



Race Day Volunteers
Needed!

Saturday
August 29, 2009
8:30 am
Baker Park
(rain or shine)

FOR REGISTRATION OR SPONSORSHIP
INFORMATION

Visit:

www.frederickbar.org/charity5krun

Or Call:

301-663-1139

SAVE THE DATE.....

13th ANNUAL LINDA KELLER DELAUTER MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC



Wednesday, September 16, 2009

12 noon

Beaver Creek Golf & Country
Club

Boonsboro, MD

*For Tournament Information
and/or Sponsorship Opportunities*

Contact:

The Religious Coalition at 301.631.2670

x117

Proceeds To Benefit

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs

www.thereligiouscoalition.org

**From the Executive Director
Rev. Brian Scott**



Dear Friend:

Even though we are going through tough times right now, I want you to know the Religious Coalition has a commitment to continue providing needed services to our neighbors in need.

Traditionally, people think of helping poor people as the Coalition's role in society, but times have changed. We are now providing emergency financial assistance to middle class families, who have lost their jobs, their benefits and are losing their homes. Losing everything you have worked a lifetime to acquire creates tremendous stress on families, children, the elderly and disabled.

People are increasingly anxious about what is going to happen and they are afraid. I want them to know they can count on the Religious Coalition

to be there for them.

The Coalition's donations from individuals have increased as have grants from foundations, good news for us. Donations from churches are down, putting us at last year's funding level. Increased demand for services in 2009 means that fund raising efforts will need your support, now more than ever, to keep pace with the changing face of poverty in Frederick County.

I want to thank all of our volunteers, who are doing an incredible job. The Cold Weather Shelter is closed for the season and volunteers helped us care for 274 clients during the coldest months. Exodus Project has just started and more volunteers are at work. Office volunteers take phone calls, provide referral information and assist with client intake. God bless you all!

During 2009, we are reaching out to more churches to expand the Religious Coalition's membership and community and business partnerships are being expanded to help us better serve the community.

Thank you for your help in the past. I am counting on you in 2009.

Rev. Brian Scott

Cost of Coalition Programs

Outside of government, the Religious Coalition provides more programs and services to needy people than any other agency. Thousands of people benefit.

- ✓ Eviction Prevention **\$150 per client**
- ✓ Utility Cutoffs **\$150 per client**
- ✓ Prescription Meds **\$50 per client**
- ✓ Emergency Pantry **\$25 per client**
- ✓ Cold Weather Shelter **\$500 per day**



Volunteer Needs & Opportunities

Volunteers are needed by the Religious Coalition. Training is provided.

Religious Coalition Leadership

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Finance Committee to work on fund raising to increase the resources of the Coalition. Experience in nonprofit fund raising helpful.

Board of Directors, candidates should be active in the community in church leadership, business, clubs and organizations in Frederick County. Call Rev. Brian Scott, 301-631-2670 ext. 198.

Religious Coalition Office (12 Months)

Volunteers at the office include assisting clients with applications for services: eviction notices, past due utilities, prescription medications and healthcare needs. Seeking candidates for 4 hours, 1 day a week, Monday to Friday.

Additional volunteers to serve as receptionists, answer phone calls, make referrals and provide intake for clients. 301-631-2670.



Cold Weather Shelter Volunteers

Exodus Project May to October

Volunteer at the Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter 6-10 PM, 7 days a week. Program to move people from homelessness to permanent housing. Assign beds, hand out supplies, stock donated items. Volunteer Training on June 17, June 20. Call 301-631-2670 ext. 112 .

To Reach The Religious Coalition,

CALL: 301-631-2670

27 DeGrange Street
Frederick, MD 21701

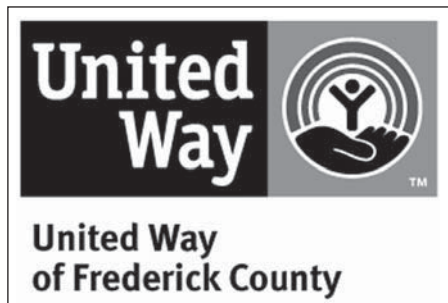
www.thereligiouscoalition.org

Service Center Staff Extensions:

- Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director for Fund Raising and Administration **198**
- Robin Cosley, Office Manager for Client Services **105**

Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter

- Milton Higgins, Director for the Shelter and Volunteers **114**



6,000 Frederick County Homes Behind on Utility Bills

On March 11, 2009, the Public Service Commission temporarily delayed termination of residential gas and electric service in Maryland. Meetings were held among utilities, consumer groups and PSC staff to work out an agreement acceptable to all parties. On the April 24, 2009, the ban was lifted and, at the same time, utility companies were directed to notify customers they could negotiate payment plans.

“The temporary ban on utility cutoffs delayed cutoff notices for many of our clients,” said Rev. Brian Scott, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition. “Lifting the ban will produce more clients facing an immediate loss of service.” Potential clients must have a turnoff notice and proof of recent utility payments. Each person is carefully screened by Coalition staff. In 2008, there was a 50% increase in utility assistance over 2007. Based on projections, this program will increase substantially in 2009.

Allegheny Power has 88,865 customers in Frederick County.



Office Manager, Robin Cosley working with client.

Excluding low income homes, 5,652 households are behind one or more months. There are 5,000 low income customers and 590 of them are behind on their utility bills. “The numbers are higher this year, because we had a colder winter, people experienced difficulty at work and there were layoffs,” said Todd Meyers, a spokesman for Allegheny Power. “The lion’s share of these consumers will not have their utilities turned off, because we work very hard to develop payment plans giving customers time to pay off past due bills.”

Many of the families seeking emergency financial assistance are single, working mothers with children. Each family crisis is a different story, but many of them turn to the Religious Coalition for help. The Religious Coalition is depending on the community, foundations, businesses and groups in Frederick County to support this program and keep the lights on for these families and their children.



The RELIGIOUS COALITION for EMERGENCY HUMAN NEEDS

27 DeGrange Street / Frederick, MD 21701

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