



The Religious Coalition Annual Appeal

Serving Our Neighbors in Need in Frederick County Since 1981



Volume 1 Number X

Christmas Edition

Coalition Financial Resources Stretched to the Limit

Ausherman Foundation Approves \$50,000 Challenge Grant - Donors Double Their Money

Frederick - Since 1981, the Religious Coalition has served our neighbors in need. We partner with more than 100 churches in Frederick County. This partnership among the churches provides financial support and volunteers for our programs and services. We are a faith based organization that has stretched its' resources to the limit. As demand increases, we must find additional funding or programs will be curtailed.

The Alan P. Linton, Jr. Homeless Shelter is home to two programs: the Cold Weather Shelter - operating during the winter, Exodus Project - a rotating 90 day program spring to fall. It is an overnight shelter for adult men and women and operates year round.

At the same location, the Religious Coalition operates a Service Center that accepts applications for emergency financial assistance from needy individuals and families. More than 400 people a month, 40% of them first time clients, submit requests for assistance from the Coalition. Demand for services is growing, and we need the financial support of the entire community to keep going.



Government Cutbacks/Fewer Services for the Needy

During the depression of the 1930s, *Time* put a picture on the front of its' magazine, calling it "The New Hard Times." People waited in long lines for what little help was available.



Eighty years later, a severe recession has forced cutbacks in government spending across the board. Basic services to needy people have been reduced. As a result, more families with children are in crisis and are facing eviction or loss of utilities. Clients are seeking financial assistance from the Religious Coalition while the organization seeks new funding for our services.

Rising Unemployment Leads to more clients at the Religious Coalition Office

Sixty percent of the Religious Coalition's clients are single parents with small children, and forty percent of our clients are seeking emergency financial assistance for the first time.

2010 has not been a good year for jobs. Gabriel's Inn closed in February. "Thank you to all who dined with us," they said in part as they closed. In March, BP cut 320 jobs. In May, JP Morgan Chase Bank announced that 600 workers would be laid off at the end of December. Bon Ton Department store just announced it is closing its' Frederick store, idling 56 employees. Last month, Perkins and Houlihans restaurants closed, putting 60 employees out of work.

Eviction Prevention Programs

From January to September 2010, 229 clients have been approved for rent, security deposits or mortgage assistance, preventing them from becoming homeless. Foreclosures in Frederick County have escalated to two a day. Many clients come to us with an eviction notice in hand. Without our help, the number of homeless in Frederick County would double.

For the same period, 443 clients have applied for energy and utility programs. These clients have shutoff notices in hand and are usually within a day of two of having their lights and heat turned off.

Prescription Medication Program

More than eleven hundred people have received their prescription medications in the first nine months of 2010, because they qualified for the Coalition's program. Chronic conditions worsen without needed medicine. The Religious Coalition works with a network of providers, including: pharmacists and physicians who support this program.



Make sure: Donate Now Online at www.thereligiouscoalition.org

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for the following:



- Stop an Eviction or Foreclosure
- Keep Families Warm and Safe by Preventing Utility Cutoffs
- Provide Shelter for a Homeless Person or Family
- Provide Christmas Assistance for a family in need
- As Needed
- \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$125
- \$100 \$50 For the Greater Good \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Please send your check to:
The Religious Coalition
27 DeGrange Street
Frederick, Maryland 21207

