



ONE MONTH'S RENT INITIATIVE

Newsletter – Sixteenth Edition

September, 2016

Mission Statement

The One Month's Rent Initiative pays one month's rent or a security deposit for low-wage earners in Howard County who are threatened with losing their housing due to a personal, economic, or medical crisis.

For twelve years the One Month's Rent Initiative has assisted Howard County families dealing with housing emergencies. This year, we have distributed \$20,200 helping 14 families remain in housing when faced with eviction.

"Money" magazine named Columbia the best place to live in the country. Nevertheless, there are people in Howard County who struggle to make ends meet. Average rentals have risen from \$1,354 to \$1,443 among the families helped. For the county as a whole, the median rent is \$2,150. These figures make it difficult for low income workers, our target population, to reside in the county. Another problem which creates need is domestic abuse; 29% of cases arose from abuse situations.

We continue to work with the Community Action Council, so new employees there are made aware of our services. They are a vital link in seeing that people in need are made aware of the assistance we make available. Neither the Community Action Council, nor One Month's Rent's members uses donated funds for expenses. CAC and the board members of OMR absorb all administrative costs. Our website (OneMonthsRent.org) provides a link to a CAC form, where you can designate your contribution as one for a non-profit 501(c)(3), select the amount, then restrict the donation to One Month's Rent Initiative using PayPal®.

We continue to receive contributions from organizations. Our largest corporate funder is *Long and Foster Columbia Gives*. We encourage you to attend their Bingo Evening and the Holiday Market (coming Saturday, November 12, 10 am – 3 pm at Wilde Lake High School). Dames who Dine and Donate and the residents at Watermark also continue to be faithful donors.

Here are some examples of people we have aided in the 2015-2016 year:

- A fire destroyed the apartment of a single parent of a 6-year-old. We were able to help with the first month's rent after she managed the security deposit.
- A woman who supports a child and a grandchild was hospitalized due to illness, losing pay as a result. We were able to cover the rent payment.
- A single parent of four began working for the school system in April but was not paid during the summer. We assisted her with a rent payment.
- A single mother of two left an abusive boyfriend who had been paying half the rent. She was laid off after missing work to hide her children to keep them safe. We helped with a rent payment while she found a new job and a less expensive apartment.
- A single mother of two went to live with her mother after her husband put her possessions out of the house, changed the locks, and threatened harm if she returned. OMR contributed a security deposit to help her relocate.

Thanks for your help

We hope you will make a donation to the One Month's Rent Initiative or, as many of you do, make your annual contribution via PayPal or check. Please let interested friends know that any checks for donations should be made out to **Community Action Council**, with **One Month's Rent in the memo line**, and sent to OMR, PO Box 2153, Columbia MD, 21045.

*Thank you from the One Month's Rent Initiative – Anne and Chuck Dodd – Linda Blakeslee and Roy Henderson
Joy and Mike Calvert – Ann Neale – Jane Parrish – Wren Cronan Morgan – Mary Klett – Rebecca Politzer*

OneMonthsRent.org