



ONE MONTH'S RENT INITIATIVE

Newsletter – Seventeenth Edition

October, 2017

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.

The One Month's Rent Initiative has completed its thirteenth year assisting Howard County families dealing with housing emergencies. This year, we have distributed \$33,152 helping 20 families remain in housing when faced with eviction. That constitutes a 70 percent increase over the number helped last year. A June 8th article in the Washington Post helps explain this increasing need. It stated that there is nowhere in the United States where someone working a minimum wage could afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition there are only 12 counties where people can afford a one-bedroom apartment. More than 11.2 million families spend more than half their paychecks on housing. With the high cost of living in Howard County, low-income workers face severe housing problems. Any financial crisis threatens their ability to stay in housing.

The Community Action Council continues to screen requests for aid and refers appropriate cases to the board members for approval of assistance. Our website (OneMonthsRent.org) enables donors to use PayPal to make donations. The fees that PayPal charges are paid by members of the board so that 100% of donations are spent on rent or security deposits. Neither the Community Action Council, nor One Month's Rent's members use donated funds for expenses. The board members of OMR and CAC absorb all administrative costs.

We hold only one fundraiser a year, reaching out to friends and relatives to help us assist low-income workers with housing crises. We continue to receive contributions from organizations. We encourage you to attend the bingo evening and the Holiday Mart (Nov. 11th, 10 AM to 3 PM, at Wilde Lake High School) that Long and Foster of Columbia holds to benefit One Month's Rent.

Here are some examples of people we have aided in the 2016-2017 year:

- After a bitter divorce, a single mom lost her job and her husband failed to pay child support. She found another job and sued for child support, but was left with insufficient funds for rent and faced eviction. We helped until her income and child support resumed.
- We assisted a man who was part of the Bridge Project, a program designed to help vulnerable people with some criminal history get back on their feet. He had found a townhouse and two roommates, but needed assistance meeting the initial rent payment.
- A man was faced with funeral expenses for his mother, lost work due to court dates for an incarcerated sister, and lost work due to hospitalization. This combination caused him to fall behind in his rent. OMR assisted with the back rent to help him avoid eviction.
- We assisted two women who were in situations which required them to seek alternative housing to avoid abuse.
- A family had moved to West Virginia when both parents lost their jobs. They left without paying rent that was in arrears. When they returned to Howard County they were unable to rent because of their outstanding rent history and were living in a motel. We assisted with the rent that was in arrears so that they could establish stable housing.

Thanks for your help

We hope you will donate to the One Month's Rent Initiative either via check or PayPal (see directions on our website – OneMonthsRent.org), so that we are able to continue to help more families in need. Checks 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*