



ONE MONTH'S RENT INITIATIVE

Newsletter – Nineteenth Edition

September 2019

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 assisted 33 families during its fifteenth year. This is 10 families more than average. This year we used \$60,805 to help families avoid eviction when faced with a financial crisis. This surge in requests for assistance has depleted our coffers and makes our request for contributions urgent.

In an August 15, 2019 article the Columbia Flier reported that 17 schools in the ElkrIDGE, Columbia, and Laurel sections of Howard County had more than 40% of students on Free or Reduced Meals. Stevens Forest Elementary was listed as having 65% of students on this program. This is a shocking statistic in a county that is one of the most affluent in the country. This information makes it clear how families are struggling and how a financial crisis threatens families' 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) has a link to the CAC website which enables credit card donations. **Be sure when using the website to click on the box for Donation Restrictions and check One Month's Rent.** That will ensure that your donation goes for the purpose it was intended. One Month's Rent does not use donated funds for expenses. The OMR board members absorb all administrative costs.

For those who send payments directly to the Community Action Council, please note that the new address is 9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046. This is especially important when using automated or charitable investment accounts. We have had requests from donors for the Community Action Council Employer Identification Number used for tax purposes. It is 52-823083.

We hold only one fundraiser a year, reaching out to friends and relatives to help us assist low-income workers with housing crises. We hope you will help us again, especially in light of increased need.

Over half of the families helped this past year were in crisis because of temporary loss of employment. They fell behind in rent while looking for a new job.

Here are some examples of people we have aided in the 2018-2019 year:

- A single mother had to use Uber or Lyft to get to work after her car broke down. The repairs and transportation costs left her short of funds for a rent payment.
- The son of a single mother needed \$550 for summer school in order to stay on track for graduation. This led to inadequate funds to make a rent payment.
- A single mother had a granddaughter come to live with her which led to additional expenses. When the granddaughter had to go into rehab, the woman fell behind on her rent.
- A woman with a child ended up living in her car to escape a domestic abuse situation. She temporarily lived with her mother-in-law but had to go back to her car because the abuser could not be kept away from his mother's. She needed help with the rent that allowed her to move into an apartment.

Thanks for your help

We hope you will donate to the One Month's Rent Initiative either via check or credit card (see directions at 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
Joy and Mike Calvert – Ann Neale – Jane Parrish – Wren Cronan Morgan – Mary Klett – Rebecca Politzer
OneMonthsRent.org*