

Our Impact

FY2019: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

885 households served (44% were visiting LARS for the first time; 21% were homeless)

22 families/individuals safely housed through LARS' Supportive Housing Program

79 evictions prevented through rental assistance totaling \$56,570

6,746 bags of food distributed

373 children's holiday wish lists fulfilled

64,178 lbs of food donated to LARS' pantry

232 volunteers gave 2,429 hours of service



Visit Us

311 Laurel Avenue
Laurel, MD 20707

Contact Us

Phone: (301) 776-0442
Fax: (301) 604-7076
www.laureladvocacy.org
www.facebook.com/laureladvocacy
Twitter/Instagram: @laureladvocacy



LARS is a proud member of the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington. LARS has undergone an extensive review process, and has met the Catalogue's high standards. Learn more at www.cfp-dc.org



LARS is a platinum-level GuideStar participant, demonstrating a strong commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.

Check out LARS' profile at www.guidestar.org/profile/52-1537336



LAUREL ADVOCACY & REFERRAL SERVICES, INC.

WHO WE ARE

LARS' mission is to enable homeless and low-income people in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

LARS was founded in 1987 by a group of local congregation leaders and community members in response to the growing number of people coming to their doors for food and financial help.

GET INVOLVED

Donate

Visit www.laureladvocacy.org and click "Donate" in the upper right corner to set up a monthly, quarterly, or one-time gift to LARS. Your donation stays right here in our community, helping to put food on tables, keep families in their homes, and create better opportunities for people living in poverty.

Food donations are also needed to help keep the LARS food pantry stocked. Drop off non-perishable, non-expired food to LARS during business hours.

Volunteer

From answering phones, picking up food donations, shelving food in the pantry, and helping at special events, our wonderful team of volunteers helps our small staff accomplish more to make a greater impact on our community. **To learn more about year-round and seasonal volunteer opportunities at LARS, fill out the Volunteer Interest Form at www.laureladvocacy.org/volunteer or give us a call at 301-776-0442.**

Participate

LARS hosts many community events throughout the year, including our big Turkey Trot 5K run/walk on Thanksgiving Morning!

Contact **Laura Wellford** at lwellford@laureladvocacy.org for more information on participating in or sponsoring LARS events.

WHAT WE DO

Emergency Services

LARS' Crisis Center provides support for Laurel residents facing crisis due to illness, injury, loss of a loved one, loss of employment, or other hardships. Services include: a food pantry, eviction prevention/rental assistance, utility assistance, clothing and furniture vouchers, referrals for mental health and substance abuse treatment, help with prescriptions including eyeglasses and eye exams, holiday and back to school programs, and financial assistance to obtain birth certificates and IDs. Representatives from other organizations such as the Prince George's County Department of Social Services are regularly on-site to assist clients with applications for federal/state programs.

Supportive Housing

LARS' Permanent Supportive Housing Program serves 22 of the most vulnerable chronically homeless and disabled individuals/families in Prince George's County. Participants go from living on the streets, in shelters, cars, or other dangerous conditions to living in their own apartments leased by LARS throughout the Laurel area. Participants live independently with support as needed from LARS, including life skills classes, individual savings accounts, and assistance with obtaining treatment for substance abuse, health or mental health problems.

Self-Sufficiency Program

Through LARS' newest Self-Sufficiency Program, 7 motivated households are working with a case manager on a longer-term basis to help them improve financial habits and overcome barriers to maintaining stability after the "critical care" of rental or other assistance is provided. Contact Audrey Vaught at avaught@laureladvocacy.org for more information!

HOW TO GET HELP

LARS is only able to serve households residing in one of the four Laurel zip codes of 20707, 20708 (Prince George's County), 20723 (Howard County), and 20724 (Anne Arundel County).

If you are experiencing a financial crisis, don't wait to get help. If you have an eviction notice or are behind on your rent, be proactive and be as prepared as possible for your visit to LARS.

The first step is to come in and meet with a caseworker at LARS during operating hours:

Monday 9:00AM-2:00PM & 5:00-7:30PM

Wednesday 9:00AM-2:00PM

Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

No appointment is necessary, but please plan to arrive at least 1 hour before closing to ensure that you are seen. A caseworker will conduct a brief intake session lasting about 30 minutes with the individual or family to assess their needs.

Please bring these documents with you on your first visit to LARS:

- Valid picture ID for all household members over age 18
- Dates of birth for all household members
- Social Security cards for ALL household members
- Birth certificates for all children under 18
- Proof of all income received by each member of the household (including pay stubs, child support, food stamps, SSI, SSDI)
- Proof of need (such as a BGE bill and cut-off notice, court eviction notice, etc.)
- Copy of a lease or a letter from landlord to verify your Laurel residence
- Bank statements for the past 3 months