

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE >



Since 1965, SHORE UP! Inc. has served Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, working diligently to meet the needs of individuals who need assistance, and to help these individuals and their families maintain long-term independence and achieve economic security. We "help people help themselves" by offering services like Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Energy Assistance, free tax preparation, skills training and more.

During such unprecedented times, we are sending this newsletter to remind you that we are still here to help. SHORE UP! Inc. is a mainstay in this community, and while we too face challenges, we continue to offer the services you need, and will work to create the security you desire for you and your family.

Please enjoy this first edition of our monthly newsletter.

Sincerely,

Freddy L. Mitchell, Executive Director

IN THE COMMUNITY >



FOOD GIVEAWAY

Family Service workers and site coordinators at St. Clair Early Learning Center in Cambridge, Md. recently assisted Dorchester County Wellness Center with a drive through food drive. Head Start/Early Head Start families were contacted for meal assistance.

Pictured l-r, TyKisha Camper, Family Service worker; Darlene Brown, site coordinator and Lanise Sampson, Family Service worker.

FYI-St. Clair Early Learning Center is one of 13 SHORE UP! Head Start and Early Head Start centers. Centers are located in Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Talbot counties.



HELPING PEOPLE >

RECRUITMENT SET TO BEGIN MAY 18

SHORE UP! Inc. will begin accepting applications for its Early Head Start and Head Start programs on May 18. Due to Coronavirus, the agency's recruitment efforts are beginning late. However, on May 18, parents may begin completing applications, and eligible parents will receive **FREE** service for their children.

Children ages six weeks to three-years-old may attend the Early Head Start program with a focus on developmental, social and educational success. SHORE UP!'s Head Start program is a comprehensive family development program for three to five-year-olds. Preparing children for Kindergarten and helping them to meet developmental and nutritional needs are the primary goals.

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs also provide information to pregnant women on breastfeeding, school readiness, healthy meals and community resources.

To apply or for more information, call 410-749-1142 ext. 341.



WHAT WE DO >

ADULT DAY CARE CONTINUES TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN A NEW WAY

SHORE UP! Inc. operates a number of different programs. One such program that has been sustained since 1975 is the Adult Day Services (ADS) program. Prior to COVID-19, ADS offered daily care to individuals with disabilities, ages 16 and up, and the elderly. The center for the program, Shady Pines Adult Medical Day Care, is located at 1929 Northwood Dr. in Salisbury, Md. It has often provided a safe, friendly place for clients to spend the day with well-trained, caring staff who meet their needs. By offering the chance to make friends and to become more active, ADS helps reduce the isolation the disabled and elderly can experience. Each day's activities included food, games and an opportunity to develop hobbies.

After the onset of Coronavirus, clients can no longer attend the center. However, staff has still found a way to serve those who participate in the ADS program. ADS employees contact clients **seven** days a week. Specific questions are asked to determine participants' needs, to answer any inquiries, and to ask about any illnesses they may be experiencing. If clients do have certain needs, staff can connect them to the proper resources for assistance.

MEETING NEEDS >

AGENCY SEEKS FEEDBACK TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

Are you a resident who has noticed the gaps in community services? Are you aware of needs that are not being addressed? SHORE UP! Inc., a Community Action Agency serving seven counties on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, has been providing a variety of programs to eligible families since 1965. However, the agency also realizes there are more needs which should be addressed. The public's assistance is needed to determine the gaps in community services, as well as community strengths.

Individuals, families and partners in Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties are asked to complete a Community Needs Assessment survey which will aid in the completion of a Community Needs Assessment, and ultimately a five-year strategic plan. A Community Needs Assessment must be completed every three years. This assessment utilizes surveys and data to assess unmet needs and gather some insight into the underlying causes of poverty. An assessment team will later determine the most pressing needs based on survey input, budget and other community resources. The link to the family and/or partner survey is located under **NEWS** at www.shoreup.org. Surveys are due this Friday, May 15.