



The Family Recovery Program Inc.

Restoring families.
Building futures.

June 2020

By David Sifford

In 2020, it is nearly impossible to begin a newsletter or any conversation without addressing the elephant in the middle of the room. The COVID-19 pandemic has come and drastically changed lives around the world. COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019, eventually it spread to the United States...to Maryland...and Baltimore City. The transmission of COVID-19 is through respiratory droplets. The world has been forced to adapt quickly in order to attempt to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In March 2020, the state of Maryland completely shut down. Businesses suddenly closed, schools, colleges and universities closed their doors, transitioning to online classes and sports were



(Ms. Sharease Mills, Specimen Collector at FRP)

canceled. The courthouses were empty and no longer having in-person hearings.

Everyone had to get creative in order to adapt to the "new normal." Words such as "social distancing" became household terms. No longer was it socially acceptable to greet someone with a handshake. Elbow bumps,

if anything at all, were the new greeting. Masks became essential wardrobe and even fashion statements-my Ravens and Terps masks are my favorites- and if you forget your mask, you can no longer enter most establishments. Personally, having my temperature taken and being asked about my recent health history before entering the courthouse has become routine and somewhat irritating when done 3-4 times a day.

FRP has been open and ready to service our parents during this trying time, while adhering to the governors social distancing requirements. Though it has been challenging, we continue to do what we do best and that's keep our families at ease no matter the situation they may face alone because we are all in this together.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser

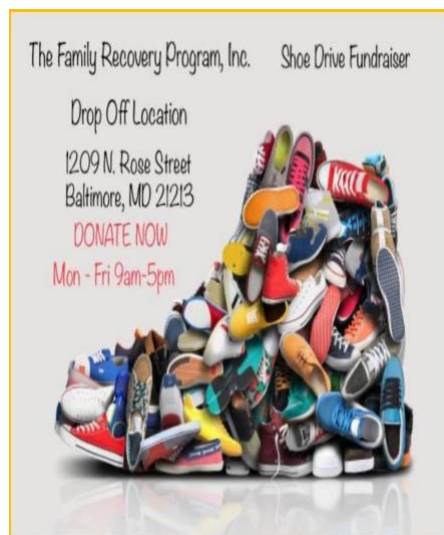
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, The Butterfly Ball, which had been scheduled for June 26, 2020, was postponed. The Butterfly Ball was to be a celebration of our 15-year anniversary and to support the development of five townhomes, which will be known as Sage II at Monarch View. With that in mind, Mrs. Shard'a Sykes and staff have launched a new and exciting fundraiser. The Family Recovery Program, Inc. has partnered with *Funds2Orgs* to help raise general operating funds through donations of new or gently used shoes. Not only will your shoe donations make a difference in someone's life, but FRP employees can win a \$100 gift card for donating the most shoes.

We need over 2,500 pairs of shoes by the July 31, 2020 to reach our goal. Donating is simple. Just bring your new or gently used shoes to the Sage Center at 1209 N. Rose Street. You won't have to come in the building. There is a drop-box outside of the building.



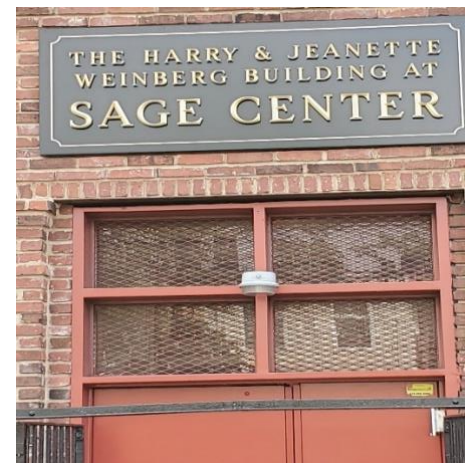
(drop off box located to the right)

We need over 2,500 pairs of shoes. So far, we have 825 pairs of shoes and still need 1,675 to reach our goal. Thank you in advance for your participation in this exciting opportunity to give back. For more information please give us a call at 410-605-0492 or email us at info@frp-inc.org



In This Issue:

- Adapting to COVID19
- Shoe Drive Fundraiser
- Progress with Sage II
- Easter/Mother's Day at Sage
- Reaching Out to the Community
- Community Event
- Partnerships Pitching In
- Passing of Andre Kennedy
- Upcoming Events



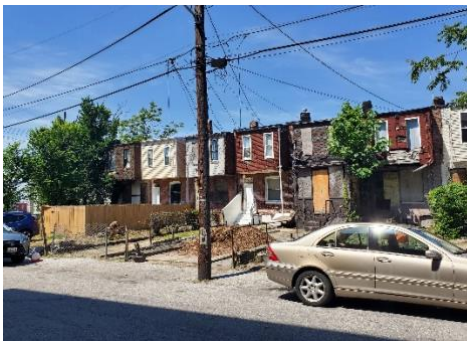
(Communications Manager, Shard'a Sykes below)



Progress with Sage II at Monarch View

In an effort to further the mission of creating family self-reliance, The Family Recovery Program, Inc. purchased five townhomes on N. Milton Avenue, directly across from the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Building at Sage Center. With Sage II at Monarch View, families will be able to transition from Sage into long-term transitional housing. The work has begun and progress is being made in the expansion of FRP.

Executive Director, Dr. Jocelyn Gainers, has met with Maryland State Senator Cory McCray of the 45th district representing northeast Baltimore, and he has expressed interest in working toward making Sage II a reality. He would like to support the program and get involved in more events like FRP's quarterly graduations and upcoming fundraising events like the *Virtual 1-Miler*.



The Journey Home: Baltimore's Plan to Make Homelessness Rare

and Brief identifies the fundamental causes of homelessness as poverty, a lack of affordable housing and a lack of comprehensive health and supportive services.

Baltimore is poor

- Nearly 1/2 of residents live below 200% of the federal poverty line
- More than 1/3 of children in Baltimore City live in poor households

Housing in Baltimore is expensive

- Nearly 1/2 of renters here spend 35% or more of their income on rent

Health insurance has limitations

At Health Care for the Homeless:

- Insurance doesn't cover 40% of the services our clients need

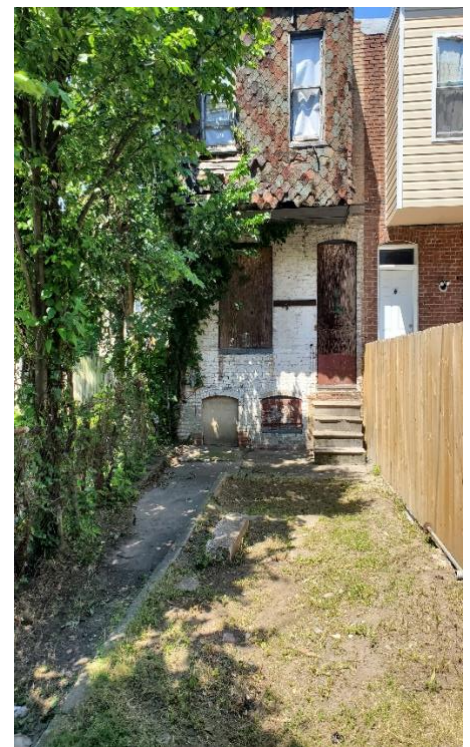


(N. Rose Street rear side)

Dr. Gainers says renovations may start by the end of July 2020, leading to an opening as soon as

mid-Fall 2020. Work is being done and you can see FRP's facilities managers, Mr. Dana Young and Mr. Keith Matthews cleaning and preparing the townhomes on a daily basis.

(N. Milton Street front side)



(N. Rose Street rear side)

Celebrating Easter at Sage Center

On Friday April 10, 2020 in celebration of the Easter holiday, FRP held an event at Sage Center. Parents and their children got together to have lunch and enjoy the company of the one and only Easter Bunny.



(FRP's own Mr. Keith Matthews starring as the Easter Bunny)

FRP's lead parent mentor, Mrs. Patricia Bishop, knows what the kids like and put her creative and decorative skills to work to give exciting Easter baskets full of

their favorite toys and treats. Parents were given beautiful flowers.



(Mrs. Patricia Bishop's Easter baskets for the kids)



(Easter Bunny in his coolest shades)

In between the food, music, dancing and games, parents had to gather their kids for that Easter family photo session by FRP's Communications Manager,

Shard'a Sykes. Some kids were more cooperative than others, but they all had an amazing a time.



(Kristen Townsend and her son)



(Mrs. Patricia Bishop with flowers that were given to the parents)

Mother's Day

2020

Considering that one of our goals is to reunify families who've been affected by substance abuse, Mother's Day at The Family Recovery Program, Inc. is a pretty big deal for staff and parents. Many of our parents have been reunified with their children or are diligently working with FRP and the Baltimore City Department of Social Services (BCDSS) to be reunified with their children who were removed from their custody by the Baltimore City Juvenile Court.

To show our appreciation for those moms and all the work they are doing, FRP served a Mother's Day lunch at Sage Center on Friday May 8th. The moms were given flowers and spent the remainder of the day celebrating.



(Stephanie Baird and Jessica Crews with masks at Sage on Mother's Day)



(Kelly McCormack and her son ready for lunch at Sage Center)

Care packages containing food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries were given to all who attended the event at 1209 N. Rose Street or could stop by the FRP office on Gay Street to have their care package dropped off to them.



(Jessica Vernon celebrating with her daughter and son at Sage Center)



(Monique Knight and her daughter enjoying Mother's Day)

Reaching Out To Our Community

As May approached, many of our parents were beginning to run out of food and supplies. We had those items to give but due to the pandemic, lack of transportation and limited bus routes, many of our parents found it be more and more difficult get to our offices. That was the perfect opportunity to break out our secret weapon- The Living Classrooms Foundation bus that was donated to us!



(Loaded up with food and gifts to be delivered)

Every other week in May, our Facilities Manager, Mr. Dana Young, would get behind the wheel and he, Mrs. Patricia Bishop and Mr. Keith Matthews would venture out into the community to hand deliver bags of food and supplies as well as earned incentives and vouchers from our Incentives Store on Gay Street.



(Amber Davis, Lakeesha Howell, Tammie Mollette, and Stephanie Zeller with deliveries)

Community Event at Sage Center

On June 26, The Family Recovery Program, Inc. held a community event for East Baltimore's community where Sage Center is located. There was a huge turnout from the community. We gave out 52 bags of food, 55 bags of toiletries and clothes to those who attended the event. Ms. Teresa Reese and Sage Housing residents Angel Stevenson and Sykia Stern were very instrumental in the planning and success of this event. With music in the air, line dancing and all the newest moves displayed on Rose Street, that was a day to remember.



(Patricia Bishop and Angel Stevenson at the community event)

Partners Supporting FRP

Dr. Jocelyn Gainers has always stressed the importance of networking and creating productive partnerships. She, along with Executive Assistant, Mrs. Sybil Imani, have been writing grants and creating productive relationships. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Gainers has reached out to resources like her sorority sister, Dr. Janese Daniels, who donated clothes to our families and shoes toward our shoe drive.



Mrs. Sybil Imani received donations on behalf of FRP from Home Depot for 25 bags of mulch to use toward the development of Sage II at Monarch View. She also worked with The Baltimore Office of Sustainability who donated 5 yards (unit of measurement for mulch) of mulch to our Curb Appeal Project. Curb appeal is defined as the visual attractiveness of a property as viewed from the street.



Baltimore City Schools have regularly delivered education packets for the kids at Sage. They've delivered fresh produce, dried goods, milk, diapers, baby formula and books for our kids. We are truly grateful for their assistance during these difficult times.



The Passing of Andre Kennedy

The Family Recovery Program is saddened by the loss of one of our former employees, Mr. Andre Kennedy. Andre worked at FRP and Sage Center. He was very passionate about his work and loved to help people. There was never a day that went by that Andre didn't smile or try to encourage a parent because that is who he was. Always lending an ear or giving a word. We want to

acknowledge him because he meant so much to his family here at FRP. Most recently, Andre was here was to speak at our March 2020 FRP graduation. He was awesome! His passion was on display and his love for people was evident. Andre's emotion was apparent as he said, "If I can make a change in my life, so can you!" We all knew how much his life had *actually changed*. FRP will miss Andre Kennedy as he has gotten his wings... but we will never forget "Mr. Andre."



Upcoming Events

June 2020

- 1** Shoe Drive Fundraiser (ends July 31)
- 16** Parenting Classes
- 19** Father's Day Event at Sage

***Virtual 1-Miler Fundraiser (date TBD)**