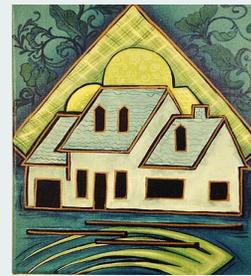




March Newsletter

The Springfield Supported Housing Program

Issue 7



Meet the Team:

Jenn Toner – Case Manager

What is your position with the Springfield Supported Housing Program?

My position is housing case manager for Springfield Supported Housing Program. I interact with families experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

What is the ADAP program?

The ADAP program is the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program through the Vermont Department of Health. The program enables me to work with community members in recovery, experiencing housing crises.

How did you get involved working with people experiencing homelessness?

I worked for the Springfield School District, but saw an advertisement to work with SSHP. I applied for the position. With my advocacy within the school district and landlord work, SSHP felt the position combined my interests. It was an opportunity that I took a chance on. I owned a rental property for several years, which allowed me to stay connected, and work with landlords. There is also a level of care with the work as a case manager, I care about the decisions of every family that I work with and want them to succeed.

How do you work with clients and landlords to ensure a healthy relationship?

Constant communication and contact. It's always communication. Show the landlords you are supporting both the landlord and the client.

What do you enjoy most in your work?

The successes. The families that succeed or try their absolute best, that want a different path. Just a simple yes or no can make a difference in their life. One little change can create a "Butterfly Effect". Our agency can help show the little changes that can make a huge difference in someone's life and lighten their stress.

What are some changes you've seen in your work through the pandemic?

The less client interaction and less face to face interaction has been difficult. There's more platforms to connect with clients, texting, Zoom, more programs available. I'm excited to get back to "normal". One positive is we've become closer as an agency, we rely on each other and help each other. We're more than a team, we're a family.

SEVCA Windsor County Head Start

Head Start serves all children in Windsor County, with Centers in Springfield, Chester, Windsor, and White River Junction. Free breakfast, lunch, and a snack is provided, hearing and vision screenings are available, and 16-30 hours of preschool at no cost to families that are income eligible. SEVCA is now enrolling for 2021-2022 for children ages 3-5 (Children must be 3 by September 1st.)

Head Start Contact Information:

Springfield– 802.460.1285

Chester– 802.460.0297

White River Junction–
802.674.8008

Main Office:

97 Park Street

Springfield, VT 05156

802.460.1550

SSHP Updates

Our agency assisted 57 families with housing navigation in motels, and supported 109 adults and 50 children in total in the month of March. We helped 3 clients in motels to move into long term housing, and 4 households move into SSHP Shelter units from February 16th-March 16th. A reminder that SSHP can support with payments for rental arrearage, security deposits, and rent. Reach out to 802-855-3034 with any questions.

Client Conversation:

We spoke with a client to ask about his experience and work with SSHP.

"The experience overall has been good, I am a recovering alcoholic and recovering addict and I have a lot of issues going on from my past and it had actually been a long time since I had my own place. Working with SSHP has given me an opportunity to have a roof over my head, gain some independence, and get back into the swing of things and back on a normal level. It's been a pretty good experience. I was trying to overcome a lot of obstacles in the past 3-5 years and this program has allowed me to do that. In terms of housing in Springfield, your options are limited, but I continue to put one foot in front of the other. Nowadays I do what is required to maintain what I've got over the past couple of years."

Paying Back Rent

In the beginning of April the Vermont State Housing Authority will release funds for a program to assist in paying bills for back rent. This rental assistance program will be similar to the Rental Housing Stabilization Program, but with new requirements. Check the vsha.org website and the SSHP Facebook Page for updates and information regarding this new program and funds.

