

## FY2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- Assessed **1,871** unique households (4,616 individuals) with a total of 4,432 visits to LARS
- 632** individuals visited LARS for the first time
- 168** individuals self-reported as homeless
- Assisted **147** individuals/families with rental stipends totaling **\$52,740**
- Assisted **38** individuals/families with utility payments totaling **\$9,622**
- Distributed **11,025** bags of food
- Received food donations worth an estimated **\$136,965**
- Volunteers delivered **14,456 lbs.** of fresh produce from the Capital Area Food Bank
- Received **6,488 lbs.** of food from the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Counseled **66** individuals on job searching, online employment applications, and resume-building
- Provided eye exams and glasses to **57** individuals through partnership with Laurel Lions Club
- Helped **40** individuals obtain birth certificates and IDs, with financial assistance totaling \$995
- A representative from the PG County Department of Social Services met with **237** individuals at LARS to submit benefits applications and renewals (October—June)
- Provided **373** families and **72** seniors with holiday meals in November & December
- Received donated holiday gifts for **200** families
- Clothing/furniture vouchers provided to **124** individuals
- 161** children received school supplies for the new school year
- LARS' Transitional Housing Program housed **15** homeless families; 5 exited the program into permanent housing
- LARS' Permanent Housing Program housed **10** chronically homeless, disabled individuals; 1 exited the program into a long-term care nursing home
- 371** volunteers contributed **3,263** hours to LARS, lending a hand in the food pantry, office, and at events
- 746** runners and walkers registered for the 10th Annual 5K Turkey Trot, raising **\$45,759**
- 149** runners and walkers registered for the 1st Annual Spring into Summer 5K, raising **\$7,000**

## MISSION

To enable homeless and low-income people in Laurel who are in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

## LOCATION, HOURS, & SERVICE AREA

LARS is located just a few blocks from Main Street off of Rt. 1 in Laurel, MD. LARS offers support to families and individuals residing only in Laurel in the following zip codes: 20707, 20708, 20723, and 20724. Individuals seeking assistance must have proof of Laurel residence OR must be homeless in Laurel.

LARS' hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM—2PM, and Monday evenings from 5PM—7:30PM. **Please be sure to arrive at least one hour before closing to ensure that you are seen.** In the event that a federal holiday falls on a Monday, LARS will offer evening hours on the Wednesday immediately following the holiday.

## HOW TO GET HELP

The person requesting assistance must first come in to meet with a caseworker. No appointment is necessary. A caseworker will conduct an "intake" session lasting approximately 30 minutes with the individual or family to assess needs.

### Clients must come prepared with the following documents:

- A valid picture ID (driver's license, passport, military, employee, etc.) 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 income for all working members of the household (pay stubs or letter from employer, government assistance letters: food stamps, SSI, SSDI)
- Proof of need (such as a BGE bill and cut-off notice, court eviction notice, or demonstrated inability to pay)
- Copy of a lease or a letter from landlord to verify address

Visit [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) for more information.

LAUREL ADVOCACY &  
REFERRAL SERVICES, INC.

## Agency Information



**LARS**  
**311 Laurel Avenue**  
**Laurel, MD 20707**

Phone: 301.776.0442  
Fax: 301.604.7076  
[www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org)

[www.facebook.com/laureladvocacy](https://www.facebook.com/laureladvocacy)

Twitter @laureladvocacy

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## Emergency Services

LARS' Crisis Center provides support for the community in numerous ways, including financial assistance to prevent evictions and utility stoppage, assistance with security deposits or first month's rent, eye exams/eyeglasses, referrals for shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment, clothing, furniture, and more.

## Homeless Supportive Services

LARS has limited funds to assist homeless clients with obtaining identification cards and birth certificates, prescriptions and other minor health expenses, first month's rent or security deposit, drug treatment and certain mental health needs, financial support for clients to get the needed materials to start work. LARS conducts assessment and outreach to Laurel's homeless population during the winter months as a "point of entry" for the Laurel Winter Shelter.

## Transitional Housing

The Transitional Housing Program (THP) provides support for 10 homeless families for a period of up to twenty-four months. Families in this program live in apartments that LARS leases throughout the Laurel community. Parents are supported with: individual service plans where specific goals are identified and frequently evaluated for individual progress; weekly case management visits; drug and mental health treatment; job search support; opportunities to attend classes to learn a skill or trade; parenting and financial management classes; financial assistance for day care, summer camps and educational/recreational programs for their children; and weekly group meetings focused on teaching life skills.

## Permanent Housing

The Permanent Housing Program (PHP) provides housing, support, and case management for nine chronically homeless, disabled individuals so they can be

successful in the community. Clients in this program literally go from living on the streets to living in their own one bedroom apartment where they are provided with considerable supports to ensure their success.

## Food Pantry

LARS provides food to eligible clients once every 30 days. The majority of food in the pantry is donated by way of individuals, schools, congregations, and community groups. LARS also receives state and county grants to purchase food, as well as food items from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). LARS makes every effort to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to clients as well. Volunteers pick up produce from the Capital Area Food Bank on a bi-monthly basis, bread and other baked goods donated weekly by local stores, and frozen meals from Olive Garden. LARS also supplements the food pantry with SHARE food packages purchased with grant funds and donated by the Knights of Columbus.

## SHARE Food

The SHARE Food Program is coordinated by the Knights of Columbus for LARS. SHARE packages are \$20, and normally include approximately \$50 worth of food. The only commitment required by SHARE is that the recipient provides two hours of community service (on your honor) for each month that they purchase a SHARE package. You can view the SHARE menus, place your order, and pick-up SHARE food at LARS. All orders must be placed and paid in full before the first Wednesday of each month. SHARE is a way to secure good, nutritious food for individuals and families on limited budgets. Visit [www.sharedc.org](http://www.sharedc.org) for more information.

## Employment Services

LARS' employment program is available to clients on Fridays from 9AM—12PM (no appointment necessary). LARS' employment coach is on site to assist serious job seekers with creating/updating their resumes, drafting cover letters, and applying for jobs online.

## Holiday Program

LARS provides food and gifts to families with a proven need during the holiday season. Senior citizens in need are also eligible to receive holiday food. Approximately 150 families participate in this program during Thanksgiving and December. Each family is matched with a community donor who fulfills the family's holiday wish list. Applications are accepted beginning in early October until the program reaches capacity. Call LARS around October 1<sup>st</sup> for more information, or check the LARS website: [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) for application and donation instructions.

## School Supplies

LARS collects donated school supplies and distributes them to low-income families beginning in August each year. They are distributed during normal operating hours until the supply is depleted. Call in early August for more information.

## How You Can Help

*No matter how you choose to give, your support is what keeps us going!*

- ⇒ **VOLUNTEER!** Contact Angelica Christian, LARS' Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-776-0442 ext. 32 or [achristian@laureladvocacy.org](mailto:achristian@laureladvocacy.org) to find out how you can get yourself, your family, or group involved at LARS
- ⇒ **DONATE!** Recurring or one-time gifts can be made at [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) or by mailing a check (payable to Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services) to LARS at 311 Laurel Ave, Laurel MD 20707. Food donations are always needed and appreciated! Drop off non-expired, non-perishable food items at LARS during business hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-2pm & Mon 5-7:30pm.
- ⇒ **PARTICIPATE!** Run or walk with us at the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning or at our Spring into Summer 5K in May! Visit [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) for more info!