MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In this issue, we meet Marisa, a mother who came to the Center with her two children. We are so proud of Marisa and all that she accomplished while she was with us. This reminded me of all families with children who have come through Brisben’s doors. Since 2005, Brisben has assisted more than 1,600 children, along with their parents. From newborns to toddlers, ‘tweens to teens, we have touched so many. Children bring joy and hope to all of us. Not a day goes by that I am not greeted with a big, bright smile and a “Hi, Miss Kim!”

Our fiscal year ends soon. I hope you will consider a donation to the Center. No matter how large or small, your contributions help us to continue to provide a safe shelter for those in our community, like Marisa, who have nowhere else to go.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

Kimberly Sally

May 1 - June 30
Balance Our Books Initiative

Brisben’s fiscal year ends June 30. We need your help to Balance Our Books. If you meant to make a tax-deductible contribution this year, now is an important time to do it. We are blessed with more than 3,000 volunteers & supporters, and this year some 400 of those made a donation, providing ALL of our private financial support from the community to date. Unfortunately, it does not balance our books and we have a pending shortfall for the year.

Your contribution now can help eliminate the deficit. It’s easy to donate online: go to www.brisbencenter/donate-funds. Or send a check in the enclosed envelope. If you have already donated and can make an additional contribution, we are grateful for your extra assistance!

We are thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who have supported the Center this year with their time and donations of food and supplies.

Thank you for your support!

Meet Marisa

Marisa is a smiling, outgoing mother of two young boys. Behind the smile is an extremely determined young woman, who has faced down and overcome being homeless. Her story begins with the separation from her husband, loss of her home, and the loss of her ability to financially support herself and the children.

To read more of Marisa’s story, go to www.brisbencenter.org/brisben-perspectives

Meet Chris

Chris is a Navy veteran, and an affable and focused young man. Chris has spent most of his life in California and Florida. He has had multiple run-ins with homelessness, and often lived on the fringes. The early breakup of his parents and his resulting resentment in the aftermath has colored most of his life. Chris shares his story to help others.

To read more of Chris’ story, go to www.brisbencenter.org/brisben-perspectives
Serving Hundreds

With your support:

In FY 2016 Brisben served a total of 506 persons (76 were children and 35 veterans) and provided a total of 28,884 bed nights.

In FY 2017 to date we’ve already cared for 362 persons (50 children – 36 veterans) and provided 19,548 bed nights.

We operate frugally 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Our average monthly total expense for operating the center is $55,667.

We’re often full but never closed!

Working Frugally

Mt. Vernon Sleep Center (owned by Ray Brown), a Brisben Community Partner, generously donated 10 bedding pieces to two families regaining their own housing in April — seven children and two adults! It happened with the key assistance of hardworking Brisben volunteer John Hayes, who picked up the bedding items and delivered them to the new homes.

Volunteers from Shiloh Old Site Baptist Church of Fredericksburg — led by Maynard and Edith Clipper — in April cooked and served a home-style baked chicken meal. This church is a key part of Brisben’s meal program, serving on multiple days. Brisben and its clients are grateful for the generous support of the congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Dobynes Sr.

The Easter Bunny hopped by the Center on Easter Sunday to visit with the children and deliver Easter baskets filled with goodies and toys — donated by the community. More than 13 children, with their parents, enjoyed the event. Teonia and Kai weren’t shy about posing with the Easter Bunny, played by longtime volunteer Tom Brem. Who says Brisben doesn’t have different volunteer activities?!

Elizabeth, representing the always-active Women on Mission group at Bethel Baptist Church of Fredericksburg, delivered a large donation of breakfast items, healthy snacks for our children, and other needed items for Brisben.

Thank you Women on Mission!

How to Help

- Donate online. Go to our website, www.brisbencenter.org, and click on HOW TO HELP.
- Mail a check payable to Thurman Brisben Center to: P.O. Box 1295, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.
- Make your contribution through United Way--CFC #63436. Brisben Center is a United Way Partner agency.
- Spread the word to family, friends and coworkers.

(Thurman Brisben Center is an IRS recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. You will receive a receipt and confirmation of the normally tax deductible contribution. Please consult your tax advisor.)