**COMMUNITY CARES**

**Zoom meeting**

**1/25/21**

I attended a meeting by Zoom presented by Beth Kempf who is the executive director of Community Cares. She presented an update of their current efforts to find a single location to house their homeless clients as they transition thru their program. Their residents have been staying at a local hotel thru the months of Nov., Dec., and Jan. but the cost of this has significantly reduced their budget and they have just moved back on Feb. 5 to the American Legion. They have been looking for temporary day shelter as well as night shelter locations. From June thru December they sheltered 340 individuals. They have received a grant for homeless prevention that provides up to 3 months rent and they have been using this and working with landlords to help people remain in their homes. In addition, they are trying to find alternative living placement for some of their clients or to provide money for Greyhound transportation so they can return to their families to live.

They have been in discussion with the Episcopal Church in Shippensburg-- which apparently owns a building that was previously used as a Long-Term Care facility and is now vacant. They were given access to 2 floors to house residents but in December Wellspan needed this space to house patients recovering from COVID-19. However, Community Cares will have the 2nd floor which has 12 to 15 rooms with kitchens that they plan to use for independent living of singles after WellSpan vacates in the next 6 to 12 months. They also plan to use the first floor to house families.

Community Cares continues to work on obtaining a property on Spring Garden St. near Giant for housing. They are waiting for zoning approval and hope to have this property by April and then start renovation and adding furniture. They plan to open this facility in the Fall. They still use their current Carlisle Resource Center for intake.

 Submitted by Greg Lewis