



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joe Meyer (703) 955-7876 or [Joe.Meyer@shelterhouse.org](mailto:Joe.Meyer@shelterhouse.org)

## **Shelter House and Family PASS Announce Merger**

***Shelter House and Family PASS combine forces to help prevent homelessness and domestic violence in our community.***

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RESTON, VA – Shelter House, a local nonprofit providing crisis intervention, safe housing, and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence, and Family Preservation and Strengthening Services (Family PASS), a local nonprofit providing long-term case management to help families at risk of homelessness find a path to economic self-sufficiency, today announced the two agencies will merge. Combining the two programs will provide extensive case management to families both at risk of homelessness and the recently rehoused with the goal of strengthening families and ending homelessness in our community.

Established in 2006 to support working families at risk of homelessness, Family PASS services will continue as a program of Shelter House. Family PASS's signature Self-Sufficiency Program provides financial assistance and comprehensive support services to help families stabilize a housing crisis and then pursue job skills training to secure higher earnings and greater financial stability. The program is voluntary and goals are client-driven. Clients may participate in the program for up to three years.

"The support of Shelter House, an outstanding organization with a proven track record of success in helping the homeless and domestic violence community, will help Family PASS expand our capacity and reach, allowing us to help more families achieve financial self-sufficiency," said Ann McNerney, Interim Executive Director.

Shelter House began its services in 1981 and operates Artemis House (Fairfax County's Domestic Violence Shelter), Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter, Patrick Henry Family Shelter, while providing both supportive transitional and permanent housing. In addition, Shelter House provides emergency services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Recently, Shelter House expanded into Loudoun County, operating the Loudoun Homeless Services Center.

“Shelter House is thrilled to have Family PASS join us in our work as we expand our services to help more at-risk families with long-term case management programs which are critical to ensuring independent, financially stable home life”, said Joe Meyer, Executive Director & CEO of Shelter House, Inc.

In a joint statement, Meyer and McNerney said: “As we exit from two years of a global pandemic which negatively impacted so many low-income families in our community, we see tremendous synergies and benefits in joining forces.”

*For more information about Family PASS, please visit [www.familypassfairfax.org](http://www.familypassfairfax.org).  
For more information about Shelter House, please visit [www.shelterhouse.org](http://www.shelterhouse.org)*

## Contacts

Shelter House Inc.

Joe Meyer, (703) 955-7876

[Joe.Meyer@shelterhouse.org](mailto:Joe.Meyer@shelterhouse.org)

Or

Family PASS

Ann McNerney, (703) 242-6474

[amcnerney@familypassfairfax.org](mailto:amcnerney@familypassfairfax.org)

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