



corner

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The AMEN Corner

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AMEN PROGRAMS CRITICAL TO ARLINGTON'S WORK COMBATING HOMELESSNESS



AMEN's emergency financial assistance programs are important resources in Arlington's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Arlington's Plan is a community-wide effort based on the *Housing First* strategy of **preventing homelessness**. *Housing First* helps people stay in their housing, moves those who do become homeless into housing rapidly, and provides the wrap-around services necessary for them to maintain their housing.

Research has proven that it is more cost effective to keep people housed, than it is



to provide assistance to people after they become homeless. The emergency financial assistance AMEN has been providing for over 30 years to help pay for rent, utility payments and other bills can, and often does, prevent the eviction of Arlington households. AMEN's success has led Arlington County recently to ask AMEN to administer increased financial assistance to needy residents. See the Arlington County website for more about the 10 Year plan to End Homelessness: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/departments/HumanServices/Xtend/XtendPassageHome.aspx> .

HOUSING FIRST SUCCESS STORY

A family of six, parents and their four children, faced eviction this winter when they could not pay rent for an apartment they had lived in for over 10 years. The father's paychecks stopped coming, and he discovered that his longtime employer was bankrupt. He found another job but did not have the money to pay back rent. With financial assistance from AMEN through the Carter-Jenkinson Homelessness Prevention program, the family was able to pay their back rent, stay in their apartment and regain their financial independence.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In December, the Arlington County Board amended this year's budget to respond to the increased number of Arlington residents needing assistance, providing an additional \$78,000 to AMEN's Carter-Jenkinson Homelessness Prevention program. In addition, the County Manager's FY2010 proposed budget provides more funding for the Carter-Jenkinson program.



Under the leadership of Chairman Barbara Favola, the County Board is to be commended for this forward-thinking action to assist those low-income Arlington residents who are most vulnerable in the economic downturn. In recent months, AMEN has experienced a noticeable increase in demand for its financial assistance, including rent and utilities. This additional County funding will enable AMEN to meet this increased need.

Gerry Shannon



TAFFY BRANDT JOINS AMEN STAFF



AMEN recently hired Taffy Brandt as Administrative Assistant. Taffy, an Arlington resident for over 27 years, is excited to work with a community supported non-profit. She brings administrative skills and related organizational experience. After nine years with a small, national non-profit, she looks forward to learning more about AMEN and

to help increase awareness of AMEN's important work.

FANNIE MAE WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF THE HELP THE HOMELESS PROGRAM

Fannie Mae instituted the Help the Homeless miniwalk program 21 years ago. HTH has been a huge success for our region's needy. Last year Fannie Mae showed its deep commitment to the Washington, DC region, awarding over \$2 million to area nonprofits. AMEN has partnered with Fannie Mae for years, applying the HTH proceeds to help many needy Arlingtonians stay in their homes, avoiding eviction and homelessness. AMEN raised \$43,000.00 during the 2008 HTH program.



As many of you know, Fannie Mae's governance changed recently, and the nonprofit community has been deeply concerned about HTH's future. We are thrilled to report that Fannie Mae has announced its continued support for the Help the Homeless program. Thank you, Fannie Mae, for your outstanding work in the community!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Have a free afternoon? Want to help other Arlingtonians? Please email the AMEN office if you are able to volunteer one afternoon a month; AMEN@emergencyneeds.org. Please include the word "volunteer" in the subject line.

NEW VOLUNTEERS JOIN AMEN

Welcome to new AMEN volunteers Marsha Randall and Alice Eichers. They have joined the AMEN Daily Emergency Financial Assistance program and will assist with social worker requests each month.

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT TO AMEN

The Arlington Community Foundation awarded a \$5000 capacity-building grant to AMEN to develop and implement a fundraising plan. AMEN applied for this grant in order to strengthen its long-term financial stability and ensure its future as a reliable resource for Arlingtonians. AMEN is now interviewing prospective fundraising consultants, one of whom will work with AMEN on its plan.

How much of my donation dollar goes to help the needy?

Great question. All of us want to know that when we donate money to an organization, our donation is really going to those we intend to help. AMEN is fortunate to have a team of volunteers who do much of the work necessary to help Arlington's neediest residents. AMEN does have some overhead expenses. We have 3 part-time paid staff and limited office expenses such as rent, telephone, and computer. We are proud to say that out of every dollar you donate to AMEN, 88 cents goes directly to our clients. In fact, as you will read in this newsletter, AMEN has been recognized by and is listed in the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small charities in the Washington DC Region." Only organizations that demonstrate fiscal responsibility and meet the Catalogue's rigorous standards are listed, so know that your donations to AMEN are used effectively and efficiently.



AMEN IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY



AMEN is proud to be included in the *Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington* (CFP) where it has been recognized for the last four years. AMEN was prominently featured in the CFP 2005 edition where it was called "one of the best small charities in the Washington DC Region."



The CFP review board evaluates applicant charities for distinction, merit, cost-effectiveness, and accomplishment. The purposes of the CFP are: To raise public awareness of, and respect for, philanthropy; To create visibility for excellent, trustworthy nonprofits in Greater Washington; To increase and improve charitable giving in the Washington, DC region.

AMEN is not eligible to be rated by the well-known *Charity Navigator*, a national evaluation service, because AMEN's income from non-government sources is less than \$500,000.

Thank You Luncheon April 21

AMEN will host a lunch to recognize and personally thank its many volunteers for their tireless efforts on behalf of Arlington residents who need a hand. The event begins at 11:30 am on Tuesday, April 21 and will be held in the social hall of the **First Presbyterian Church** at 601 North Vermont Street in Arlington.

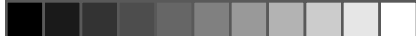
The Front Page

Arlington, Virginia

AMEN Fundraiser at The Front Page Arlington

5-9 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2009
\$10 donation to AMEN entitles you to half-price appetizers and reduced drink prices!
A win-win for you and for AMEN!
Bring your family and friends; we look forward to seeing you there!

The Front Page restaurant is located at 4201 Wilson Boulevard, (street level of the National Science Foundation Bldg in Ballston) Arlington, VA 22203



AMEN'S \$50 challenge TO END HOMELESSNESS
 Please join Arlington County's fight against homelessness by sending
 your donation to AMEN today!
HOW MANY FAMILIES CAN YOU HELP?
YOUR \$50 Donation WILL
 Save a family from eviction.
 Keep the lights on for a month.
 Keep a family together.



Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs, Inc.
 P. O. Box 7429
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