VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED AT APRIL LUNCHEON

AMEN’s volunteers were recognized and thanked for their dedicated service to Arlington’s neediest residents at a luncheon on April 21. The volunteers, AMEN Board and staff, and guests socialized and enjoyed a luncheon buffet. A brief program followed with remarks made by Barbara Favola, Chairman of the Arlington Board; Jane Burr, Chief of the County’s Crisis Assistance Bureau; Matt Kennedy, Case Manager for the Arlington Free Clinic; and AMEN Board President Steve Telkins. Each speaker thanked the volunteers and acknowledged the essential role that they play in providing emergency financial assistance in Arlington. Four of AMEN’s five programs are staffed year-round by approximately 30 volunteers.

THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION AWARD GRANT TO AMEN

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation of Washington, D.C. awarded a $20,000 grant to AMEN in June. Designated for emergency financial assistance, this is the first grant AMEN has received from the Cafritz Foundation. On receipt of the grant, AMEN Board President Steve Telkins stated, “We are very pleased to receive this important support from the Cafritz Foundation for AMEN’s work. This funding has been awarded when it is particularly needed since the economic downturn has created a significantly higher demand for emergency financial assistance. Arlington’s neediest residents will benefit directly from the Cafritz grant.”
WHO DOES AMEN HELP? ONE STORY

Samantha was a client of the Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) program in Arlington. During her stay in OAR’s transitional housing program, she found employment at a local restaurant. When she completed the program, Samantha was required to find her own housing, but her job income and her savings were not enough to cover the cost of both her security deposit and her first month’s rent. OAR then asked AMEN to help Samantha obtain her housing with a one-time part payment of that first month’s rent. AMEN responded with the requested help, and Samantha now continues to work, has settled into her own place, and lives independently.

Do you or does someone you know need emergency financial assistance?

If you are a resident of Arlington and have an emergency financial need, you must contact a social worker to refer you to AMEN. If you are not working with a social worker right now, contact the County Crisis Assistance Bureau at 703-228-1350 and tell them you need help.

EILEEN WETTROTH AND BARBARA SMUCKER RETIRE FROM BOARD

Eileen Wettroth and Barbara Smucker retired from the AMEN Board in the spring. Eileen served as a Board member for almost 20 years. We are pleased that she will continue volunteering for AMEN’s Daily Emergency Fund. Barbara Smucker served on the Board for three years and volunteered many more years at the former Furniture Bank of Arlington. She will continue her association with AMEN as a volunteer on our Help the Homeless mini-walks program. AMEN thanks Eileen and Barbara for their dedicated service on the Board.

JILL BARKER JOINS AMEN BOARD

Jill M. Barker joined the Board of Directors in June. A 15-year resident of Arlington, she practices energy law with the Washington, D.C. firm of Betts & Holt, LLP. With her husband Michael Crosswell and their two teenage children, Jill is active in Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Jill has served in leadership roles in her children’s Boy and Girl Scout troops and is a supporter of their school activities. Barker looks forward to helping AMEN further its mission to help Arlington’s neediest.

Please designate AMEN as the recipient of your workplace giving in 2010

Combined Federal Campaign # 30709
United Way # 8406
WALK AGAINST HOMELESSNESS: JOIN US ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th

AMEN will host its annual community Help the Homeless mini-walk at 2 pm on Sunday, October 25. Participants will meet in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church, 601 North Vermont St, on the corner of Carlin Springs Road. We will walk through the neighborhood and return to the church before 3:30 p.m.

All walker registration fees will directly fund AMEN’s emergency assistance programs. In addition, Fannie Mae provides financial incentives to AMEN based on the number of registered walkers so your attendance at the walk is really important to us! Have fun, get some exercise, and help other Arlingtonians! Be sure to bring the whole family and encourage your friends to join the walk.

AMEN WORKS THROUGH SCHOOL MINI-WALKS TO END HOMELESSNESS

For the past eight years, AMEN has worked with the Arlington Public Schools to organize Help the Homeless mini-walks for students. We are pleased to report that the Fannie Mae Corporation, despite recent financial problems, will sponsor the 2009 Help the Homeless walks program again this fall. AMEN Board members and staff will work with eight or more schools this year to help raise awareness among students about homelessness and to encourage volunteerism.

In 2008, AMEN received over $40,000 for its work in the Help the Homeless school walks. We hope to raise even more this year. AMEN will use the funds it earns from Fannie Mae to provide badly needed emergency financial assistance to Arlington individuals and families. The economic downturn has affected many in Arlington County, and the demand for emergency financial assistance in 2009 has increased by 30% over 2008. In so many cases, AMEN’s assistance has kept families in their homes and has enabled the uninsured to receive medical and dental treatment.
THANK YOU TO AMEN’S GENEROUS DONORS

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We apologize for any errors and welcome your corrections.
DRESS FOR WORK SUCCESS

Dress for Work Success is a volunteer-run AMEN program that takes clients shopping for new clothes appropriate for job interviews and employment. Individuals who successfully complete the Arlington Employment Center’s Arlington Works Program (AWP) are eligible. AWP participants have either never been in the workforce or have been out of work for some time. New work clothing helps clients get ready for work, increases self-confidence, and helps ensure employment success.

AMEN initiated Dress for Work Success in 1998 at the request of the Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance whose donation funded the start of the program. Since then, general donations to AMEN have funded the program. AMEN volunteer Pearl Hicks has managed the AMEN Dress for Work Success program since 2001. A recent Dress for Work Success client wrote:

Dear Mrs. Hicks,
I wanted to thank you for taking time and meeting me for the shopping trip.... It’s very kind of you to do that. I really enjoyed it. I get to enjoy the clothes everyday when I go to work.

Thank you,
Ms. B

AMEN ENTERS THE WORLD OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

TWITTER: http://twitter.com/emergencyneeds
BLOG AT: View at the AMEN website or visit http://arlingtoniansmeetingemergencyneeds.blogspot.com

In November, watch for our newly designed website at www.emergencyneeds.org!
Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, or holiday party planned but do not want to receive gifts from your guests? We suggest instead that you ask them to make a donation to AMEN in your honor. What better gift can you receive but the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped others.

Consider Giving to AMEN With a Planned Gift

As you do your estate planning, please consider a bequest to AMEN. For more information on this, please contact Executive Director Gerry Shannon at 703-558-0035 or amen@emergencyneeds.org.

Special Occasion: Invite AMEN to Your Birthday Party or Other

Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs, Inc.
P. O. Box 7429
Arlington, VA 22207

Return Service requested

CFC Campaign #30709
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