AMEN CELEBRATES
35TH ANNIVERSARY 
ON SEPTEMBER 26TH!

On Sunday, September 26, AMEN supporters will gather to celebrate AMEN’s 35 years of serving Arlington. Join us for the celebration, including great refreshments and a raffle!

WHEN: Sunday, September 26, 2010, 3 – 5:30 pm
WHERE: First Presbyterian Church, 601 North Vermont St.

The festivities will start with a 30 minute Help the Homeless mini-walk. The Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program gives AMEN a huge opportunity to raise funds that serve Arlington’s most needy residents.

If you are unable to walk with us, that’s OK. Please come at 4 p.m. for the party!

AMEN’S 35TH 
ANNIVERSARY
HELP MORE CAMPAIGN
BEGINS NOW!

To celebrate 35 years of helping our neighbors, AMEN launches its Help More Campaign. AMEN is committed to help 200 additional families and individuals in the coming year. Please help us raise $70,000 by October 30!

We’re already a third of the way there. Two generous donors have pledged $20,000 to match all additional donations for 50 cents on the dollar. Plus, whatever you donate by October 30th, Fannie Mae will kick in an additional 20% as part of the Help the Homeless Program. This is a unique opportunity for your donation to make a real impact: Think of it this way, your contribution of:

$100 will be increased to $150 + $30 (Fannie Mae 20% bonus) = $180!
$500 will be increased to $750+ $150 (Fannie Mae 20% bonus) = $900!
$1,000 will be increased to $1,500 + $300 (Fannie Mae 20% bonus) = $1,800!

You can see we really need your help. Now. Your contribution will go a long way towards helping the families, individuals and seniors in our community to stay independent. Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope and make the check out to Fannie Mae Help the Homeless/CFNCR.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

AMEN is one of Arlington County’s best kept secrets. This month as AMEN celebrates our 35th year serving Arlington, too few in the community know of our outstanding work. We need your help to let everyone in Arlington learn about AMEN and our critical work in the community.

In my short tenure as board President, I see that AMEN’s longevity and success is only possible because of our dedicated volunteers, staff, and financial supporters. Many of you have supported AMEN for ten or more years. I know I speak for the board in expressing our sincere thanks to all who have supported AMEN over the years and helped get us where we are today. With your support we look forward to continuing our work in the community and, in a small way, making Arlington an even better place to live.

As we begin our 36th year, our mission remains the same. We will continue to help thousands of Arlington residents each year. Unfortunately, some will be turned away and not get the financial assistance they need solely because we are out of funds. Our vision of AMEN’s future includes increasing the Daily Emergency Fund budget so that we can assist with each and every emergency need.

To achieve this vision we will need your continued support as well as additional support from new donors and volunteers. Could you please do this for AMEN?

- Spread the word about AMEN to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues.
- Pass this newsletter along to a neighbor.
- Come to our 35th Anniversary celebration on September 26, and encourage friends and family to join you.
- Learn more about AMEN at www.emergencyneeds.org.
- Make a donation today.

Thank you for your many contributions to AMEN’s success.

~ Bob Zawacki

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to share with you some economic and housing statistics about Arlington County. These numbers illustrate why AMEN has seen such a great increase in demand for emergency financial assistance during this economic recession.

In Arlington County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is $1,288. To afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn $4,293 monthly or $51,520 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of $24.77. But an Arlington minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of $6.55. To afford the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 151 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 3.8 minimum wage earners, each working 40 hours per week year-round for the two bedroom apartment to be affordable.

- From the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s Report Out of Reach 2009. http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2009/

These shocking numbers explain why low-wage workers in Arlington are susceptible to financial crisis when an emergency expense arises. Unfortunately, AMEN has not been able to meet the increased need for emergency assistance. You can help by donating to AMEN today. When you give to AMEN’s 35th Anniversary Help More Campaign, you will be helping AMEN reach its goal of helping 200 additional families in the coming year. To reach this goal, we must raise $70,000 this Fall. Please donate today, and join AMEN’s Help More Campaign.

~ Gerry Shannon

REBECCA ELY JOINS AMEN STAFF

Rebecca Ely joined AMEN in May as a development professional. She brings over ten years of experience working in both development and management roles in non-profit organizations. Her experience ranges from grant writing and solicitation, special event planning and annual appeal campaigns at small non-profit organizations to identifying, cultivating and stewarding donors for the College of Holy Cross. For the last two years, Rebecca has been raising her two sons and working part time. An Arlingtonian, Rebecca is proud to be working for an organization like AMEN that is making such a remarkable difference in the community.
WHY I VOLUNTEER

“I wanted to give back to AMEN for the emergency help they gave me in 1977. With AMEN’s help, my family was able to recover from a financial crisis that almost cost us our home. So, I have been volunteering for AMEN for over 30 years! I know what it is like to be on the brink of homelessness, and I am grateful to be able to help AMEN assist others who have emergency financial crises. AMEN has been a life-saver for so many in the Arlington community including me.”

Sandy Winger
Thank You to AMEN’s Generous Donors  September 2009 through July 2010

UNDER $100
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William Allen
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Arlington Community Church
Arlington Community Foundation
Arlington Interfaith Council, Inc.
Arlington Presbyterian Church
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- In Honor of his dedicated work colleagues
Alfred & Lucy Denney
Glenn & Gerri Ferguson
First Presbyterian Church
Grace Community Church
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Trinity Presbyterian Church
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David & Diane Weiss Young
Bob & Therese Zawacki

OVER $10,000
Anonymous
Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance
Mitchell E. Davis, M.D.
Philip L. Graham Fund
The Community Foundation Of the National Capital Region
Washington Forrest Foundation
WHO WE HELP

BRENDA’S STORY:
By the time Brenda and Carl went to Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) in Arlington for help, Brenda was eight months pregnant and they had been homeless for three months. The couple lost their home because they couldn’t pay rent. Brenda sent their 7-year-old son to live temporarily with a grandparent until they were in a stable home. OAR helped Carl find employment as well as find a home for the family before their baby was born.

After receiving the OAR caseworker’s request, AMEN provided financial assistance to pay the first month’s rent for Brenda and Carl. As a result, the family was in a home before their baby daughter was born, and their son returned to live with his parents. The family of four is now living independently. Both Carl and Brenda are now working, and their children are thriving along with their parents.

LUCY’S STORY:
Lucy Robinson, a 74-year-old who has lived in Arlington for most of her life, was forced to find a new home when her landlord refused to pay her lease. Since Lucy has rheumatoid arthritis and uses a wheelchair, she requires a handicapped-accessible apartment. After much searching, a suitable apartment was located. There was a problem, though: the new apartment required a security deposit of $1051 and the first month’s rent, $297.

Lucy lives with her 60-year-old brother, Nelson. Both are retired and live on the social security they earned. Their previous landlord had not yet released the security deposit for their old apartment. As a result, Lucy and Nelson did not have the funds required for their new home.

Lucy appealed for help to Arlington’s Department of Human Services, where a social worker assessed Lucy’s situation and contacted AMEN. AMEN provided $300 toward the security deposit and $297 for the first month’s rent. Located on ground level, the apartment is easily accessible to Lucy. Lucy and Nelson are enjoying the apartment and have had no difficulties meeting their payments since they moved in.

SECOND GENERATION AMEN VOLUNTEERS

Two board members are the second generation in their families to work with AMEN. Richard Brigham and Charlie Klein each had a parent who volunteered with AMEN. Brigham is the son of Betty Brigham who joined the AMEN board in 1988 when she retired as a county social worker.

As a county social worker, she knew AMEN’s work and wanted to contribute to its mission. She served as the coordinator of the AMEN Daily Emergency Fund volunteers, and Richard, an IT expert, computerized the Daily Fund’s database and records which had previously been handwritten.

Richard joined the Board in the early 1990s and served with his mother until she left the Arlington area. Richard continues to provide invaluable IT support to AMEN and says, “it has been my pleasure to continue to serve an organization that is important to her and the community.”

AMEN’s program manager, Charlie Klein, followed in the footsteps of his father, John Klein who was a founding member and treasurer of AMEN. In those early days as treasurer, John wrote and disbursed checks to clients from his home. Over time, Charlie’s coin shop business on Wilson Boulevard became the location where clients and social workers picked up assistance checks. Eventually, Charlie took over the job of writing and disbursing AMEN checks. Charlie serves on the board, and he has been disbursing assistance checks to AMEN’s clients for over 20 years.

The dedication of Richard and Charlie to AMEN’s mission is exemplary and honors each of their parents’ similar commitments to the Arlington community.

EDIE SMOLINSKI RETIRES FROM AMEN BOARD

Long-time AMEN board member and volunteer Edie Smolinski retired from the board this summer. Edie joined the board in 2000 and soon after also became a volunteer for the Daily Emergency Fund program. She served as president for two terms, treasurer for several years and as coordinator of volunteers of the Daily Emergency program. Edie will continue to serve on the finance committee and the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program committee. Edie exemplifies the heart and soul of AMEN with her dedication and support of AMEN and its mission.
As AMEN celebrates 35 years of service to Arlington residents, let’s look back to the beginning days of AMEN.

AMEN was founded by 6 Arlington organizations: the Ministerial Association, Central and North Parish Councils, Church Women United, and North and South FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help). The consortium sought a better, coordinated way to get emergency funds to those in need.

Thus began AMEN, first known as Arlingtonians Ministering to Emergency Needs, Inc., an all-volunteer group. In the first year, AMEN was funded solely by the pastors’ discretionary funds.

In its second year, AMEN assisted 437 households with $23,512 of emergency assistance. The aid provided rental payments to prevent evictions, utility payments to avoid heat and water cutoffs, and purchases of medication, dentures and surgical appliances. While the average grant was small, $54, the aid promptly solved a crisis which public agencies were not designed to handle. AMEN later sought a wider range of donors and received a matching grant from the County of $15,000.

Here are some additional milestones in AMEN’s history:

- **1985**: In its 10th year, AMEN provided $77,133 in assistance to 774 Arlington households.

- **1994**: AMEN honored in Washingtonian Magazine as one of only 20 area charities. “AMEN is a little-known charity that doesn’t get much attention, but it is a good investment for givers.”

- **1998**: Arlington Award from TACTS (now Doorways) awarded to AMEN and then-executive director, Ann Rudd.

- **2001**: AMEN provided $330,024 in assistance to 3671 Arlington households.

- **2005**: Catalogue for Philanthropy recognizes AMEN as “One of the best small charities in the Washington DC region.”

- **2010**: Catalogue for Philanthropy again called AMEN one of the region’s best charities.

AMEN has grown from those early days of helping 437 households in a year. In 2009, AMEN assisted 2502 households through its programs. In 2010, AMEN has provided emergency assistance to 2757 Arlington households. Following the tradition of its early days, AMEN does its work on a shoestring, relying principally on volunteers. And, as always, AMEN relies on the generosity of donors like you who support their neighbors in need.

### AMEN Emergency Assistance FY 2010

- Rent $399,000
- Utilities $137,000
- Security deposit loans $16,000
- Clothing and equipment $8,000
- Medical $17,000
- Dental $43,000
- Prescriptions $9,000
- Transportation & Misc $12,000

Total $706,000

See you on Sunday, September 26!
AMEN Celebrates 35 Years of Service!
Catalogue for Philanthropy says AMEN is “one of the best small charities in the Washington DC area”

The Catalogue for Philanthropy has again honored AMEN as “one of the best small charities in the Washington DC area” and bestowed its 2010-2011 seal of approval. Every five years, the Catalogue reviews charities for inclusion in their catalogue and website. AMEN was first included in the Catalogue for Philanthropy in 2005, and we are so pleased to again earn their seal of approval. AMEN’s work in the community is also favorably reviewed on Guidestar. AMEN does not qualify for review by the nation’s largest charity evaluator, Charity Navigator, because that firm only reviews charities with budgets over $1,000,000.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!
Together we make Arlington a CARING COMMUNITY!