An Afternoon with a Daily Fund Volunteer

Geeti Bawa was at home ready for her AMEN volunteer duty as the 1 p.m. start time approached on a recent Friday. She had already walked her dog and had a quick lunch. After turning on the AMEN laptop and preparing the Daily Fund program notebook, she turned on the AMEN cell phone. In a matter of seconds, the phone rang with her first call of the day from a social worker requesting emergency financial assistance for a client.

After reviewing the Daily Fund Criteria Guidelines, she approved the request. Bawa then collected complete client and creditor information because AMEN checks are always written to the creditor. She told the social worker that the check would be ready between 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. from AMEN’s Program Manager Charlie Klein in the County DHS building lobby.

After the call, Bawa reviewed her notes briefly before the phone rang again. She continued to take calls and evaluated requests until the $1400 budgeted for the day was expended. Some requests were for small amounts, like $10 for a prescription, and others for as much as $400 for rent. After the day’s funds ran out, she continued to field calls so she could find out what needs AMEN was unable to meet that afternoon. Knowing about these unmet needs is critical as AMEN works to raise funds so no Arlington resident is without emergency assistance.

The phone rang less frequently as the afternoon progressed. At 4:30 p.m., she contacted Mr. Klein to report the approved assistance checks. At 5:00 p.m., Bawa shut off the AMEN cell phone, closed down the computer and packed everything in the carry case for transfer to the next volunteer. At the close of her volunteer duty, she thought, “The days I have AMEN duty are so rewarding. Today, in less than 4 hours, I was able to help 11 families. That’s a good feeling.”

“ The days I have AMEN duty are so rewarding. Today, in less than 4 hours, I was able to help 11 families. ”
– Geeti Bawa, AMEN volunteer

Rhea Dola Retires from AMEN Board

Rhea Dola, a longtime board member and Arlington resident, has retired from the AMEN board. Dola not only served on the board, she also single-handedly managed the EnergyShare program for AMEN for 9 years. As the program coordinator, Dola took calls almost daily from social workers in the County seeking funds to help Arlington residents with their utility bills. Dola’s commitment was outstanding, and AMEN is very grateful for her many years of service.

“ Serving as the EnergyShare coordinator gave me great pleasure ... knowing I made the lives of clients more comfortable. ”

Rhea Dola

Visit us on the web: www.emergencyneeds.org
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During FY 2011, AMEN provided $798,363 in direct financial assistance to 3395 emergency cases. That means AMEN provided 14% more help than in FY 2010.

The pie chart illustrates AMEN’s FY11 assistance. Preventing homelessness is a key goal of AMEN, so it is not surprising that rent and utility payment comprise 77% of AMEN assistance. Of the total cases, AMEN helped 613 households who had received eviction notices and would have become homeless without AMEN’s help. Those households are still in their homes because of you. Support from the community’s residents, churches, foundations and Arlington County enable AMEN to do its critical work. Please consider donating this Fall through the Help the Homeless Program where your donation is matched by an additional 20%. Thank you for your support.

~ Gerry Shannon

AMEN Welcomes New Board Members

Andres Tobar joined the AMEN board in April and serves on the development committee. For the past 7 years, he has been the Executive Director of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC), the day laborer center in Arlington. Tobar is a Latino and civic activist and is the President-Elect of the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington. He recently completed a six year term on the Board of Directors of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

Evelyn E. Gee, who joined the board in August, is an Assistant Vice President at BB&T Bank and manages the Clarendon branch office. Gee is very active in the Arlington community. She serves as an officer for the Arlington Chapter of The Links, volunteers as a mentor in the Arlington Public Schools, and is an active volunteer at Mount Olivet Church Community Assistance Ministry. Gee is pleased to serve on the AMEN board and excited to assist the community in a different capacity.

AMEN is very happy to welcome these new board members.
Thank You to AMEN’s Generous Donors August 2010 through July 2011

UNDER $100

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**Why is the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program so important to AMEN and to Arlington?**

There are 2 BIG reasons the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program (HTH) is so important.

First, this program has been the cornerstone of AMEN’s fundraising for several years. In 2009 and 2010, AMEN raised almost 30% of its non-County income through the HTH program. HTH offers AMEN generous financial incentive awards for recruiting registered walkers in HTH mini-walks and for donations made to the HTH Sponsors program for AMEN.

Second, the HTH program provides an important opportunity to teach students in Arlington schools about homelessness in Arlington and AMEN’s work to prevent it. Many of our teen and young adult volunteers tell us that they first learned about homelessness and what they could do to end it when they walked as youngsters in a Fannie Mae Help the Homeless walk.

**Make Your End-of-Year Donation to AMEN by November 15th and AMEN earns an additional 20%!**

Please make your check out to Help the Homeless and write Friends of AMEN in the memo line.

Send it to:
AMEN, P.O. Box 7429, Arlington VA 22207.

**Get in Shape in 2012 and Help AMEN**

AMEN will again collaborate with personal trainer Denny Pinch in the “Train for 10 and Help AMEN” program. Starting in late January, participants will train to run the 10 Mile GW Parkway Classic on April 22nd, 2012 while they also raise money for AMEN. The three-month training will be held on Saturday mornings, will start in late January. In 2011, this program helped 25 participants learn to run distance and/or to improve their speed and stamina, while also raising funds for AMEN.

Don’t miss this opportunity to get fit while helping your neighbors in the Arlington community. Beginners and experienced runners are welcome. More details will be available in December. To learn more, email amen@emergencyneeds.org with the subject “Train for 10.” Also, check the AMEN website, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**AMEN in the News**

In April, WJLA-TV Channel 9 News featured AMEN as Friday’s Hero, and in March, the Washington Post featured AMEN in a story about the continuing need for emergency assistance in Arlington, despite the perceived economic rebound. See both stories at the AMEN website: www.emergencyneeds.org.

**Fundraiser for AMEN**

**Joe’s Pizza & Pasta • Thursday, October 6th!**

Come and have a taste of Italy at one of Arlington’s best known pizza and pasta restaurants and a great supporter of local non-profits!

Eat dinner in or carry out on October 6th from 6-9 PM and **10% of your total bill will be donated to AMEN!**

**You must tell them when you order, that you are participating in the AMEN Fund-Drive**

5555 Lee Highway • Phone: 703-532-0990 • www.joesplacepizzaandpasta.com

Visit us on the web: www.emergencyneeds.org
How AMEN Helped Theresa

Theresa, an Arlington mother, suffered a serious dog bite to her leg, and required medical care and medication. She had to miss several days of work, for which she was not paid. Her medical bills and lost wages caused a huge set back to the family’s budget. AMEN paid for a prescription and helped with a modest rent payment to help the family get back on their feet. Theresa is working again, and the family is once again self-sufficient.

This happy conclusion was possible because of your support. In the twelve months ending June 2012, AMEN provided $798,363 in financial assistance for 3395 emergency cases. Of these cases, 613 of these were families who had received eviction notices and would have become homeless without AMEN’s help. Those households are still in their homes because of you. Thank you!!!

PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO HELP MORE NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

DONATE VIA WORKPLACE GIVING

Support AMEN in the 2011-2012 campaign
UNITED WAY # 8406
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN # 27295

Helping our Arlington neighbors with emergency financial assistance since 1975