ARLINGTON STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

More than 1200 Arlington students and school staff walked for AMEN in mini-walks in the Fall 2009 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program. Students also learned about homelessness in education programs held in conjunction with the mini-walks. By walking, the students earned over $40,000 for AMEN. That $40,000 will help over 115 families with financial emergencies by assisting in paying rent, utility bills, medical and prescription needs.

The Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program is the most important fund-raising event for AMEN every year. AMEN raised a total of $120,000 including the $40,000 raised by the school walkers and $60,000 through the Help the Homeless Partners program.

AMEN is very grateful to Fannie Mae and our generous community, especially our children, for this great support!

We are thrilled to announce that this year marks AMEN’s 35th year serving Arlington. With you as our partner, we have been able to serve as a safety net for those in our community faced with a financial emergency. Be sure to read Darlene’s heart-warming story in this issue. She is one of the thousands helped by your generosity. Thank you, Arlington. With your help, we look forward to many more years of service.

Visit us on the web: www.emergencyneeds.org
MESSAGE FROM AMEN’S OUTGOING PRESIDENT

As you read this, AMEN marks its 35th year, and I conclude four years as Board President. With support from dedicated Board members, staff, and volunteers, I’ve enjoyed steering AMEN through significant growth and development. AMEN faced funding challenges but also fulfilled its mission to provide aid to needy Arlingtonians.

Examples of growth and development:

• In 2009, we provided over $600,000 to over 2,500 households. This was a 43% increase over 2008, when more than $400,000 was provided to nearly 2,000 households. The 43% increase reflects the significant rise in need for emergency financial assistance in Arlington.

• A new AMEN website, www.emergencyneeds.org better tells our story. Please visit to learn more.

• We increased homeless education partnerships with Arlington schools and successfully persuaded 1,267 students to walk to Help the Homeless in 2009. This largest tally, an increase over 2008, helped AMEN earn 15% of its budget with matching funds from sponsor Fannie Mae.

• We hired a professional fundraiser and installed new software to strengthen our giving base and keep touch with our wonderful donors.

• We recruited four talented individuals to our Board and thanked five members who departed after years of service.

• We organized Board retreats to plan and implement AMEN goals.

• We redesigned our newsletter, enlarged its recipient list, lowered printing costs. Back issues are available on our website.

I join previous Board presidents and salute our part-time staff and our volunteer Board members, and thank you for your support as AMEN continues to serve Arlingtonians in need even as we experience funding challenges.

Steve Telkins

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT BOB ZAWACKI

At the March 2010 annual meeting, the AMEN Board elected Bob Zawacki its new president. Bob joined the AMEN Board after retiring from senior management positions with several corporations. He holds a degree in Business Administration and has financial, accounting, budget and general business skills from 40+ years in information technology. Bob also has served on AMEN’s Finance Committee. Bob and his wife Therese have one son, Jason. He and his family have lived in northern Virginia for over 25 years.

Diane Weisz Young will serve as Vice President, Sherry Foster as Secretary, and Barry Shillito as Treasurer.

MICHAEL KEY JOINS AMEN BOARD

Mike is a defense analyst and consultant who joined the Board in November 2009. He has degrees in mathematics and physics and brings to AMEN skills in website management, budget preparation, grant and proposal writing, and fundraising. He was previously a teacher of collaborative learning and a consultant at Booz Allen.

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. Contact the County Crisis Assistance Bureau at 703-228-1350 and tell them you need help.
WHY I VOLUNTEER

My family and I have lived in Arlington for 44 years. Arlington is a community with caring people and institutions. The caring I describe was evident most recently when I had unexpected surgery this winter – my neighbors shoveled the snow from my walkway each time a storm came. I believe in sharing good deeds by giving my time and money to AMEN, which provides a countywide community safety net that helps our neighbors in times of financial emergencies with funds, privacy, empathy, and dignity.

~ Rev. Jack Turner, Member of the Board of AMEN

I am interested in doing volunteer work in our community. What kind of volunteer work does AMEN offer?

AMEN could not do its work without volunteers. Here are some interesting volunteer opportunities we hope you’ll consider:

**Become a Daily Volunteer**

Volunteers for the Daily Emergency Financial Assistance program receive phone calls at their homes, one weekday afternoon per month, from social workers requesting assistance for their clients. All you need are basic computer skills to record requests. We train you in just a few hours and provide everything you need. Daily volunteers report great personal satisfaction; they know they play a key role in helping Arlington residents in real need.

**Do you have marketing experience?**

You can write and edit AMEN material to help us get our message out to the community. This can include designing a newsletter or a brochure, writing articles, creating a power point presentation, or composing a persuasive letter.

**Do you have time to help us assemble mailings?**

Two or three times a year AMEN does a mass mailing of its newsletter and its appeals to donors. Contact the AMEN office about the next mailing.

**Do you own or operate a business in Arlington?**

We’re looking for volunteers with contacts in the business community who could help AMEN connect with this important community to tell our story.

**Do you have other skills that can benefit AMEN’s mission?**

We would love to hear from you and get you involved.

WE’D LOVE YOUR HELP AND TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

E-mail the AMEN office at amen@emergencyneeds.org with your interest. Please include the word “VOLUNTEER” in the subject line of your message.

AMEN HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Please visit [www.emergencyneeds.org](http://www.emergencyneeds.org) and check in often for news and announcements between our Fall and Spring newsletters.

You can read the AMEN blog, become a fan of AMEN on Facebook and sign up to follow us on Twitter.

DONATE ONLINE AT: [www.emergencyneeds.org](http://www.emergencyneeds.org)
Please Help AMEN Continue to Aid Neighbors Like Darlene

Darlene’s Story

When my company downsized, I lost my job and went into a downward spiral. I applied for job after job, and became desperate when unemployment ran out. With no money and no food, a friend took me in. I was losing faith and hope, until AMEN did some amazing things to turn my life around:

- AMEN’s personnel was reassuring and never made me feel ashamed.
- AMEN helped me with rent, utilities, and a much-needed dental visit.
- AMEN’s checks made the difference in my very survival.

Every time I received AMEN’s help, I wanted to give back to them somehow, someday. Thankfully, I finally got a job. At Christmas time, when my boss offered to make a donation in my name, I asked him to give to AMEN!

Thank you, AMEN, for helping me in my time of need and getting me back on my feet so I could get a job. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

~ Darlene

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