AMEN raised $145,000 in the 2011 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless (HTH) program, more than in any previous year. Why this great success?

- You, our fabulous donors, who gave generously,
- The “Friends of AMEN” HTH sponsorship program that earned a 20% financial incentive for AMEN, and
- More than 1500 mini-walk participants who earned a $25,000 incentive award.

Last fall, five Arlington schools and one middle school band held mini-walks for AMEN: McKinley, Oakridge, Key and Glebe Elementary Schools, Williamsburg Middle School, and the Swanson Middle School Pep Band. In addition, AMEN and the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington co-sponsored a community mini-walk. More than 1500 walkers registered to support the work of AMEN.

As board president Bob Zawacki said, “The Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program has been vitally important to AMEN’s ability to serve Arlington’s needy. The program has provided an opportunity to both raise funds and increase AMEN’s visibility in the community. While we are pleased to know that the program will continue this fall, albeit scaled-back, we worry that it may be discontinued after that.”

Fannie Mae’s Help the Homeless Program raises funds to support organizations working to prevent and end homelessness in the Washington metropolitan area. Since 1988, the Help the Homeless Program has raised more than $85 million to benefit thousands of individuals, families, and children in our communities. The HTH program also provides an important opportunity for groups like AMEN to raise public awareness of homelessness in our community.

AMEN helped launch a new program that provides free weatherization assistance for low-income Arlington renters. See story on page 3.
Arlington: A Tale of Two Cities

For most who live in Arlington, life is good. We have high-quality services, low unemployment, and a low crime rate. Most residents have economic stability and job opportunities, but there are others who struggle to meet their basic needs. County statistics show that this number of residents has recently increased. They go to bed hungry, face chronic underemployment or unemployment, and may be homeless.

AMEN provides safety net services to these Arlington residents both directly and by funding the needs of clients of Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network (A-SPAN), the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH), and Doorways for Women and Families. These groups rely on AMEN’s emergency assistance funds to help pay for their clients’ rent, utilities, medical and dental treatment, prescriptions, and utilities.

County and AMEN data show that demand for government program assistance and safety net services has increased even while the economy is improving. From the first half of FY2010 to the first half of FY2012, residents’ visits to the County Community Assistance Bureau is up 12%; households receiving food stamps is up 32%, and persons receiving Medicaid is up 11%. For the same period, AFAC served 25% more households, and AMEN provided eviction assistance funds to 12% more households.

We understand that eliminating homelessness, hunger, and unemployment from Arlington will not be easy. The efforts of the County and these organizations are making life a bit easier for those who are struggling to achieve the American dream.

Andres Tobar is a member of AMEN’s Board, and Executive Director of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center. Geraldine Shannon is Executive Director of AMEN.

New Board Members

An Arlington resident since 1999, Hanna Eun was attracted to AMEN as an organization that “gives where we live” providing emergency assistance to our Arlington neighbors in need. She joined the AMEN board in September 2011 after serving on the AMEN finance committee where her professional IT consulting, specializing in finance and cost management practices brought needed expertise. She is an active volunteer at the school her two children attend; she serves on the Arlington Council on Instruction for the Arts and is a deacon at First Presbyterian Church. Hanna is looking forward to being part of AMEN’s growth and helping her community.

Candy Fowler joined the AMEN Board in February 2012. Fowler currently teaches composition at George Mason University after practicing law for over 20 years. In her work and in volunteer activities, Candy has focused on communications; she brings extensive experience in writing and editing newsletters, pamphlets, and other documents. Candy and her husband have lived in Arlington for 37 years and raised their two adult daughters here. Candy has always loved the civic engagement and sense of community in Arlington and is eager to help foster that sense of community by contributing to the work of AMEN.
Board Transitions

Steve Telkins, Richard Brigham and Sherry Foster have rotated off the AMEN Board after long and dedicated service.

Steve Telkins
Telkins served as President for four of his nine years on the Board and oversaw significant growth and institutional change at AMEN during his presidential tenure. He has been an active committee member and will continue to volunteer on the Help the Homeless program.

Richard Brigham
Brigham served on the Board for 17 years. Since his college days, he has provided valuable information technologies expertise to AMEN as program and data-collection needs changed. His mother, Betty Brigham, had served on the AMEN Board before him.

Sherry Foster
Sherry Foster was on the Board for seven years, serving as secretary for four of those years. She has helped manage the Daily Fund program by keeping the volunteer duty calendar. She will continue to serve as a Daily Fund volunteer and manage the program calendar.

The AMEN community is very grateful to Steve, Richard, and Sherry for their countless hours of dedicated service.

Weatherization Program to Benefit Arlington Renters

AMEN Board member Jill Barker kept asking, “What causes AMEN clients to incur such high utility bills?” 20% of the emergency financial assistance provided by AMEN each year helps pay utility bills for Arlington residents who are unable to pay. Dominion Virginia utility customers who donate money to EnergyShare on their electric bills fund the EnergyShare program. Barker wondered if there was a way to reduce the utility bills of residents who live in rental apartments or multi-family dwellings. Further research revealed that most of the weatherization assistance funds for low-income residents actually go to low-income homeowners, not renters who pay their own utility bills. AMEN collaborated with the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) and the Virginia Cooperative Extension to investigate the situation more fully. The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) contacted an energy auditor who volunteered her services to audit several apartment units in a building occupied by several former AMEN clients. The auditor concluded that there were many inexpensive, but highly effective strategies that a tenant could use to decrease their utility bills and increase their comfort. These include window and door seals, aerators in faucets and fixing broken window and doorframes.

Working together, ACE, AMEN, the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), AHC, Inc. and the VCE submitted a grant proposal for the Energy Efficiency Education Program, or E3. Funding was approved from the 2011 Community Development Fund for ACE to administer a weatherization and education program that specifically targets low income apartment dwellers, many of whom are AMEN clients. The program trains volunteers to install low-cost energy efficiency devices and identifies the apartments that can most effectively use the devices. In addition, the program provides education and workshops to tenants about energy efficiency.

For more information, contact ACE at 703-228-6406 or visit http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/energy

Visit us on the web: www.emergencyneeds.org
Running for AMEN: **Train for 10 Take 2!**

Since February, coach and trainer Denny Pinch spent Saturday mornings training a group of runners and want-to-be runners for the April 22, 2012 GW Parkway Classic 10 Miler. The sessions were for the **Train for 10 and Help AMEN** program. This is the second year that Pinch has trained a group as a fund-raiser for AMEN.

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**Please support the team and AMEN at**


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**Give to the Max Day**

On November 9, 2011 AMEN participated in **Give to the Max Day: Greater Washington** organized by the United Way, the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and Razoo, an internet-based company that processes online donations for charities. AMEN raised $2125 from 32 donors (15 of whom were new). Razoo organizes **Give to the Max Day** across the country to bring communities together to raise as much money online as possible for area nonprofits in 24 hours.

AMEN was very fortunate that *The WeatherVanes*, a local folk-rock band, helped raise $825 for AMEN. Band member Dustin Brandt is the son of Taffy Brandt, AMEN Administration Manager. Because The WeatherVanes raised the most funds for a charity in the Razoo-sponsored **Rock to the Max** contest, the band won an interview on the Metromix website (pictured below) and then performed at the Washington D.C. Hard Rock Cafe on December 13. At both events, AMEN Development Manager Rebecca Ely had an opportunity to speak about AMEN’s work.

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**Williamsburg Students Club Lends Support to AMEN Work**

The Arlington Host Lions Club sponsored the establishment and charter of a Leo Club at Williamsburg Middle School in 2009. Leo stands for leadership experience opportunity. The Williamsburg Leo Club provides volunteer opportunities for its student members. Since its beginning, the club has held several fund raising projects to benefit AMEN’s work. Gerry Shannon met with the current club officers at the April meeting of the Arlington Host Lions Club to thank them for their important work.

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**Thank you to everyone who participated in Give to the Max Day!**

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**There are so many ways to support AMEN’s work.**

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**Visit us on the web:** [www.emergencyneeds.org](http://www.emergencyneeds.org)

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*From left to right are Vice-President Sasanka Udumalagola, President Temulen Uranbayer, Gerry Shannon, in front Secretary Khuslen Gianbold, Treasurer Min-Jin Uranbayer and their advisor Elizabeth Schindler.*

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*Rebecca Ely, far left and the members of the WeatherVanes are interviewed by Ashley Thron of WUSA-9 D.C. MetroMix.*
**Charlie Klein Retires as AMEN Program Manager**

Since the mid 1970s, Charlie Klein has been the familiar face of AMEN, distributing financial assistance checks to social workers and clients.

Charlie’s father, John Klein, the first treasurer of AMEN, recruited his son in the 1970s to help with check distribution. Social workers and clients would stop by Charlie’s coin shop at different locations in Arlington over the years to pick up the assistance checks. When he gave up his last office in 2008, Charlie began distributing AMEN checks from a lobby desk in the Department of Human Services, which continues to be the check distribution point.

Charlie started out as a volunteer for AMEN. Later, so that he could sign checks, Charlie became an assistant-treasurer on AMEN’s board, and in the late 1990s, he was hired as Program Manager. It’s hard to imagine just how many checks Charlie has distributed over the last 30+ years but each check made an enormous difference to the life of the AMEN client. Charlie’s involvement with AMEN continues through his role as a member of the board and as a Daily Fund volunteer.

After all these years of dedicated service, Charlie will finally have time to bike some of the more adventurous trails as he has wanted to do over the years. Be on the lookout for his smiling face as he pedals the C&O canal path on his way to Antietam!

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**Neighbors You Have Helped**

**Apartment Fire Causes Financial Crisis for Family**

Kate, her husband and infant child were forced to leave their apartment because of a fire in an adjacent apartment. The fire and their move to temporary housing in a hotel were very disruptive to the family and their routine. Kate’s husband works full-time, she works part-time and their annual income is approximately $70,000. They were not eligible for any assistance for the cost of temporary housing because their income was too high.

They both missed some work as they took care of their child and attended to personal matters to recover from this event. Several weeks later when it was clear that they would not be able to return to their apartment, they searched for and found another apartment. In order to move in, they had to pay about $5500 up front-- a security deposit equal to two months’ rent and the first month’s rent. Their expenses related to the fire and hotel stay had exhausted their savings and they did not have the needed cash to move in. AMEN helped them with half of the required cost to get the family into their new home. Without AMEN’s help, they would have been in a homeless limbo just getting by from night to night but unable to get into a real home. With one-time help from AMEN, they moved into their new home and now can handle their living expenses on their own. They were very grateful for AMEN’s help.

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**Utility Assistance Critical to Child’s Health**

Kasey, a single mother, came in to the CAB office seeking emergency assistance for electric bills she had been unable to pay. Kasey is very grateful for the utility assistance that she received from AMEN because it literally saved her daughter’s life. Kasey’s daughter needs electricity to operate her medical equipment that helps her to breath. When Kasey lost her job and had to survive on unemployment benefits alone, she just was not able to pay all of her monthly bills and quickly fell behind on her electric bill. Thankfully, AMEN was able to assist Kasey with her past due balance and now she does not have to worry about where her daughter will go if she does not have electricity to operate her medical equipment.

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Visit us on the web: www.emergencyneeds.org
Here are just a few ways you can help your Arlington neighbors in need:

1. Want to hold an easy but fun group event? Hold an “event” as part of the 2012 Help the Homeless program to benefit AMEN. It can be a bridge or Mahjong game, book group meeting, birthday party or any gathering that you hold for the benefit of AMEN! Ask your guests to make a donation and sign a HTH registration form. Contact the office for information. Events may be held as early as this summer!

2. Having or giving a birthday/anniversary party and really don’t want any gifts? Suggest that instead of gifts, your guests donate to AMEN in your honor.

3. Share your skills and talents! AMEN can always use help with web design, media outreach, videography etc. Let AMEN put your talents to work!

4. Use www.GoodSearch.com as your browser and designate AMEN as the non-profit of choice to receive one cent every time you search. When you shop online through GoodSearch, AMEN could earn anywhere between 1.5 and 6% of your total purchase (percentage varies with vendor). Over 2,500 stores are available for your online shopping needs.

5. Use www.GoodDining.com and earn up to 6% for your cause when you dine out! As a member of GoodDining, you can earn donations by going to your choice of thousands of participating restaurants, bars and clubs—including many of your favorites.

There are so many ways to support AMEN and your Arlington neighbors.
Contact us at amen@emergencyneeds.org