2014 Resolve to Run Team Triumphs

The 2014 Resolve to Run training program was a fundraising success and a triumph for those who ran in the April 13 GW Parkway Classic Race. 38 participated in the training and 25 of those ran in the race. The program exceeded its $10,000 fundraising goal by more than 10% as the runners sought donations for Arlington Thrive. The 25 who raced registered as a team in the open-mixed divisions and placed 12th out of 35 teams. They were very pleased with the results as it was the first time entering as a team and many were first-time racers. Ryan Sears was the first of our team to cross the 10 mile race finish line. The team wore signs saying “I am running for my neighbors in need: Arlington Thrive.”

Donor Profile: Local Quilter and Author Kyra Hicks

Ms. Hicks is also a longtime donor to Arlington Thrive. During Black History Month, she told the story of Martha Ann’s quilt to The Woman’s Club of Arlington and donated her speaking fee to Arlington Thrive. Kyra explained, “When I moved to Arlington years ago, I received a newsletter from AMEN. I was impressed by how the organization supported its neighbors and I have tried to support it since. We all may need help now and again.” We are grateful to Ms. Hicks for her support of Arlington Thrive.

Kyra E. Hicks is an Arlington author, self-taught quilter and quilt historian who is widely known for her narrative or “story quilts.” Through her quilts and groundbreaking historical research, she explores the experiences of single black women and the themes of religion, family and politics. She specializes in historical investigative research which illuminates the lives of past quilters. Her publications include Martha Ann’s Quilt for Queen Victoria (2007), a children’s book based on a true story.

“When I moved to Arlington years ago, I received a newsletter from AMEN. I was impressed by how the organization supported its neighbors and I have tried to support it since. We all may need help now and again.”
Arlington Thrive Welcomes New Board Members

This spring, Brenna Hill and Cynthia Dahlin became Directors on the Arlington Thrive Board. Both had served on the Rebranding Task Force in early 2013 which resulted in a new name and logo for the organization. Brenna Hill, a lifelong Arlington resident, is Director of Marketing, Communications, and Client Relations for CRDF Global—an independent nonprofit organization that promotes international scientific and technical collaboration.

She has a broad set of marketing and communications skills and nonprofit governance experience. Cynthia Dahlin, an Arlington resident for three decades, is a chaplain at N Street Village, a shelter for women in DC and she has been an Arlington Thrive Daily Fund volunteer for several years.

She is well-informed about the issues of homelessness, drug addiction and poverty and has been active in many nonprofit organizations including the Girl Scouts of America. We welcome Brenna and Cynthia to the Board.

In February, Andres Tobar left the Board of Directors. We thank Andres for his wisdom and contributions during his tenure.

From the Executive Director

Last October, the Board and I were very concerned that the financial resources of Arlington Thrive would not be sufficient to meet the demand for emergency financial assistance. Income from all sources was way down, aside from the County’s financial support. But when we asked you, our supporters, to donate to Arlington Thrive via a matching funds fundraising campaign, you responded generously. Your donations matched by Dr. M. Davis’ challenge gift, raised $135,000 which earned a $20,000 incentive award from the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program. In addition, we received an unexpected estate bequest from Judith Steffens.

As you will read in a separate story, the Help the Homeless Program ended in 2013 and we will no longer be able to earn Fannie Mae incentive awards. We are so grateful for your past generosity and hope that we can rely on your continued support in the future. With your help, Arlington Thrive is able to improve the lives of Arlington residents who, from time to time, need a helping hand. Your support proves that Arlington is a very caring community.

Thank you,
Gerry Shannon
New Board Officers Elected

At its March meeting, the Board of Directors elected new officers. Candace Fowler will serve as President, Hanna Eun as Vice President, Renee Underwood as Secretary, and Bob Zawacki as Treasurer.

Bob Zawacki’s Leadership Brought Major Accomplishments

Bob Zawacki stepped down from the position of Board President after four years in that role. President Candace Fowler presented a framed resolution of the Board recognizing his service and accomplishments. Bob Zawacki leaves behind a record of major accomplishment and unparalleled growth for the organization. Under his leadership, the organization chose and launched a new name and brand identity reflecting its core mission, it increased financial transparency and improved its financial management process, it adopted its first five-year strategic plan, improved the effectiveness of the Board and its committees, and increased annual revenue by 37%, to over $1,000,000 significantly increasing the amount of assistance Arlington Thrive can provide to our neighbors in need. Bob will remain on the Board and currently serves as Treasurer.

Former Board Member Barbara Smucker

We sadly received word that Barbara Smucker passed away suddenly on December 26, 2013. All who knew Barbara remember her fondly for her ready smile, her sense of humor, her love for her family, and her compassion for the less fortunate. She served on the AMEN Board from 2005-2008. Through her extensive volunteer work, she was able to help so many in the community. She devoted much time and effort to the work of the AMEN Furniture Bank until it closed in 2008. She could be found there every Saturday organizing volunteers, moving furniture, and even driving the delivery truck. Her friends and family members made generous donations in her memory to Arlington Thrive.
2014 RESOLVE TO RUN PROGRAM


Middle left photo: The Happy Feet trio of Grace Lundgren, Doug Pulak and Hanna Eun.

Middle right photo: Trainer Eileen Gould advises runners on a very cold training morning.

John Underwood finished fourth in his age group in the GW Classic 10 Miler.
Did you know?

Leaving a gift in your will or estate plan is one of the most common and easiest ways you can remember and support Arlington Thrive. An estate gift or bequest is a commitment of support made through your will that does not affect your current financial situation. You can simply name Arlington Thrive as a beneficiary of all, or a portion of your assets when you write or update your will.

**BENEFITS OF A BEQUEST:**

- Your cash resources won’t be affected during your lifetime and you have full control over all of your assets.

- Designating Arlington Thrive as a beneficiary is revocable, so it can be changed if your financial and/or personal circumstances change.

- Taxes on your estate could be significantly reduced, a significant advantage for your heirs and a comfort to you.

- You can specify how Arlington Thrive is to use your bequest.

- You can make a bequest gift in honor or memory of someone special.

For further information, please contact Shandra Niswander, Development Director at Niswander@arlingtonthrive.org. If you have already remembered Arlington Thrive in your estate plan, please let us know so we can thank you. Your estate gift can remain confidential. For specific questions about your will or estate plan, please consult your attorney.
Judith Steffens Left a Legacy to Help Arlington Neighbors

When Arlington resident Judith Kathleen Steffens died in November, 2011, she provided a generous gift to Arlington Thrive through her estate. Tony Orlando, her neighbor, friend and estate executor, described Judith as a warm, generous woman whose interest in helping others extended beyond her lifetime, through bequests to Arlington Thrive and other local and national charities.

Ms. Steffens’ will directed that some of her estate funds be given to local non-profit charitable organizations for “alleviating economic hardship and/or improving the quality of life and health for disadvantaged residents and groups within our community.” Arlington Thrive was brought to the executor’s attention by another of Ms. Steffens’ friends, Barbara Smucker, who had served on the organization’s Board of Directors from 2005-2008. When Ms. Smucker heard that Arlington Thrive would receive a large gift from Judith Steffens’ estate, she wrote, “I know how Thrive will wisely and generously share this gift with the needy in Arlington. I saw it firsthand and now thrill in the knowledge of what is to come.”

At her memorial service, Ms. Steffens’ friends and neighbors planted a young tree as a symbol of her generosity. Like that tree, her legacy will live on through the memories of her friends and neighbors and through Arlington Thrive, where her gift will serve others for years to come.

Spotlight on Carter-Jenkinson Memorial Housing Fund

The Carter-Jenkinson Memorial Housing Fund is an important resource to prevent homelessness in Arlington. It was established in April 1985, when the Board of Directors approved the creation of a new special rental assistance program, separate from the Daily Emergency Financial Assistance Program and funded with just $7000 of donations and grants. Named in memory of two former Board members, Eleanor Carter and Frieda Jenkinson, it was created to prevent the eviction of Arlington residents who were unable to pay their rent bills. At some point, the County started to contribute to the program’s funding and it has grown to a $320,000 annual program today.

It is less expensive to provide assistance to keep a family in existing housing than it would cost to care for them when they become homeless.

The C-J program, as it is commonly known, plays an important role in Arlington’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Its funds are used to help pay a resident’s rent and utilities bills when a household has received an eviction notice and/or when the tenant owes a large sum of back rent. National research data has shown that it is less expensive to provide assistance to keep a family in existing housing than it would cost to care for them when they become homeless. Persons can better address their problems and work with social services when securely housed. During calendar year 2013, the Carter-Jenkinson program prevented the eviction of more than 600 households.

If you would like information about how you can support our mission and help those in need by making a Legacy gift like Judith did, please contact Shandra Niswander, Development Manager at Niswander@arlingtonthrive.org or at (703) 558-0035.
Navy Shipyard Employee with PTSD Gets Needed Assistance

Jay, an employee at the Navy Shipyard, was a witness to the September 16 2013 mass shooting there. His co-workers were among those who were injured or died. Shortly after the shootings, he began to experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. PTSD can negatively impact memory, concentration, time management and organization as well as other job related skills. Jay’s PTSD symptoms impacted his ability to return to the job responsibilities he held prior to September 16. He applied for Workman’s Compensation and sought treatment from a psychiatrist who prescribed medication for anxiety. However, he was unable to pay for his prescription because he was not working and the Workman’s Comp review process was long. An Arlington County Community Assistance Bureau (CAB) social worker asked and Arlington Thrive paid for the prescription. His social worker later reported that Jay is receiving his Workman’s Compensation and is managing is financial needs. Jay was very grateful for the assistance given during a very stressful time for him.

Fannie Mae Ends Help the Homeless Fundraising Program

2013 was the last year for the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program which began 26 years ago. It was the major fundraising event for Arlington Thrive for almost twenty years. Through the program, Arlington Thrive partnered with several Arlington Public Schools to hold homelessness educational programs and fundraisers. The Help the Homeless walker and sponsor donation incentives have helped to raise over $100,000 in each of 2012 and 2013. In addition, the Help the Homeless program helped Arlington Thrive raise its visibility and promote the importance of homelessness prevention.
Every Click Counts Campaign!

You can support Arlington Thrive while you are searching the internet and shopping online! Web search, shop, click and raise funds for Arlington Thrive. If you use any one of several search engines, just a search will result in a donation to a designated nonprofit. In addition, purchases made online will result in donations to nonprofits.

Some of Arlington Thrive’s favorites are: www.goodsearch.com (Powered by YAHOO!)

This search engine donates a penny to your designated nonprofit for every search you perform. At only 5 searches a day on average, that’s nearly $20 a year! goodsearch also contributes to Arlington Thrive when you use goodshop, gooddining and more! Visit goodsearch.com, make it your homepage and start searching to raise funds for our neighbors in need. Don’t forget to click on the ‘spread the word’ link at the bottom of goodsearch homepage to share it on facebook and twitter with your friends and family.

When you make purchases from Amazonsmile, http://smile.amazon.com/, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Arlington Thrive. This should definitely put a smile on your face.

Other search engines and shopping websites that donate to a nonprofit of your choice when you sign up include: www.igive.com (shopping) • www.tix4cause.com (shopping for tickets) www.welzoo.com (search) • www.freelanthrop.com (search and shop)