BBQ, Boots & Bingo a Great Success!

On a cool fall day in September, almost 200 people attended Arlington Thrive’s Fall Fundraiser – BBQ, Boots & Bingo – at the Columbus Club of Arlington. A special thank you to the Columbus Club for generously hosting our event. With an array of activities, including a moon bounce, climbing wall, face painting, delicious food, music, dancing and non-stop bingo games, the event drew individuals, families and Arlington County officials for a fun day that raised funds and awareness about Arlington Thrive.

We are very grateful for donations from a generous underwriter as well as many other individuals and local businesses, whose support will benefit our neighbors in need through Arlington Thrive’s Daily Fund. And thank you to all those individuals who volunteered their time to make the fundraiser a success.

“We were very happy with the turnout,” said Arlington Thrive Executive Director Andrew Schneider. “It was a great mix of people who have supported us over the past several years and those who have just recently learned about Thrive’s programs in our community. We’re looking forward to gaining a new generation of Thrive supporters.”

Meet Long-time Donor Cynthia Dahlin

For Cynthia Dahlin, donating to Arlington Thrive is an effective way to improve the well-being of the entire Arlington community. Cynthia began serving as a Daily Fund volunteer nine years ago, and soon became a regular donor. Currently, she also serves on the Board of Directors and the Program Committee.

“When I started volunteering at Thrive, I learned where our safety net can break down and how Thrive helps to close the gap,” said Cynthia. “Donating money seems less tangible than organizing a food drive or collecting winter coats. But when someone is facing eviction, getting the rent money the same day is essential. Thrive’s assistance is targeted, it’s really needed, and Thrive does its job very well.”

Cynthia’s passion for Arlington Thrive has encouraged her family and friends to get involved. Her grown children will all support the Arlington Turkey Trot this Thanksgiving, either by participating in the race or by volunteering. And because Cynthia and her husband have provided for Arlington Thrive in their estate planning, their impact will be felt by our most vulnerable neighbors far into the future.

“Arlington Thrive’s work reflects my values. That’s important to me,” Cynthia said.

Cynthia Dahlin plays an important role in Arlington Thrive’s mission to create a caring community, where everyone is secure in their home, health and job. Thank you, Cynthia!

Remembering Arlington Thrive in your estate plan will sustain and strengthen our important work in years to come. If you have included Arlington Thrive in your estate plan, please let us know by contacting Shandra Niswander, Director of Development at 703-558-0035 or at niswander@arlingtonthrive.org. We would like to thank you on behalf of our Arlington neighbors in need.
From the Executive Director

Since becoming Arlington Thrive’s Executive Director in March, I have learned a great deal about the difference that Arlington Thrive makes in the lives of so many of my fellow Arlingtonians. As the charts and stories in the following pages illustrate, we are helping thousands of individuals with same-day financial assistance – practical and compassionate help that they need in times of crisis. And we could not do this amazing work without the support and generosity of you – the friends and donors of Arlington Thrive.

My first six months have been filled with some amazing events and opportunities. Our inaugural BBQ, Boots & Bingo fundraiser on September 24th exceeded all expectations, and we look forward to making this a fun, family-friendly tradition. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to speak with numerous individuals, organizations and civic groups, including elected officials, members of the Kiwanis and Optimist Clubs, our own volunteers, and representatives from other area nonprofits about Thrive’s role in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

When speaking on behalf of Thrive, I always emphasize what an amazing community we live in, and yet, how much more there is to be done. Our Daily Fund volunteers see this firsthand. At 1:00 p.m. each weekday, they begin taking phone calls from social workers across Arlington County. Nearly every day, we find that we have completely depleted our Daily Fund by 2:30 p.m., long before the calls stop coming in! In short, the need is greater than the assistance we can provide.

I am truly thankful for all that you have done and ask for your continued support as Arlington Thrive works tirelessly to help those in our community who face true economic crisis. Please continue to reach out if you have ideas or feedback to share or would like to get involved through volunteering, donating, or just learning more about Arlington Thrive and the difference we are making throughout Arlington. Hope to see you at the Turkey Trot!

Andrew
Arlington Thrive:
A Bridge to Stability

Last May, Ms. H left her full-time job because of harassment by other staff members. Unfortunately, because she was working for a leasing office and also living in property managed by the company, her rental contract was terminated. Unemployed and evicted, she and her 11-year-old daughter were given five days to vacate their home.

Eventually, Ms. H was able to find a new job and a new place to live, but her first month’s rent was due before she received her first paycheck. Arlington Thrive was able to assist Ms. H with that rental payment. Today, Ms. H has a good job and can pay her rent on time, so that she and her daughter are secure in their new home. That would not have been possible without Arlington Thrive same-day emergency funds.

For the year ending June 30, 2016, Arlington Thrive’s income was nearly $1,000,000. Income from Arlington County totaled $522,220, and income from all other sources was $457,719.

Arlington Thrive to be a Turkey Trot Partner

We are excited that Arlington Thrive is a beneficiary of the 11th Annual Arlington Turkey Trot, which will take place on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. Founded by Christ Church of Arlington, the 2015 race raised $100,000 for selected nonprofits that offer a “hand up” to Arlington residents.

You can get involved by registering for the race at www.arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org or by volunteering at the event. To volunteer, contact Thrive Director of Development Shandra Niswander at niswander@arlingtonthrive.org or 703-558-0035. There are many jobs to do, including set-up and clean-up crew, water station volunteers, and course marshals.

In FY 2016, Arlington Thrive helped nearly 3,000 people in a wide variety of cases, providing $754,797 in direct emergency financial assistance. Forty percent of the Daily Fund went to requests for rental assistance, and an additional 40% went for medical and prescription assistance. All of our clients are considered low income, with 80% earning less than $20,000 per year and 25% earning no income at all.
Thank You to Arlington Thrive’s Generous Donors
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

We are pleased to introduce our new Giving Levels this year.

Up to $250 **Good Neighbors**
- Pays for a medical or dental emergency

$250 to $499 **Thrive Champions**
- Keeps one family in its home

$500 to $999 **Community Sustainers**
- Prevents the eviction of at least five families

$1,000 to $2,499 **Thrive Daily Fund Partners**
- Funds one day of emergency needs for families in crisis

$2,500 & up **Arlington Pillars**
- Provides funding for the creation of an annual emergency fund

GOOD NEIGHBORS

**UP TO $250**
- Jane & James Adams
- Jean Adams
- Jennifer Adams
- Frank & Lynda Adamson
- Michael & Jennifer Allen
- Carlin Anderson
- Jennifer Anderson
- Phyllis Anderson
- Susan Anderson
- Billie P. Anderton
- Arlington Business & Civic Circle
- Katherine Ashley
- Aurora Hills Women’s Club
- Gerald & Janet Auten
- Cathleen Ax
- John & Ursula Banzhaf
- Emily Bardach
- Ann Barker
- Bonnie Barlow
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- Frederick & Gladys Barrett
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- Tercan Baysan
- John & Priscilla Becker
- Erwin Bedarf
- Chip Benjamin
- Jean Berg

- In honor of Barbara Keish’s birthday

**Jo & Nadine Berg**
- Bethel United Church of Christ
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- Sherry Beyer
- Paula Blair
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- Michael & Marcia Bobal
- David Boling
- Michael & Bernadette Bolton
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- Barbara Carney-Coston
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- Patricia Carroll
- Christine Carstens
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- Emily Cassell
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Washington Forrest Foundation
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We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our donor listing. If you have identified any errors or omissions, please accept our apologies in advance. We ask you to bring them to our attention by contacting the office at 703-558-0035. Thank you.

*A Deceased

Arlington Thrive receives a check from the Arlington Links.
Designate Arlington Thrive in Your Workplace Giving

A gift to Arlington Thrive during the 2016-2017 Workplace Giving Campaign is a sound investment in homelessness prevention for our neighbors in crisis.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN # 27295
UNITED WAY # 8406

Make Your New Year’s Resolution Early

Resolve to Run with Arlington Thrive in 2017! Once again, Arlington Thrive will host a running training program to get you ready to run the George Washington Parkway Classic 10-mile or 5K race. This is a great opportunity to get in shape and raise funds and awareness about Arlington Thrive. Race Date: April 23, 2017. Training will begin in early February 2017. Watch for information on our Facebook page, website and e-news.