ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

Fact Sheet: Emergency Winter Shelter

January, 2009

Overview

Arlington is committed to sheltering any homeless person who needs a safe place to spend the night through the winter season and to helping those who are homeless rebuild their lives and find permanent housing.

Background

- The Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) opened in the winter of 1991 with the primary mission of preventing death and illness from weather exposure. It provides **seasonal winter shelter** (Nov. 1 through March 31) for up to 58 persons and is located in a County-owned building at 2049 North 15th Street (Courthouse area).
- People staying at the shelter get a safe place to sleep as well as food, a hot shower, laundry facilities and access to a range of services through the Department of Human Services and community partners.
- The shelter is operated by the Chesapeake Chapter of **Volunteers of America.** VOA is one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive human services organizations, serving more than 2 million people each year in more than 400 communities in 44 states.
- Overflow facilities are at the ready if more than 58 individuals require emergency shelter. Persons will be transported from the EWS to the overflow facilities, where they will have a safe, warm place to spend the night.

Addressing homelessness

- For long-term solutions, Arlington has adopted a **Housing First is a best-practice model** that has been shown to be a proven, practical, and cost effective means of significantly and permanently decreasing homelessness for chronic street dwellers.
- Arlington and its non-profit partners offer a wide range of additional support services to help persons who are homeless rebuild their lives:
  - **Residential Program Center** (Arlington County/VOA-C)
  - **Emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home, emergency shelter for families, and HomeStart Supportive Housing Program** (Doorways for Women and Families)
  - **Emergency shelter for families, and transitional housing** (Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless)
  - **Susan's Place Safe Haven** (New Hope Housing, Inc.)
  - **Transitional housing grants** (Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Borromeo Housing, and Doorways for Women and Families)
  - **Homeless Bagged Meal Program and Opportunity Place-Street Outreach** (A-SPAN)
  - **Permanent Supportive Housing Program** (DHS/HUD)

Looking forward

- Arlington's Dept. of Human Services is currently exploring **options for the replacement** of the existing EWS, which is challenged with a significantly aging infrastructure.