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10 Year Plan *success stories*

INSIGHTS AND INSPIRATIONS FROM ARLINGTON'S 10 YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

On January 27, 2010, there were 531 people in Arlington County who were literally homeless. This included 184 people in families and 347 single adults. There were 223 people living unsheltered on the streets.

2010 Point-in-Time

The number of people who are homeless in Arlington County rose less than one percent from a year ago, based on the annual Point-in-Time Survey conducted on January 27. The 2010 count identified 531 individuals considered homeless, up from 527 in 2009. The count includes those living in shelters and transitional housing, as well as people living unsheltered on the streets.

“This is another strong indication that our programs are working and the partnerships we’ve formed are connecting people with the resources they need to stabilize their housing and their lives,” said Arlington County Board Member Barbara Favola. “We saw a 28 percent increase in the number of people who are homeless from 2008 to 2009, so these new statistics are encouraging given the economic challenges the region is facing.”

The number of people in families that are homeless decreased 2.6 percent in 2010 (184

people – 76 adults and 108 children). The total had jumped an alarming 59 percent from 2008 to 2009.

Inside the Numbers

- 223 of the 347 single adults counted were unsheltered
- The number of chronically homeless decreased for the third year in a row, from 166 in 2007 to 115 this year. The decrease is believed to be a result of the increase in permanent supportive housing units.
- 93 individuals were chronic substance abusers, 13 were seriously mentally ill, 35 were dually diagnosed
- 86 people were victims of domestic violence
- 124 people were a language minority

Full results of the Arlington Point-in-Time Survey will be available this summer.



Arlington's 2010 Point-in-Time Count followed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines. The annual survey provides valuable information on the number of people who are homeless and the challenges they face.

ABOUT THE 10 YEAR PLAN

Arlington is navigating the recession better than most localities, yet we still have many people struggling to feed their family or maintain stable housing. Arlington's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness was adopted by the County Board in 2006 as a blueprint for action. It engages all sectors of the community in a coordinated effort to prevent homelessness before it happens, to rapidly move people who do become homeless into housing, and to provide the “wrap-around services” necessary for people to maintain their housing and lead stable lives. Everyone can play a part in the fight to end homelessness in Arlington. Learn how you can help at www.arlingtonva.us; keyword: homeless.



Record Storms, But No Snow Days for Emergency Shelter Providers this Winter

It's usually postal workers who receive the accolades for battling Mother Nature to get the job done. But during the winter of 2010, Arlington County's emergency shelter operators set a new standard of commitment and performance.

A special thanks goes out to all of the emergency shelter providers:

- Volunteers of America-Chesapeake (VOA-C)
- Doorways for Women and Families
- Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH)
- Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN)

Report from Richmond

The 2010 Virginia General Assembly session has come to a close. While the session was defined by closing a record \$4 billion budget gap, there were some positive developments in the area of affordable housing.

The "Communities of Opportunity Tax Credit" bill patroned by Sen. Donald McEachin (D-Richmond) and Del. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond) created an income tax credit (equivalent to 10 percent of the annual rent) to landlords in low-poverty areas who rent to tenants with a Housing Choice voucher. Governor Robert McDonnell signed the bill into law. While this is a limited-scope pilot program in the Richmond area, it's a good model for affordable housing in neighborhoods with good schools and quality jobs.



Virginia House of Delegates representatives Bob Brink (48th District) and Patrick Hope (47th District), and State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple.

Another bill, HB 735, patroned by Delegate David Albo (R-Fairfax), would have barred fair housing and civil rights organizations from obtaining recovery in court for discriminatory statements or advertisements when the property involved is shared living space. Advertising cases for discriminatory practices toward renters have proliferated on the Internet. This legislation would have allowed that practice to continue and even be more rampant. While the bill passed the House, it fortunately died in the Senate's General Laws Committee.

Overall, given the very tough economic environment, advocates have a lot to build on to ensure access to safe, decent and affordable housing for everyone. While we still have a long way to go, progress is being made and we must continue our efforts to achieve this worthy goal.

Patrick Hope
Delegate from the 47th District and Co-Chair of the Arlington County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Task Force

HOUSING SPOTLIGHT Columbia Grove



Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) has just completed a major remodelling of all 208 apartments at Columbia Grove and is ready to celebrate.



APAH owns, develops and preserves apartment communities that are affordable to Arlingtonians earning between \$20,000 and \$60,000 a year.

Columbia Grove Highlights:

- A new playground and community center have been added.
- Columbia Grove is the first multi-family renovation in Northern Virginia to receive EarthCraft certification, a resource-efficient, green building standard.
- Columbia Grove will have APAH's first on-site, full-time resident services program.

Columbia Grove Grand Opening Celebration

When:
Thursday, April 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where:
Columbia Grove Apartments
1010 S. Frederick Street
Arlington, VA 22204

RSVP:
apah@apah.org or
703-276-7444, ext. 104

The program starts at 5:30 p.m. with remarks from Freddie Mac Foundation President and CEO Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., and Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisetto.

Arlington County Housing Fair

Saturday, May 8, 2010
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Kenmore Middle School
200 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204

- Learn from the experts how to buy a home
- Get practical advice for managing money, improving credit and avoiding eviction or foreclosure
- Attend tenant, home buyer and home energy conservation workshops (Eng/Sp)
- Access federal, state and local housing programs and resources
- Meet with landlords, real estate and finance professionals, housing specialists and County staff
- Enter for a chance to win door prizes throughout the day
- Some workshops require pre-registration – learn more at www.arlingtonva.us