

# Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

A-SPAN News

June 2001

## Director's Corner

by Lora Rinker, Executive Director

We have some new faces at A-SPAN. I would like to welcome two new staff members: Bernard Carey, Employment Coordinator, and Evelyne Tolbert, Office Manager. And I would like to say welcome to new Board Members: Andrea Walker, Jorge Osterling and Margaret White. In addition, we would like to say thank you and we will miss you to departing Board members Betsy Koop and Georgiana Bloom, although I think we will still see them at the EWS and the food line.

The end of the fiscal year is upon us. As we look to the next year and the challenges ahead of us to address the needs of homeless people in our community and to help them leave the streets, **we would certainly appreciate an "End-of-the-Fiscal Year" donation.** Your assistance is very important in enabling success stories such as those shared on page 3. Thank you for your support!!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual A-SPAN Community Yard Sale

One day, an A-SPAN staff member was cleaning out her closets in her apartment. She thought, "I would love to have a yard sale, but how? I bet there are others like me without a yard, but with stuff to sell." So, an idea was born. You can bring your things to A-SPAN's multi-family yard sale. **Join us on Saturday, July 21 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Calvary Gospel Church at the corner of N. 18<sup>th</sup> St. and N. Glebe.** It's easy - clean out your closets, bring your items to the church along with a table or blanket, and join friends and neighbors for a good time. We ask that you donate 50% or more of your proceeds to A-SPAN. **Call Marianne Moerman at (703) 820-4357 x17 to reserve a space.** Also call Marianne if you can help publicize the yard sale and help the day of the sale with set up, assisting the sellers and clean-up.

Everyone wins with this yard sale - you get clean closets and A-SPAN's homeless clients get much needed support.

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Shelter News -- from Linda Coats,  
Director of Shelter Services

Once, again – a **big thank you** to the EWS volunteers for helping make this past season a success. We invite you to send us your comments about your volunteer experience ([EmergShelter@aol.com](mailto:EmergShelter@aol.com)). We would also like to get your email address. It is because of your dedication and commitment to serve we are able to continue our mission of helping homeless people with needed services. We are deeply grateful.

A special thank you to the “**Volunteer Supervisors**” who made operations run smoothly by answering phones, handling questions from volunteers and guests, and managing their posts. Thank you – Helen, Ralph, Betsy, Marianne and Dave.

We have more news... Planning for the next season has already begun. Two committees have been formed: **an Oversight Committee** – to make overnight visits to check on things; and **a Food Committee** – to plan menus and designate preparers. The Food Committee is working now to shop for ingredients at our local supplier, the National Capital Area Community Food Bank. Also, I really need a couple of people to help me with quality control of our inventory and supplies. We are stocking the shelter before it opens.

We are also **recruiting more Volunteer Supervisors** who are experienced with various posts and would like to be on the **Shelter Committee**. If you are interested in joining and being involved with front line work as a Supervisor or committee member, please send me a response by email or give me a call.

We always welcome new volunteers, so talk to your friends, neighbors, family or co-workers. **Thanks for your good work!!**

#### WISH LIST FOR THE EWS

- \* Over the counter cold medicines
- \* Foot powder & cream
- \* Toothbrushes & paste
- \* Deodorant, Soap & Lotion (travel size OK)
- \* Razors
- \* Laundry detergent
- \* Men & women's socks, underwear, thermal

(Top Row) Meg Tuccillo, Eat Well Volunteer, Ron Carlee, Rev. Ron Crocker (Bottom Row) Lora Rinker, Jennifer Hoffman, Kathy Carroll, Linda Coats

## A-SPAN's Community Heros

A-SPAN congratulates the volunteer members of the **Eat Well Program**. Since 1997, a group of volunteers have gathered at **St. George's Church** to cook dinners for the

A-SPAN's "Grilling Day" at  
FRESH FIELDS  
2700 Wilson Blvd.

Join us on **Saturday, September 8**  
**from noon to 4:00pm** for some tasty  
food hot off the grill. All proceeds  
benefit A-SPAN!!

Emergency Winter Shelter with food donated by **Fresh Fields**. The volunteers, St. George's Church and Fresh Fields were honored in May at Arlington County's Community Hero Awards as part of the Neighborhood Day celebrations. A-SPAN received a \$200 donation from **E\*Trade Bank**.

## Stories from the Streets

**One Step at a Time** - by Emilio Monzon, Outreach Worker

In the spring of 1998, I met "Juan" at a soccer field in Arlandria called "Chirilagua" by local Salvadorians. After working in construction for a few years, Juan began to drink heavily and became homeless. In 1999, Juan entered Alexandria Detox Center for 3 weeks. Afterwards he relapsed and returned to "Chirilagua" and I persuaded him to come to Opportunity Place. He agreed to enter the Residential Program Center Detox Unit and was later referred to the Early Recovery Program and graduated in May, 2000.

After his graduation, Juan was glad to become educated about his alcohol addiction and his clinical history. One day, he told me of two major life developments that led him to become a heavy drinker. First, he had a five year relationship with a young woman here in the U.S. and they had a son. One day she left, taking his son with her. He searched for a long time but never found them. Second, he had a friend in the National Guard in El Salvador who sent a letter asking for money to help come to the U.S. because he feared

he would be killed in the civil war. Juan had some money he was saving for an apartment, but he decided to wait a couple of months to save more money for his friend. A few days later, he learned that his friend had been killed. Juan felt very guilty for not sending the money immediately.

After graduating from Early Recovery, Juan begun working in construction and began to send money to his wife and son in El Salvador. He also paid all of his drinking in public and DUI tickets. He is now being evaluated by the Arlington County Alcohol Safety Program to obtain a restricted drivers license. Recently, Juan traveled to El Salvador to see his wife and son after an eight year absence.

I believe the efforts made by A-SPAN to get Juan off the streets have paid off. After Juan accepted his alcohol addiction and was able to ask for professional help, he became a new person. Today, Juan lives a healthy life, manages his own contracting business and supports his family.



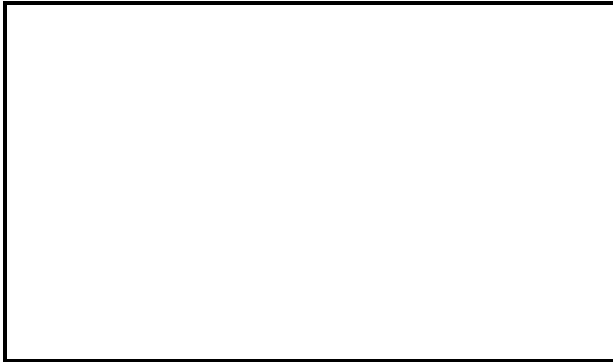
**Providing Services with Creativity & Patience Means Success!** - by Michelle Hirschman, Case Manager

Alan first came to Opportunity Place to shower and to do laundry while the offices were still being completed. He'd been sleeping in a park across the street, had been homeless for 11 years, and had been a practicing alcoholic 20 years. Alan was set in his ways and initially rebuffed other offers of service. While doing his laundry, Alan would accept a cup of coffee and chat briefly with staff. After almost a year of outreach, Alan began to look at his addiction and wanted to get sober. I first met Alan in October '99. After failing to stay sober on his own, he finally asked us for help.

Treatment programs generally require participants to focus on their addiction without other distractions. Alan's acute health problems made him an unlikely candidate for in-patient treatment. As a veteran, he was eligible for VA services so we arranged for him to have surgery while we tried to get him into a substance abuse

treatment program. During his medical treatments, the VA (located in Washington, D.C.) placed him into a D.C. temporary shelter called Christ House which accepts homeless veterans with medical problems (Editor's note: most shelters aren't equipped for medical issues). Alan also attended outpatient alcoholism treatment through the VA hospital. After his medical condition stabilized, Alan was discharged from Christ House and returned to Arlington. He finally agreed to enter an inpatient program and was very motivated but we began to run into jurisdictional roadblocks (an on-going problem for accessing services) since Alan had just received services in D.C. and had no formal Arlington address. Unlike some homeless individuals who move from place to place, Alan had stayed in Arlington most of his life. Both his cousin and parents are not only local but own businesses in Arlington so this was doubly frustrating. However, following the recommendation of "Tony" Logan, Arlington County Substance Abuse Homeless Case Manager, Alan entered the Volunteers of America Residential Program Center shelter to re-establish his Arlington residency. This was another difficult period for Alan. Learning (and following) shelter rules can be especially challenging the longer one remains homeless - one reason that some individuals who are homeless opt to stay on the streets rather than enter shelters. Alan hung tough, coming to Opportunity Place often to talk through his frustrations. After 2 months, Alan got into the Vanguard Services Phoenix Program then graduated into their Re-entry transitional stage sponsored (funded) by Arlington County. While there, he worked

with A-SPAN's employment coordinator and found a job at 7-11 where he had been employed years earlier. He has been working there for almost a year.



After Re-entry, Alan was transferred to Vanguard's transitional Independence House for recovering men and women where he was able to save money and maintain sobriety in a structured living environment. Alan and I began an extensive housing search. Like many A-SPAN clients trying to find housing, in addition to the lack of affordable units, Alan had no credit, and having never rented an apartment before, had no housing references. Finally, after many months, a property manager decided to give Alan a chance and rented him an efficiency. 18 months sober, Alan continues to attend weekly 12-step meetings and other supportive services. We are working on budgeting issues and a savings plan. Alan is currently looking for a kitten to share his new life with and is busy furnishing his apartment.

Alan's road blocks towards getting treatment are similar to those faced by other A-SPAN clients. Because they are homeless, don't have an address to verify they sleep on the

streets of Arlington and they become less used to following rules and taking suggestions. Alan's story shows that road blocks can be removed with patience, flexibility and communication among agencies in Arlington so that success stories like his will continue to happen.

#### **HELP CLIENTS BUILD NEW LIVES -**

Here is a list of items requested by clients who have obtained housing:

- \* Plants
- \* Pictures & picture frames
- \* Area rugs
- \* Kitchen items - blender, glasses, silverware, pots, pans, bowls, etc.
- \* Vacuums
- \* Cleaning supplies
- \* T.V.'s & radios
- \* Alarm clocks & calendars
- \* Kitten (for Alan)

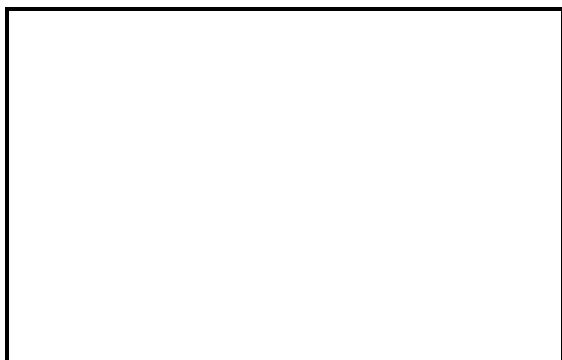
**Thanks from Alan, James, Michael,  
T., W., & J.**

#### **Client Advisory Committee Is Launched**

A-SPAN is pleased to announce that C. Michael McLaughlin has agreed to serve as Chairperson of A-SPAN's Client Advisory Committee. Michael brings to the committee significant experience as an Arlingtonian and as a consumer of A-SPAN's Homeless Bagged Meal Program, Emergency Winter Shelter and Opportunity Place. Michael's case management at A-SPAN initially focused mainly on medical and dental issues. Once those concerns were successfully resolved, with the assistance of Case Manager Michelle Hirschman, Michael moved off the streets and into his own apartment. The AMEN Furniture Bank provided a

lot of furniture along with household items and Salvation Army provided a sofa. A special thanks goes to Barbra Smucker and Bryan Hayden of the AMEN Furniture Bank for their assistance.

The purpose of the Client Advisory Committee is to provide direct feedback to A-SPAN regarding program issues from a client perspective. One of Michael's first tasks will be to recruit other A-SPAN consumers to participate on the committee. Marte Birnbaum, the Director of Opportunity Place will serve as the first staff liaison to the committee. There will also be a liaison from A-SPAN's Board of Directors who will meet regularly with the group. Watch for the first A-SPAN report card from the committee!



Marte and Michael at Opportunity Place

## A FEW THANK YOUS.....

### A-SPAN says thank you to-

\* The Washington Ethical Society's Helping Hands Craft Sale for donating \$3,500.

\* Donors who gave during the March/April campaign against hunger with a matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation.



\* Operation Undercover sponsored by Living Faith Fellowship Ministries and hosted by Clarendon United Methodist Church for donating food, blankets, coats and clothes.

\* Members of Leadership Arlington who helped clean the shelter as part of Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer Day, April 21.

\* Members of Hope Worldwide who helped clean the shelter as part of their Global Outreach Day on April 21.

\* Local Cub Scouts who collected coats, blankets, scarves, hats and gloves.

\* Local Girls Scouts, the Youth Group at Temple Rodef Shalom, employees of the New American School, local au pairs and many other individuals who donated hygiene items.

## A-SPAN Receives Community Services Fund Grants

A-SPAN is very happy to receive a new Community Services Fund grant from the Alexandria United Way to support work in Arlandria. In addition, A-SPAN will receive a Community Services Fund grant for the 7th year from the Arlington United Way. These grants support Outreach Services as part of Opportunity Place. Every year, A-SPAN has to raise matching funds for the HUD grant that supports Opportunity Place. A-SPAN values this support from local United Ways. Thank you, United Way!

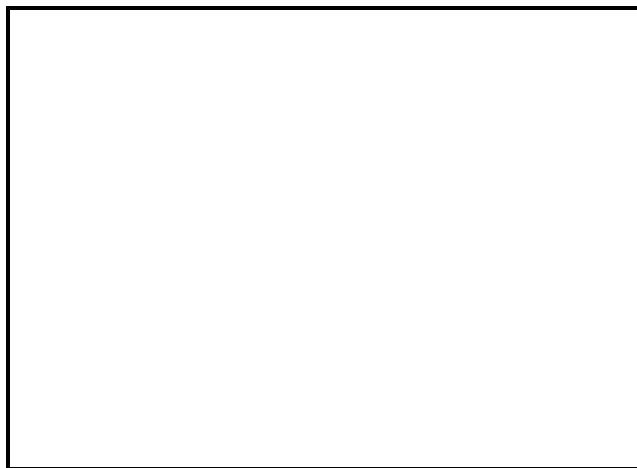
## New Faces at A-SPAN

### Bernard Carey, Sr., Employment Coordinator

Before I share some things about myself, I first want you to read the big sign that hangs above my desk: THE CHAMPIONS CREED - I AM NOT JUDGED BY THE NUMBER OF TIMES I FAIL, BUT BY THE NUMBER OF TIMES I SUCCEED AND THE NUMBER OF TIMES I SUCCEED IS IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES I CAN FAIL AND KEEP TRYING.

When someone enters my office who has been hurting because of not having a job, the first thing I want them to do is realize

that the past is the past and the only thing ahead of them is their future. I believe that employment is one of the things in our life that helps each of us get through the days. Unemployment has a direct effect on self-esteem. I understand that. My job is to assist individuals to overcome their fears and the obstacles that get in their way. That is why I'm so excited about being A-SPAN's new Employment Coordinator.



I am an experienced employment specialist with extensive background in Job Development and Vocational Counseling. I have trained numerous Job Developers, organizations and State Rehabilitation specialists in securing meaningful employment for the hard to place and I have developed several workforce programs for the hard to serve. I am currently an Associate and team member of Great Dads, an organization that trains young men for the lifelong job of fatherhood. And I am a motivational speaker, speaking on accessing the power within all of us. I'm also writing a book called, " Who's Driving the Bus?". Look for it later this year.

I t's the greatest pleasure in life that no person can help another without helping themselves. I am blessed to work at A-SPAN to assist in ending homelessness in our community.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Edgar Roldán  
12 April 1947-28 May 2001

On Thursday June 14 a service was held at the Arlington Temple United Methodist Church in celebration of the life of Mr. Edgar Roldán, an A-SPAN client who was murdered by two transient individuals in Rosslyn in the early hours of Memorial Day. The service was led by Rev. Jean McDonald-Walker of Arlington Temple. Father Gerard Creedon of St. Charles Borromeo also spoke. Three homeless individuals, A-SPAN executive director Lora Rinker, case manager Dan Figg, and board member Betsy Koop, as well as members of the Arlington Temple and St. Charles Borromeo congregations, were present. Father Creedon spoke about the current lack of flexible and affordable housing in Arlington for individuals such as Mr. Roldán. Rev. McDonald-Walker's remarks urged attendees to be grateful for the life of Mr. Roldán while remaining hopeful for those of the two young men charged with his murder.

The Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) is a non-profit community-based organization committed to working with and for street homeless people in Arlington, Virginia to secure needed support and services. We welcome new supporters and volunteers. Call (703) 820-4357 for more information.

**Board of Directors**

- Meg Tuccillo, President
- Dave Collins
- Marianne Moerman
- Betsy Rosenblatt
- John Haas
- Margaret White
- Chris Rea
- Joan Wadelton
- Mary Ann Moran
- Jorge Osterling
- Andrea Walker

**Staff**

- Executive Director.....Lora Rinker
- Director, Opportunity Place....Marte Birnbaum

Director of Development & Volunteer Services.....Robin Broder  
 Director of Shelter Services.....Linda Coats  
 Employment Coordinator..... Bernard Carey  
 Homeless Bagged Meal Program Coordinator .....Marianne Moerman  
 Case Managers.....Michelle Hirschman  
 .....Dan Figg  
 Outreach Worker.....Emilio Monzon  
 Officer Manager .....Evelyne Tolbert  
 Pro Bono Legal Advisor.....Andrew Keyes

Mailing Address: A-SPAN, P.O. Box 1554,  
 Arlington, VA 22210  
 Opportunity Place, 2708B So. Nelson Street,  
 Arlington, VA 22206  
 (703) 820-HELP (4357) fax (703) 820-4405  
 Shelter (703) 528-3082  
 Shelter Infoline (703) 228-3935  
[info@a-span.org](mailto:info@a-span.org) \* [www.a-span.org](http://www.a-span.org)

## Please Join Us

A-SPAN invites you to join with other concerned individuals and organization to work with and for Arlington's street homeless to secure needed support and services.

Please add me to your mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

June 2001

**End-of-the-Fiscal  
Year Campaign**

Please make a donation today!  
Use the form at the back of the  
newsletter!

Suggested amounts:

- Individual  
(\$35)  Family  
(\$50)   
Organization  
(\$65)

- Corporation (\$250)  Major Donor (\$250+)

Please make checks payable to A-SPAN

Mail to: A-SPAN, P.O. Box 1554, Arlington, VA 22210-0854

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network  
P.O. Box 1554  
Arlington, VA 22210-0854

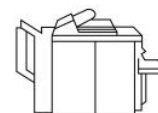
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Special Thanks to Allen's Copy Center for  
donating duplicating services to A-SPAN.  
We appreciate their generosity.



**Mark your calendars for these  
A-SPAN 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events:**

\*  
at N.



Saturday, July 21: A-SPAN'S 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Yard Sale, Calvary Gospel Church  
Glebe & N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, 9:00am - 3:00pm

\*

Saturday, Sept. 8: Fresh Field's "Grilling Day" to benefit A-SPAN,  
noon - 4:00pm at 2700 Wilson Blvd.

\* Saturday, November 3, A-SPAN's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Silent Auction

\* Saturday, November 17, Help the Homeless Walkathon.

**A-SPAN Hall of Fame  
Nominations due August 15**

Fill out the nomination form in this  
newsletter today!!