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**A-SPAN HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENTS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6
FOR EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER AWARENESS
ENHANCED SERVICES ADDED TO AID THE HOMELESS**

A-SPAN, the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, opened its Emergency Winter Shelter, Monday, November 1st serving the homeless through March 31, 2011. Saturday, November 6, at 2049 N. 15th Street, across from the Arlington Courthouse, from 2 – 5 pm, A-SPAN will host an open house for the community to tour the shelter, take part in informational presentations and join a mini-walk for the homeless ending at Whitlow's On Wilson for complimentary refreshments.

A-SPAN's Emergency Winter Shelter has a capacity for 88 clients each night, providing a hot dinner, showers, sleeping space and breakfast each morning. Last season averaged 75 clients per night resulting in 11,365 client visits for the five month shelter season. This season, Arlington County has provided the shelter with substantial new services to greatly aid the homeless. New services will include a housing case manager five nights a week, mental health services three nights a week, and The Arlington Community Foundation has provided a grant to A-SPAN for a nurse practitioner three nights a week.

With a fragile economy and high unemployment, A-SPAN Executive Director Kathleen Sibert stated “We are anticipating that the expanded numbers we saw last year at the shelter will remain high. As the economy continues to stay flat, the numbers of people on the edge continues to grow. Arlington's last Point-in Time-Survey showed 65% of homeless are individuals and 85% of them are not sheltered. There is a tremendous need for a year-round shelter.”

A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for Arlington's homeless, which include daily street outreach, drop-in services such as showers, laundry, and food, and a bagged meal program serving up to 80 individuals 365 days a year. The number of clients served has grown from 760 in 2007, to 1,300 in 2009. A-SPAN is anticipating serving 1,800 clients in 2010. A-SPAN offers a wide variety of case management services through the Permanent Supportive Housing Program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which is funded by the Federal Stimulus.

www.A-SPAN.org

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