



Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

A-SPAN News

September 2001

Director's Corner

by Lora Rinker, Executive Director

September 11, 2001 is one of those turning point dates in history which we will always remember as a nation. All of us at A-SPAN - staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and clients - send our heartfelt sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones, friends and acquaintances. We stand together with each individual American of whatever race, ethnicity, economic status or political persuasion to condemn these horrendous terrorist actions. No matter what comes next, we know that there are many changes and challenges before us. As we move beyond this tragedy into the days, weeks, and years ahead, we are confident that all of us will be up to the tasks given us. A-SPAN will continue the work of helping homeless people get off the streets and live a life of dignity. We invite you to join us in this and other endeavors to make the world a better and safer place.

THE EWS PREPARES TO OPEN

by Linda Coats, Director of Shelter Services

Calling all EWS volunteers!!!!... It is time once again to start scheduling volunteers for the 2001/02 shelter season. We need Volunteer Supervisors (experienced volunteers who can help supervise), shelter volunteers and food preparer volunteers. We hope to see everyone again this season. And we hope that each of you spreads the word and brings a new volunteer with you. **Please call me at (703) 820-4357 x15, or email at EmergShelter@aol.com.**

Please plan to attend a volunteer training session (see page 3), and check out our web site at www.a-span.org for a fact sheet and volunteer job descriptions for the EWS. We will soon post the volunteer schedule at www.members.aol.com/emergshelter.

I would love to see all of the EWS volunteers at the Help the Homeless Arlington Community Walk on Sunday, October, 28 at Barcroft Park at noon. Call Robin today at (703) 820-4357 x17 for a registration form.

JOIN A-SPAN AT

**FRESH FIELDS
2700 Wilson Blvd.**

**5% DAY
Wednesday, Sept. 26**

*** ALL DAY ***

Proceeds from the 5% Day will benefit
A-SPAN programs and services.

**A-SPAN's 10TH ANNIVERSARY:
1991 - 2001**

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From Rural Roots to Urban Living

By Dan Figg and Emilio Monzon

We met "Samuel" during the winter of 2000. He was a farmer from a very small village in El Salvador where he lived with his wife and four children. Like many recent immigrants, Samuel came to the U.S. after hearing about the need for construction workers. He planned to earn money to send home. Within his first year here Samuel was robbed and assaulted. His pay from a week of day labor was stolen and his head was seriously bruised. Afterward he suffered chronic headaches and dizziness, substantially diminishing his ability to work. When he was asked to leave his rented room, he was unable to get another room and became homeless. On the streets, he began to drink heavily as a way to cope with cold nights and increasing isolation.

Within a month, Samuel made contact with A-SPAN. We provided him with basic emergency services on the streets and he came to Opportunity Place to use our shower and laundry facilities. Shortly afterward we got him into the RPC shelter and he began to work with A-SPAN toward case management goals. It became clear that we would first need to address his physical health issues as well as cultural adjustment. Samuel seemed to be able to stop drinking once off the street and in shelter, but remained forgetful and distracted by persistent headaches. We sent him to the Arlington Free Clinic. There he was prescribed medication for his chronic headaches, but difficulties in communication and forgetfulness seemed to persist. Samuel was referred again to the Arlington Free Clinic where they performed a "mini-mental" assessment finding his cognitive functioning unusually limited.

We also felt that Samuel's rural background made it difficult for him to develop the survival skills for life as an immigrant without family supports in a new, urban society. At the end of the 30-day limit at the RPC, he was

discharged. He told us he would rent a room from a friend he knew from El Salvador. And then we lost contact with Samuel for a month.

On a cold Friday afternoon in December, Samuel returned to Opportunity Place's doorstep. He was intoxicated and malnourished, reporting that he had been living on the streets for the past month. When asked why he did not return to A-SPAN for assistance, he stated he felt ashamed of his failure to succeed while in the shelter and feared we were disappointed with him. He had been staying under a bridge in Alexandria, so we called Alexandria detox and we transported there. Afterward, he went to A-SPAN's Emergency Winter Shelter.

A-SPAN's Outreach Worker, Emilio Monzón, a native Central American, began providing more hands-on assistance in Samuel's adjustment process. The stability of having a reserved bed at the Emergency Winter Shelter, allowed him to get a job with a local landscaping operation. Once Samuel found work, Emilio was able to secure him another rental room.

For the first month Emilio maintained nearly daily contact with Samuel to help him get to work. In January, Congress and President Bush approved a "Temporary Protection Status" for Salvadoreans due to the two tragic earthquakes. Emilio began the task of collecting the necessary documents to obtain his work permit. This took time because Samuel's family home has no telephone. Once documents were located, Emilio accompanied Samuel to Hogar Hispano in Falls Church where he completed his application with the assistance of an immigration lawyer. With his new permit, we hope to secure better-paying, more stable work for him in the near future. Samuel's goal is to save money so he can return to his hometown and cultivate the land he is lucky enough to own there.

Wish List for Clients

- * Warm winter items for men - coats, hats, gloves, jeans (large sizes)
- * Men's underwear and socks
- * Vacuum
- * Small desk or table & Lazy-boy chair
- * Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- * Razors & deodorant

A-SPAN WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

A-SPAN has been fortunate in adding several new Board of Directors members in the past few months.

- Debra Jenkins, Executive Director of the Ballston Partnership.
- Beronica Salas, a student and social service volunteer at St. Charles Catholic Church.
- Alexandra Silva, former A-SPAN client now is an accountant for The Washington Post.
- Jorge Osterling, a faculty member at the Graduate School of Education of George Mason University.
- Mike Timpane, an Educational Specialist with the Rand Corporation and former Arlington School Board member.
- Andrea Walker, a long-time A-SPAN shelter volunteer and auditor for Department of Health & Human Services.
- Margaret White, retired from high level positions at the Department of Housing & Urban Development and other government agencies and President of the Board of the Arlington Community Action Program (ACAP).

We welcome all of these new members and thank you for your willingness to serve. **We also welcome Karen Wood as our new Outreach Worker.** She is also studying for a bachelor's in social services.

A-SPAN VOLUNTEERS

All A-SPAN Volunteers - especially new volunteers - are asked to participate in one of our annual volunteer training sessions:

Wednesday, Oct. 17

6:30pm - 9:00pm at the EWS
(light refreshments served)

Saturday, Oct. 20

9:30am - 12:30pm at the EWS

RSVP Today (703) 820-4357 x15

A FEW THANK YOUS....

* Thank you to **Fresh Fields** and **Kathy Carroll** for the tasty and fun Grilling Day fund raiser on Saturday, September 8. And thank you to Dianne Ashley, Georgiana & Rick Bloom, Linda Coats, Bernard Carey and Marte Birnbaum for some outstanding grilling!

* Thank you to the **Calvary Gospel Church** for hosting A-SPAN's first annual Community Yard Sale.

* The **Meyer Foundation** for a grant supporting Opportunity Place.

* All the people who shared their tax relief checks to support A-SPAN's homeless clients.

HELP THE HOMELESS WALKATHON

There are many ways to participate in the Help the Homeless Walk sponsored by the Fannie Mae Foundation:

Schools and churches can hold miniwalks at a time of their choice.

Arlington Community Walk, Sunday October 28, at Barcroft Park, noon.

Help the Homeless 5K Walkathon, Saturday, November 17 on the National Mall, 10:00am

By designating "ASPAN", all proceeds from these walks will benefit A-SPAN programs. For every registered youth walker (ages 5-25), Fannie Mae Foundation will donate a \$40 match to A-SPAN. And for every 250 walkers (youth and adults), A-SPAN receives an additional \$1000 from the foundation.

Call Robin today for more info at (703) 820-4357 x17, or email Broderaspan@aol.com

HBMP VOLUNTEERS

Check out A-SPAN's web site for the HBMP Volunteer Instructions and the HBMP Volunteer Calendar.

www.a-span.org

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CHURCHES

A-SPAN would like to thank the following churches who donated volunteer time, money and in kind support during our last fiscal year (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001). Without their ongoing kindness and generous support, A-SPAN would not be able to serve the needs of street homeless people in Arlington.

EWS Volunteer Teams

Faith Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
Metaphysical Church Arlington Chapter
St. George's Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal
Universalist Unitarian Church
Walker Chapel United Methodist

EWS Volunteer Meal Preparer Teams

Arlington United Methodist Church
Faith Lutheran Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

HBMP Volunteer Teams

Arlington Temple United Methodist
Arlington United Methodist Church
Bethel United Church of Christ
Church of the Brethren
Church of the Covenant
Clarendon United Methodist Church
Covenant Community Church
First Presbyterian Church
House of the Lord Prayer Community
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Memorial Baptist Church
Rock Spring Congregational UCC
St. Anne's Catholic Church
St. Charles Catholic Church
St. Michael's Church
Temple Rodef Shalom

Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Church Donors

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church
Arlington Interfaith Council
Arlington Presbyterian Church
Arlington United Methodist Church
Arlington United Methodist Church, Methodist
Women Group
Arlington United Methodist Church, Youth Group
Covenant Community Church
Faith Lutheran Church, Youth Group
First Presbyterian Church
Leesburg Presbyterian Church
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
NOVA Catholic Community
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Rock Spring Congregational UCC, Women's
Fellowship
Rock Spring Congregational UCC
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. George's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Walker Chapel United Methodist

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
Andrea Walker, Treasurer
Dave Collins
Marianne Moerman
Alexandria Silva
John Haas
Margaret White
Mike Timpane
Chris Rea
Joan Wadelton
Mary Ann Moran
Jorge Osterling
Beronica Salas
Debra Jenkins

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.....Dan Figg
..... Brian Holtzman
Outreach Workers.....Emilio Monzon
..... Karen Wood

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 * www.a-span.org

Save the Date

Saturday, November 3
A-SPAN'S 10TH Anniversary
Celebration & Silent Auction

Guest Speaker: David Broder, political
reporter & columnist for The Washington Post
& long-time Arlington resident

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 \$ _____.

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
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