



Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

A-SPAN News

Spring 2005

4th Annual Awards Dinner

The 4th Annual Awards Dinner – A-SPAN’s annual fundraiser -- will be held on **Saturday, April 30th**, from 6:30 – 9:00pm on the Arlington Campus of George Mason University. It features a silent auction, fancy bagged/boxed meal dinners provided by area restaurants (symbolic of our Homeless Bagged Meal Program), and induction of new members into A-SPAN's Hall of Fame who have made a tremendous impact on A-SPAN’s success.

Hall of Fame inductees this year are the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church and volunteer Bruce Needham. As in past years, there will be many fabulous items in the silent auction, so bring your best bidding techniques, choose a meal, and be prepared for an exciting evening! We hope you will join us. Call Lana Bilyeu at 703-820-4357 ext. 21 or go to www.a-span.org to sign up online.

4th Annual Awards Dinner

**Saturday, April 30th
2005**

6:30pm-9:00pm

**For tickets call
(703) 820-4357 ext. 20
Individual tickets \$50**

A-SPAN Selected for Catalogue of Philanthropy

See page 4 for details

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Arlington 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Lora Rinker, Executive Director

A-SPAN staff is joining with other local homeless services nonprofits to develop an Arlington 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Cities, counties and states across the nation are generating strategies to address chronic homelessness after researchers have determined that although the chronic homeless make up only 10% of the homeless population nationwide, they account for over 50% of the expenditure of funds spent on homeless services. More adequately addressing the needs of the chronically homeless will free funds for addressing the needs of other segments of the homeless population.

Ten-year plans are changing the emphasis from “managing” to “ending” homelessness. This

(continued on pg 2)

(Ten Year Plan cont.)

approach focuses on outcomes. One major strategy surfacing in numerous 10-year plans is Housing First, placing people directly into housing and providing attendant social services to address barriers to maintaining the housing. Because the chronically homeless do not have a permanent place to stay, community services are used in an inefficient and costly manner. For example, use of the hospital emergency room for healthcare, expensive stays in the jail due to loitering charges, and expensive temporary housing. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, only 7% of single adults report receiving help to find housing though that is their primary need.

Emergency needs must be met before homeless people can adequately concentrate on the reasons for their homelessness and how to overcome it. The Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS), managed by A-SPAN, has provided temporary housing security for some, aiding in their successful attainment of permanent housing. In the past few years, A-SPAN has assisted an average of two to four people per month to access housing. The Temporary shelter provided by A-SPAN, along with an orientation toward permanent housing, will play a major role in the success of an Arlington 10-year plan.



Housing is Empowering

Lawrence Elder

A-SPAN's ultimate goal, as we work with individual clients, is to secure permanent housing for them through a long-term, hands-on process that begins with establishing trust and gradually tackles an individual's barriers to getting off the streets. A-SPAN is successful with homeless individuals who are considered "hardest to serve", meaning they have multiple barriers to overcome. These barriers can include mental health, substance abuse, and medical issues or a pattern of chronic homelessness. Often more than one or even all of these barriers are present.

The first quarter of 2005 has been an extraordinary time at Opportunity Place. Thirteen clients secured

permanent housing. We are very excited about these numbers and we applaud the tremendous work of our clients as well as the great effort of A-SPAN staff to assist them. The clients have all increased their income through employment or receipt of benefits such as social security disability insurance, retirement benefits, housing grants, food stamps and medicare.

These clients are men & women, black, white, and latino, from 40 to 80 years old, and have diverse backgrounds. The one thing they share almost universally is the Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS). Eleven of Thirteen people accessing housing were guests of the EWS. Some had been shelter guests each winter for multiple years.

Eleven of thirteen people securing permanent housing in the first quarter of 2005 were guests of the EWS. Some had been shelter guests each winter for multiple years.

For the five months it is open, the shelter provides some sense of stability enabling people to focus on their barriers rather than the immediate concern of finding a safe place to sleep. A-SPAN Case Managers and Outreach Workers regularly visit the shelter as do counselors in mental health and substance abuse. A-SPAN staff advocate for and coordinate services with other agencies to ensure that barriers are addressed. When the shelter closes, clients have to refocus their efforts on finding a safe place to sleep rather than addressing their long-term barriers. Without the stability of a safe place to sleep, it can take much longer for clients to achieve the final goal of permanent housing.

A-SPAN staff will continue to work with all these clients for six months to set goals that will assist them in maintaining their housing for the long-term, such as budgeting, house keeping, grocery shopping, cooking, laundry and developing good neighbor and social skills. Assisting clients with these skills will improve their chances to maintain their housing.

(continued pg 3)

(Housing is Empowering cont.)

Residential stability is an important element of any therapeutic strategy for the homeless. Clients in permanent housing more easily adhere to any treatment they may be undergoing. Having a home is empowering and empowerment is vital to recovery.

Success Brings Inspiration

Fred Cain, Outreach Worker

Carl (not his real name) has a long history of homelessness. Like many homeless people he suffers from physical ailments attributed to old age, mental illness, and has used and abused a myriad of drugs in his day. He has been in and out of transitional housing programs and even had his own apartment a few years ago. In spite of his issues, Carl is always happy to see A-SPAN outreach workers at his hang-out near the Rosslyn Metro station, and is even helpful in encouraging other homeless people to seek help from A-SPAN. Due to his mental illness and many failed attempts at housing, Carl had pretty much given up, and was resolved to spend his days sitting on his small piece of luggage near the metro stop.

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Things started to change in late fall of 2004, when A-SPAN outreach workers suggested that Carl try to obtain an Arlington County Housing Grant—based on his age. Carl was transported to Community Residences (CR) and completed the intake paperwork. It was agreed that CR would file the grant and A-SPAN would do the necessary work to help Carl obtain his Virginia Identification card—a necessary piece to the housing puzzle. An out-of-state birth certificate was obtained and things were on their way. A trip to the DMV in January finally yielded success and Carl had his ID.

During these months, Carl stayed at A-SPAN's Emergency Winter Shelter—fulfilling another housing grant requirement that grantees be in some type of shelter. Carl was a good fit at EWS and was always grateful to staff.

About two months after the application was submitted, word came back that Carl's grant had been approved, and the staff at CR began the search for appropriate housing. Carl finally ended up in an assisted living apartment complex in Arlington. He gets one meal a day and has plenty of folks his age to chat with. With a little luck and good timing, Carl quickly furnished his apartment and was settled in shortly after arriving.

I paid a recent visit to Carl. He greeted me with a firm handshake, a twinkle in his eye, and a heartfelt 'thank-you' on his lips. The following week, I saw him again in his old haunts in Rosslyn—talking to another homeless man. Carl said that he was out to get some fresh air, but I knew the truth: In an act of appreciation, Carl was doing some free advertising for A-SPAN. He is both a living testimonial and a source of encouragement to all A-SPAN staff.

As you can see,
A-SPAN has a new logo!

In early October, A-SPAN was a beneficiary of an event called the "Create-A-Thon" organized by MediaStudio. Graphic designers volunteered a 24-hour period to design materials for selected nonprofits. We asked for a new logo and letterhead and this is the result. We hope you like it—we do.



Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

Fifteen Years of Winter Shelter

Linda Coats, Director of Shelter Services

This winter marks the fifteenth year of the Emergency Winter Shelter. This season, 2004/05, has been very successful, providing overnight shelter to more than 300 individuals. The staff and volunteers performed well, along with many shelter clients who provided crucial assistance in the smooth operation of the facility. This year marks the first time that the shelter was not subject to temperature requirements for opening. The EWS was open from Nov 1st to March 31st without interruption. Emergency services at the shelter include dinner and light breakfast, showers, clothing, laundry and phone calls. Long-term supportive services are also provided and consist of medical assessments and referrals, mental health and substance abuse counseling, outreach and case management. Many thanks to everyone for helping us to reach out and provide needed emergency services to the homeless in Arlington.

Once the shelter closes, many clients return to a more transient lifestyle of traveling to wherever they can panhandle or earn income on which to survive. Many continue to depend on food programs while living in places and conditions not suitable for human habitation. A-SPAN outreach workers travel to areas where homeless people congregate to provide hygiene items, blankets, clothing, shower vouchers, tokens and referrals and engage them to become more proactive in addressing their homelessness. Under these conditions, the task is much more difficult. Regrettably, many clients can no longer be located by the Outreach Workers.

A-SPAN Summer Needs

Men's summer pants, shirts (M-L)

Men's underwear & Socks (M-L)

Bottled water (for street outreach)

Shoes

Toothbrushes

Travel size toothpaste

Call (703)820-4357 for more information

Clients who stay at the shelter receive uninterrupted emergency services that are vital to the protection of life. The closing of the shelter at the end of March interrupts efforts to sustain folks, almost abruptly returning clients to the streets. Over time, the health of the client becomes more and more compromised. Far too many clients who have received emergency services through previous seasons have become harder to communicate with when they return to the shelter. They have digressed in their ability to function and have declined to a point in which they are not capable of coexisting with others in an indoor environment.

Kid's Corner

Last fall, Tristan Brady wanted to help others. He had heard about A-SPAN through his school (Tuckahoe Elementary) and came up with a plan. He would use his eighth birthday as a way to raise money for the homeless. Tristan invited his friends to his party and asked that instead of presents, they donate that money to A-SPAN. This wonderful idea led to \$300 in donations to A-SPAN. Our great thanks to Tristan for his creativity and generosity in using his big day to reach out and help the homeless.

A-SPAN Selected for Catalogue of Philanthropy

A-SPAN is proud to have been selected for inclusion in the "Catalogue of Philanthropy 2004-05, A Guide to Giving for Greater Washington". We were selected as one of 78 charities, and one of only three in Arlington chosen from a field of nearly 250 applications. Applications were reviewed by thirty leaders representing professional grantmakers, foundations and nonprofit organizations, and were evaluated for distinction, merit, cost-effectiveness and accomplishment. The committee concluded, "These are certainly some of the best small charities in Greater Washington." You may view the catalogue at www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org (Click on Greater Washington, Human Services, Hunger & Homelessness to access A-SPAN's page).

Thank you to our Sustainers Circle Members

As we approach A-SPAN's 15th Anniversary of founding, please consider joining the Sustainers Circle members listed below in providing annual support at a level that helps A-SPAN maintain fiscal health and stability while delivering needed services to homeless people in Arlington County.

Membership begins at \$500. Please call Lana Bilyeu at (703) 820-4357 ext. 20 for more information.

Champion (\$1,000 +)

William and Brigid Brakefield	Klaus and Janet Koster
Ann and David Broder	Laurie Duncan and Jack McWethy
Robert Cooper	Bruce and Amy Mehlman
Eleanor Dixon	Marianne Moerman
James Folsom	Anita McEwen and Lawrence Roberts
Paul Gallant	Diane and Bradford Smith
Nancy and Claude Keener	Michael and Genevieve Timpane
Joseph and Sally Keyes	Marilynn Wilson
J. Andrew Keyes and Cathleen Trail	Michael Woods and Joan Pepin

Patron (\$750 - \$999)

Robert Bayer and Rozanne Oliver
Meg Tuccillo

Advocate (\$500 - \$749)

Marty Almquist	Marjorie and Jim Mayer
Jean and Richard Barton	Margaret McCourt-Dirner
Robin and Michael Broder	Kenneth Neumeister
Bill Buck	Roy Rosenzweig & Debra Kaplan
Karen Darner	Wayne and Cathryn Tatusko
Ed and Rosalie Demoney	Robert Van Kirk
Paul and Julia Foster	Thomas and Elizabeth Walsh
Ralph and Debra Johnson	Mary Margaret and Tom Whipple
Kelleen and Ken Kaye	Carl & Suzanne Williams
Betsy Koop	Elena and Fred Wolin
Larry and Ros Latto	Audrey and Mike Wyatt

Thank You to all our volunteers

We sincerely appreciate your dedication and support, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Volunteer Opportunities Update

Emergency Winter Shelter- The shelter closed for the season on March 31st, and will open again on November 1st. If you are interested in volunteering for next season please contact us in Sept/Oct to sign up.

Homeless Bagged Meal Program- This is a year-round program so we are always looking for volunteers. Call Marianne Moerman at (703)751-0523 if you are interested.

Volunteer Companions- A-SPAN is looking for Volunteer Companions for our clients that are in housing. Volunteer Companions would assist with activities such as going grocery shopping, doing laundry, or just being a friend and going out on outings (movies etc). This would be a tremendous help to our clients because most of them have mental health issues and can not get around, or are illiterate and need assistance with daily living situations. Case Managers at A-SPAN follow-up with after care for our clients that are in housing for 6 months, and it would be a great help if we could get some assistance from volunteers that have a genuine ability to want to help people and who care.

Clothing/Hygiene Supply Drives- A-SPAN can always use donated items. Organizing a drive is a great project to do with school, church, or work groups. All donated items can be dropped off at Opportunity Place.

Contact us at (703)820-4357 or aspanvolunteer@aol.com for further information.

Welcome New Staff

Marsha Ashe, Outreach Worker. Prior to coming to ASPAN, Marsha had worked at various other shelters and group homes throughout the metropolitan area in positions from supervisor to monitor. Throughout her experience she has worked with individuals from ages 8 to 80, with disabilities ranging from the criminally insane to the sexually abused. She is very versatile and loves to work with people.

Yuri Villacorta, Employment Coordinator. Yuri would like to thank everyone he has met at A-SPAN for making him feel welcomed. He hopes to meet more of the A-SPAN family soon. Yuri was born in Lima, Peru. He came to America with his family when he was one and he is fluent in Spanish (grew up in Falls Church, VA). Yuri attended Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and graduated with a major in Sociology and minor in Communications. He has an older brother who works as a consultant in Maryland and a twin brother who works for a non-profit in downtown DC. He enjoys movies, books and sports. If he is not at Borders reading a book on the weekend you can find him enjoying soccer or football at a local restaurant.

Ralph Johnson, Finance Manager. Ralph joined A-SPAN after a 35-year career with the Federal Government. He has been married to Debra for 5 years and they have two 4-year olds, Tony and Maria. In addition, they have an 8-month old granddaughter, Sierra. Ralph's interest in the homeless stems from his 33-year affiliation with the social outreach programs at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, located in the Nauck community of South Arlington. He has been the church's budget director for over 25 years and an active member of their Haiti Committee for the past 8 years. Debra is also active in church activities, singing in the church choir. Ralph enjoys cooking, gardening, and reading. He hopes that his efforts on behalf of A-SPAN will make a difference for the homeless of Arlington.

Board of Directors

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
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| <i>Director</i> | <i>Karen Smith</i> |

A-SPAN Staff

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Executive Director</i> | <i>Lora Rinker</i> |
| <i>Director of Operations and Shelter Services</i> | <i>Linda Coats</i> |
| <i>Clinical Director</i> | <i>Lawrence Elder</i> |
| <i>Director of Resource Development</i> | <i>Lana Bilyeu</i> |
| <i>Finance Manager</i> | <i>Ralph Johnson</i> |
| <i>Administrative Assistant</i> | <i>Vanessa Everette-Witt</i> |
| <i>Homeless Bagged Meal Coordinator</i> | <i>Mariannne Moerman</i> |
| <i>Case Manager</i> | <i>Olga Garcia</i> |
| | <i>Jacqueline Scott</i> |
| <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i> | <i>Jessica Wood</i> |
| <i>Employment Coordinator</i> | <i>Yuri Villacorta</i> |
| <i>Outreach Worker</i> | <i>Marsha Ashe</i> |
| | <i>Fredric Cain</i> |
| | <i>Tonya Crockett</i> |
| | <i>Wilbert Shaw</i> |

Mailing Address: A-SPAN, P.O. Box 100731, Arlington VA 22210

Opportunity Place: 2708-B S. Nelson St., Arlington VA 22206

Phone: (703)820-4357 fax: (703)820-4405
Shelter: (703)528-3082 Shelter info line: (703) 228-3935

www.a-span.org

Please Join Us

A-SPAN invites you to join with us to work with and for Arlington's street homeless to secure needed support, services, jobs and housing.

Please add me to your mailing list.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening phone _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

\$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

To make a gift of stock or learn about other planned giving options, call Lana Bilyeu at (703) 820-4357 ext. 20

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 100731

Arlington, VA 22210-0854

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