

Opportunity Place Provides Long Term Solutions

It's 12:45 pm on Monday and Kenny Kluttz, Opportunity Place Outreach Monitor is busy preparing for the afternoon. Monday through Thursday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, street homeless individuals can access a variety of emergency services at Opportunity Place (OP) located in South Arlington. During these hours, people can take a shower, get a cup of coffee, use the phone, get a change of clothes, check their mail, and meet with Outreach Workers/Case Managers for more comprehensive services such as mental health treatment, medical services, detox, access to transitional housing programs, and employment opportunities.

Walk-in hours at Opportunity Place are a very busy time, with over 800 street homeless people served last year alone (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006). Kenny, who's been an A-SPAN employee for five years, has remained the welcoming face of Opportunity Place. Every workday Kenny organizes the lobby for the afternoon, accepts donations, updates the clothing room, sorts out client mail, and provides assistance to all OP clients. In addition to Kenny's daily support, Marianne Moerman, former volunteer Homeless Bagged Meal Program Coordinator and long-term friend of A-SPAN also helps out at Opportunity Place, by managing the front-desk and directing clients throughout the facility.

(Cont on page 2)

15TH Anniversary 2006

This is the third issue in a three part series.

Issue #3-Focus: Opportunity Place (OP)

Issue #2-Focus: Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS)

Issue #1-Focus: Homeless Bagged Meal Program (HBMP)

A-SPAN Receives Human Rights Award

A-SPAN is very honored to receive the 2006 James B. Hunter Human Rights Award.

As stated on the Human Rights Commission website, Jim Hunter "served on the Arlington County Board from 1990 until illness forced his retirement in 1998.... a compassionate and dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of individuals with little access to their government." In receiving this award on behalf of A-SPAN Lora Rinker stated, "This award is particularly special to me as Jim (along with his wife Patty and their children) are personal friends." Jim and Patty's daughter, Jessica, is a former member of the A-SPAN Board of Directors. Lora's remarks focused attention on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The purpose of the Human Rights Award is "to recognize sustained commitment and outstanding accomplishments in the area of human rights made in Arlington County by an individual, a community group, a non-profit organization, and/or a business establishment." We are grateful to the Commission for this special honor.

The Human Rights Commission holds primary responsibility to receive, investigate, and conciliate complaints from those who believe they have been victims of unlawful discrimination in Arlington County.



Above: Lora Rinker accepts the award on behalf of A-SPAN

("Opportunity Place" from page 1)

The goal of Opportunity Place is to provide emergency services and long-term assistance to all homeless people in Arlington to help them get off the streets and live a life of dignity. OP is funded primarily by HUD, providing a three-tiered approach involving street outreach, case management, and employment services including job training and placement. Opportunity Place supports clients during their journey towards securing permanent housing and steady income.

A-SPAN has recently started a pilot project which evaluates the job structure of those who work directly with clients. Previously a client who had worked with an outreach worker and become formally engaged, would be passed to a separate case manager who would then take over the service plan for that client. The pilot project combines both interventions into a single Outreach Worker/Case Manager position which enables clients to experience a continuity of care by working with the same A-SPAN staff person from first contact through self-sufficiency. Staff will evaluate if this position will improve our outcomes in securing houses and income for clients we serve.

The Rosslyn Business Improvement District (BID) contracts with A-SPAN to work with homeless individuals in the Rosslyn area. The designated Outreach Worker/Case Manager utilizes a satellite office in the Emergency Winter Shelter to provide better access to clients within the Rosslyn/Ballston Corridor.

FY 06 Statistics*				
Services	Arlington County		Rosslyn BID	
	Total Served	869		279
Males	726	83.5%	239	86%
Females	143	16.5%	40	14%
Mental Health Issues	330	38%	97	35%
Substance Abuse Issues	347	39%	106	38%
Chronic Health Issues	22	2%	14	5%
Veterans	72	3%	13	4.6%
Chronic Homeless	538	62%	164	59%

*The table above shows a summary of the clients served during FY06 (July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006). The data includes clients served at Opportunity Place and at the Emergency Winter Shelter.

Opportunity Place provides the safety net for those who are not accepted into other programs or have exhausted all other options and works with people "where they are" and for as long as it takes. The Outreach Workers/Case Managers at Opportunity Place remain dedicated and committed and assist clients in any way they can.

If you are interested in visiting our facility or donating any in-kind items seen on our wish list to Opportunity Place please contact us at 703-820-4357.

A-SPAN'S Mission

A-SPAN is a nonprofit community based organization whose mission is to assist every homeless person in Arlington County get off the streets and live a life of dignity. A-SPAN works with and on behalf of homeless people to secure the support and services necessary for them to lead self-sufficient and healthy lives.

A-SPAN estimates there are at least 900 people living on the streets of Arlington during the course of a year. A-SPAN accomplishes its mission by working with homeless people, local governments, business, religious and charitable institutions, and hundreds of concerned volunteers. Our strategies include:

- ◆ Meeting emergency needs including food and shelter.
- ◆ Providing direct outreach, case management and employment assistance.
- ◆ Advocating for and creating new programs to fill gaps in preventive, emergency and rehabilitative services.
- ◆ Increasing community awareness and involvement in ending homelessness.

Join us at Top of the Town for an A-SPAN Fund raiser on November 30th!

Come out for the 1st annual Help-the-Homeless Gala taking place on November 30 to "kick off" **LIGHT UP Rosslyn...Light up a Life** campaign. There are some very exciting items in the live auction to include a condo stay in Costa Rica and a week's vacation home in Ireland. There will be hors d'oeuvres from Lebanese Taverna, drinks, live music, and, as advertised, a chance to enter a drawing to win two roundtrip business class tickets to London on MAXjet. In addition, there will be some excellent "buys" in the silent auction. Tickets for the Gala are \$60 per person. Register by calling Rachel at 703-820-4357 ext. 20 or visit us online at www.a-span.org. We hope to see you there!

Staff News

Regretfully, we have had to say goodbye to several staff members recently. Yuri Villacorta, A-SPAN Employment Coordinator moved to a job in Falls Church. Our Resource Development Director, Lana Bilyeu, her partner and their twins moved to St. Paul, Minnesota in June. Fred Cain, Outreach Worker/Case Manager dedicated to the Rosslyn area, moved to Minnesota with his wife and their seven-week-old baby to be near the grandparents. And after seven years at A-SPAN, Director of Operations and Shelter Services, Linda Coats decided to take a position in D.C. with a half-way house for women leaving prison. We have enjoyed having all these people on our staff. We miss them all and wish them all well.

Board of Directors

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A-SPAN Staff

<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>Lora Rincker</i>
<i>Dir. of Operations/Shelter Services</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Director of Opportunity Place</i>	<i>Leonard Chari</i>
<i>Director of Resource Development</i>	<i>Rachel Akins</i>
<i>Finance Manager</i>	<i>Ralph Johnson</i>
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	<i>Vanessa Witt</i>
<i>Outreach/Case Workers</i>	<i>Jacqueline Scott</i>
	<i>Olga Garcia</i>
	<i>Lucy Cronin</i>
	<i>Sheryl Johnson</i>
<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	<i>Azita Ranjbar</i>
<i>Employment Coordinator</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Outreach Monitor</i>	<i>Kenneth Kfuttz</i>

Happily, we have also welcomed some new people to our staff. Rachel Akins has joined the staff as our Resource Development Director. Rachel earned a MSSW from the University of Tennessee and most recently worked for United Way of the National Capital Area overseeing member agency relations and coordinating the community impact grant program. Rachel immediately immersed herself in grant writing and assisting with the Holiday Gala. She is a wonderful addition to the staff. Lucy Cronin, Volunteer Coordinator who did a tremendous job of re-creating the Homeless Bagged Meal Program last year to meet new County standards, moved within A-SPAN to an Outreach Worker/Case Manager position. Lucy earned a BSW from Champlain College. Azita Ranjbar joined A-SPAN part time as Volunteer Coordinator. Azita earned a BA in International Relations and minor in Religious Studies from the College of William and Mary and is presently attending GMU to earn a Master's degree in Peace studies. We are pleased to have these three talented women on our staff. A-SPAN is presently interviewing to fill the other positions.

Want to Help during the Holidays?

We have several volunteer opportunities for those who want to share with others during the holidays. This is also a good time of year to sponsor a special collection drive for items needed for services to homeless people. There will be collection boxes at the Rosslyn metro exit during the week between November 30 and December 7th and at the LIGHT UP Rosslyn Ceremony on the 7th. You could also organize your own collection drive at school or work. See the wish list on page 5. Please review other volunteer opportunities for A-SPAN below.

- **Emergency Winter Shelter-** The Shelter opened November 1, 2006, and will remain open until March 31, 2007. We are looking for volunteers for the evening, overnight, or morning shifts. There are several volunteer opportunities at the Shelter including serving food, distributing hygiene items, and assisting with the clothing closet.
- **Homeless Bagged Meal Program-** We are currently in the process of creating the new January-June 2007 HBMP schedule. Please contact us if you are interested in preparing and/or serving the homeless in Arlington.
- **Technology/Administration-** A-SPAN is currently seeking volunteers to update our website and input client data.

If you have any questions, please call Azita Ranjbar at 703-820-4357 ext. 17 for information and assistance.

A Client Story

I'm forty years old, Spanish man, and I would like to share a little bit about myself. I am from El Salvador and I drank for about eight years of my life. I lived in another state for about twelve years and then I moved to Virginia.

I thought that by moving to another state I would change my addiction, but I got worse in 2000. Here is how I started to become one of the most famous part of the society "Homeless" in Arlington, Virginia. I got a job as cleaning office and I was drinking in a denial level. After that, I went to work in Washington, DC and I was drinking very heavily and lost the part time job. I work for about three months, then I started to living in the street and it was about my second Christmas in Arlington, VA, but my first one living on the street as a homeless. I beame a typical, chronic homeless, and not want to do anything for my life and I did not care.

It took a lot of getting in jail for stealing alcohol due to my addiction and not working to support my habits.

On January 20, 2002, I got a referral to Detox for one month. After that, I was transfer to Early Recovery for three months. While I was in ER - I learned just a little bit due to the language barrier so then got transfer to Viviendo Saludable for one month and to a Residential Program for eight months. I believed that if I did not wait for a program I would have left and start drinking again. I have leanred and comprehend the meaning of Substance Abuse.

I sober for 46 months and I still come to the same corner where I lost my personality, dignity, and care of myself.

Case Manager Reflection:

by Olga Garcia

I've been working with Rene Segovia, for about five years - when I started to work with this organization - I saw Rene on the street drunk and smelling really terrible. Rene used to wait for me in the morning and asked for a dollar or two and stated that it was for a Cup Soup. Other times, he requested three dollars and stated that it was for beer and a soup, so I replied no. There was one time that I saw Rene getting in to the dumpster and getting food (trash) to eat. I went home crying - the next thing that I know is that Rene asked for detox. I took him and took some clothes for him and hygiene supplies. Then I was informed of all the treatments he received and after a year he came here and stated he was looking for a room. A-SPAN helped him financially for his room and provided him with some furniture. This is a good example of courage and self esteem that Rene still comes to the corner where he lost the dignity of his lifestyle

and now that he is sober for 46 months, he still is around the same place and people, but the difference this time is that he is no longer drinking.

**Help maintain A-SPAN'S successful programs.
Become a member of the Sustainer's Circle.
Membership begins at \$500 yearly. For more
information, contact us at (703) 820-4357 ext. 20**

EWS Opens for 15th Season

The Emergency Winter Shelter opened for its 15th season on Wednesday, November 1 under A-SPAN leadership. EWS is open every night from November 1 through March 31 providing shelter for 40 men and women. Last year, the EWS served 323 homeless individuals for a total of 151 nights. Each evening volunteers are scheduled to assist staff by serving food, distributing hygiene supplies and blankets, and assisting guests in the clothing room.

Operated under contract with Arlington County, A-SPAN provides a variety of services for the homeless guests -- including food, showers, clothing, laundry, medical treatment, substance abuse and mental health assessments and referrals.

If you have questions regarding the shelter or are interested in volunteering, please call 703-820-4357 ext. 17.

*Office and Opportunity Place: 2708-B South Nelson
Street; Phone: (703) 820-4357 Fax: (703)820-4405
Emergency Winter Shelter: 2049 N. 15th Street;
Phone: (703)528-3082
Web site: www.a-span.org*

Share your concern about homelessness in your community

A-SPAN provides a mobile community reponse whenever citizens, clergy, businesses, police, or others contact us with a concern about homeless individuals. Call 703-820-HELP (4357) to arrange for an A-SPAN staff outreach visit.

A-SPAN's Wish List

Men's Clothing	Women's Clothing
<p>Jeans size 36 and larger Casual Slacks size 36 and larger Sweat Pants (large sizes) Sweatshirts (hooded preferred) Thermal Undergarments Warm Winter Coats (large sizes) T-Shirts Polo-Shirts Casual Button-up Shirts White Athletic Socks Brief & Boxer underwear 36 and larger White Undershirts</p>	<p>Jeans size 10 and larger Casual Slacks size 10 and larger Sweat Pants (large sizes) Sweatshirts (hooded preferred) Sweaters Thermal Undergarments Warm Winter Coats (large sizes) T-Shirts Casual Button-up Shirts Socks Underwear Bras</p>
Men's Shoes (size 10 or larger)	Women's Shoes (size 7 or larger)
<p>Construction/Work Boots Warm Winter Boots Casual Walking Shoes Sneakers</p>	<p>Warm Winter Boots Casual Walking Shoes Sneakers</p>
Miscellaneous Items	Hygiene Supplies
<p>Sleeping Bags Belts (large sizes) Shoelaces Backpacks Pull Luggage Gloves Mittens Winter Hats Restaurant Gift Cards Grocery Gift Cards Phone Cards Smart Trip Cards Bus Tokens Umbrellas Rain Capes</p>	<p>Deodorant Disposable Razors Shaving Cream Toothpaste Tooth Brushes Soap Shampoo/Conditioner Lotion/Vaseline Lip Balm Feminine Hygiene Supplies Combs/Brushes Band-Aid Hydrogen Peroxide Aspirin/Tylenol Foot Powder</p>

2006 Arlington United Way Campaign Kicks off at A-SPAN!

On October 25th, the Arlington Regional Council of United Way of the National Capital Area held the local campaign kick-off at the Emergency Winter Shelter. Last year the Arlington office raised an impressive \$1.3 million for local charities, with outstanding participation from Arlington County Public Schools and Arlington County Government. At the kick-off, members of the Arlington Regional Council, Council Chair Arthur Gosling, Campaign Chair Rev. Charles Wildman, agency representatives, and UWNCA CEO Charles Anderson were in attendance. We were honored to host this exciting event at the shelter. We wish the Arlington United Way a successful campaign season! **If you donate through your workplace, designate #8404.**

Below: Host Lora Rinker welcomes guests before the Kick-off



Above: Campaign Chair Charles Wildman speaks on behalf of the Arlington Regional Council

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 (703) 820-4357 ext. 20

Please make checks payable to A-SPAN

Mail to: A-SPAN, P.O. Box 100731, Arlington, VA 22210-0854

(703) 820-HELP (4357)

TO DONATE ONLINE,
GO TO www.A-SPAN.org
AND CLICK ON "DONATE NOW!!"

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network

P.O. Box 100731

Arlington, VA 22210-0854

Address Service Requested



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of the National Capital Area

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