

Media:

Jan-Michael Sacharko
A-SPAN
jsacharko@a-span.org
202.903.4849

**A-SPAN Outreach Workers to Conduct Intensive “Day of Outreach”
to Identify New Clients June 28, 2012;
Ashlawn Elementary Donates 55 Cases of Water for Homeless**

Ashlawn Elementary School students surprised A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network) staff with a gift of over 1,300 bottles of water last week to be handed out to street homeless people of Arlington County during the summer months. A-SPAN staff were at Ashlawn Friday, June 22, to thank the students for raising over \$4,000 in last year’s Fannie Mae “Help the Homeless” Walkathon.

This Thursday, June 28, A-SPAN’s team of Outreach Workers will be on the streets, underpasses, woods, and other areas of Arlington seeking out new and known chronically homeless Arlington residents. Beginning at 8 am, they will focus on areas in Crystal City, National Airport, Rosslyn, and the wooded area near the Key Bridge and Roosevelt Island.

The goal of this day, and all outreach services, is to connect clients to mainstream services such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Food Stamps), and Social Security benefits. Some clients will also be connected to Arlington County’s TOW (Treatment on Wheels) program for mental health and substance abuse services.

“Our ultimate goal is to find a housing solution for each person that will work for them,” said A-SPAN Executive Director, Kathleen Sibert. “And outreach efforts like these are necessary to build trust and to connect people to services they may not know exist.”

A-SPAN staff will also be distributing the water collected by Ashlawn students and hygiene items to clients they encounter. **They are collecting and still need travel-sized bottles of sunblock and foot powder, new socks and boxer shorts, and granola bars. Please contact them if you wish to donate by going online to www.a-span.org or calling them at 703-842-0154.**

A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services for people experiencing homelessness in Arlington County. These 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. In addition, from November 1- March 31, A-SPAN operates the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter. A-SPAN offers a wide variety of housing case management services through the Permanent Supportive Housing Program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, and is a key partner in the “100 Homes for 100 Homeless Arlingtonians” campaign.

Please call or email Jan-Michael Sacharko, Development Director, with any questions.

For more details on A-SPAN visit: <http://www.a-span.org>