



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Newsletter from Community Lodgings: March 2009

Transitional Housing Program Grows, Continues Success

In March 2009, a family of four moved into our transitional apartments; it was our Transitional Housing Program that helped this single mother reunite with her 3 children who had previously lived in foster care. Thanks to the addition of our Child Services Coordinator, we now provide case management services for 21 children enrolled in the transitional program. There are currently 14 families being served by Community Lodgings' transitional program.

Highlights from March:

- 1 formerly unemployed client was hired for full-time employment
- 1 client was promoted by his company to a managerial position thanks to a strong work ethic and leadership qualities.
- 1 client entered counseling to treat a history of substance abuse and other personal issues which have contributed to her pattern of homelessness
- 1 client enrolled in Transitional Housing entered parenting courses through DC's Young Lives and Healthy Babies Project



Juanita L. and her children pose for a picture in their newly-renovated transitional apartment on Notabene Drive

New Luxury Hotel Chooses CLI as Local Charity Beneficiary

On Wednesday March 25th, Community Lodgings' Executive Director Bonnie Baxley joined Mayor Bill Euille and senior management of Kimpton hotels and DSF Group to welcome Lorien Hotel & Spa as Alexandria's newest hotel. As Mayor Euille noted, Lorien decided to forego gift bags for Wednesday evening's guests, instead making a contribution to Community Lodgings on behalf of their guests. Over the last few months, the Lorien's staff has worked closely with Community Lodgings, showing themselves to be an extremely generous neighbor. In fact, we look forward to holding our 4th Annual Spring Forward Gala on Friday, April 24 at Lorien Hotel & Spa.

**TO VOLUNTEER WITH
COMMUNITY LODGINGS,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB-
SITE OR CALL 703-549-4407**

Join Community Lodgings to Celebrate The 4th Annual Spring Forward Gala "Hopes & Dreams"

Friday, April 24, 2009
7:00pm to 10:00pm

Hosted by Alexandria's new luxury
LORIEN hotel & spa
1600 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22305

Cocktails – Silent Auction – Entertainment

Featuring the cuisine of
Award Winning Chef Robert Wiedmaier
of BRABO, Marcel's and Brasserie Beck Restaurants

Tickets: \$80.00 per person

For more information regarding the 4th Annual Spring Forward Gala, please call Jim Dempsey at (703) 549-4407 or email jdempsey@communitylodgings.org

GREETINGS FROM COMMUNITY LODGINGS

We would like to thank the supporters who generously gave to us in March: Fannie Mae, Boeing Employees Community Fund and Lorien Hotel & Spa. We would also like to recognize the supporters of our upcoming Gala: Systems Engineering Group Inc.; McMurray Dispute Resolution; Commonwealth Baptist Church; BB&T; Matt Kasap; Virginia Housing Development Authority; and The Madison of Washington, DC.

This month, our Family Learning Center staff initiated several new program offerings such as group Math tutoring for Grades Six through Eight and individualized ESL tutoring for all middle school youth. We instituted a system to record the amount of time students spend on each academic subject while attending program. Four children joined the Youth Education Program this month: one high school student and three middle school students. Additionally, 13 children in our High School Component went on a field trip to Charles Houston Recreational Center, where they will now have frequent access to a swimming pool, basketball courts, dance and boxing rooms. The recreational center is open six nights a week from 6:00PM to 11:00PM. We opened our doors to adults for Level 1 & 2 ESL classes, taking place every weeknight at FLC.

On Tuesday, March 17 Alexandria's Women's Giving Circle and Los Tios Mexican Grill joined forces to raise money for a landscaping project that WGC has planned for the area outside our Family Learning Center. Los Tios donated 10% of all proceeds to Community Lodgings.

On Sunday, March 22, Trinity United Methodist Church hosted a concert by Designer Sounds. The group's stylistically varied repertoire ranged from the elegance of the classics to the excitement of rumba, tango, and other dance rhythms plus the all-American appeal of swing and jazz. Thanks to a free will offering at the concert, Trinity raised nearly \$1250 for Community Lodgings' programs.

This month, our Community Outreach program served 10 families to help them secure financial assistance and housing counseling. Each family lives in the Arlandria community and qualifies as low-income. Four of the families claimed no annual income at all. Through our community partnerships, we secured emergency food assistance for 9 individuals; an average of \$156.13 in utility assistance for 4 individuals; and an average of \$133.33 in rental assistance.



Youth Program Coordinator Ana Rodriguez recently accompanied students and their families to a winter band concert at George Mason Elementary School



On Wednesday, March 25, Lorien Hotel & Spa celebrated its grand opening. The hotel joined the Alexandria community by choosing Community Lodgings as its local charity

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE FIFER FAMILY LEARNING CENTER ON SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009 FROM 12:30PM TO 2:00PM. PLEASE CALL 703-549-4407 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

George Mason Students Show Support for CLI

On March 26th, George Mason Elementary School student Matthew Kilpatrick raised \$350 for Community Lodgings. His class created their own version of the popular TV game show "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader" as an opportunity to help local charities, review for the upcoming Virginia Standards of Learning tests, and to have a little fun. The winner designated a charity of choice.