



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Update from Community Lodgings: May 2009

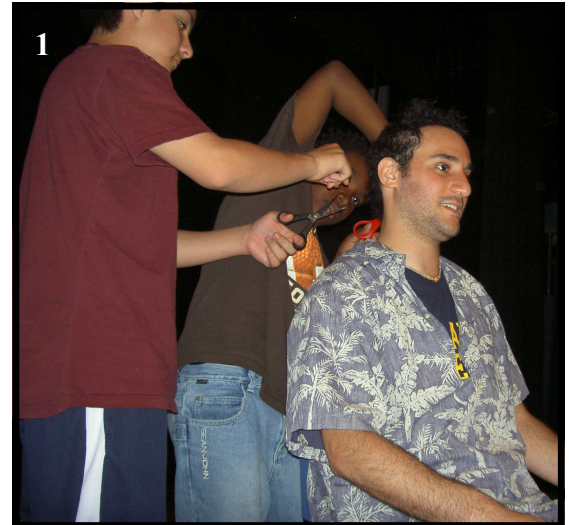
JOIN US AT 4:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER'S EXPANDED HELEN S. LEWIS WING. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 703.549.4407.

**JUST A LITTLE OF THE TOP, PLEASE!** On May 22, a raffle ticket fundraiser event was held for 6<sup>th</sup> grade science students at George Washington Middle school. The winners were given the opportunity to shave the head of their science teacher Mr. Aruch. Mr. Aruch and his students gave all proceeds to Community Lodgings! (See pic 1)

**LET'S HEAR IT FOR BOZZUTO HOMES!** On May 1, Bozzuto Homes was recognized by Volunteer Alexandria at the Business Philanthropy Summit for completing an expansion of Community Lodgings' Family Learning Center last summer. Bozzuto Homes was named the 2009 Business Philanthropist of the Year! Local nonprofit organizations and businesses joined together at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria for the event.

**VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND AT THE LEARNING CENTER!** Early last month, an eight-person team from Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) volunteered at our Family Learning Center in recognition of Spring for Alexandria Community Service Day. Team leader Greg Blakey was joined by colleagues Lisa Lopinsky, Catie Slye, Kathi Champa, Fatima Williams, Marshall Davies, Patee Roper and Catherine Palowicz. The group sorted, stacked, hauled, recycled and inventoried the entire facility. They generously donated a new bookshelf, filing cabinets and a bike for our summer store! On May 1st, more than 1,000 volunteers working on 90 project sites throughout the city on Spring for Alexandria Community Service Day. (See pic 2)

**HIGHER AND HIGHER!** Recent Transitional Housing graduate Phyllis D. received her driver's license. Her license allows her to fulfill driving needs at her job, meaning that her hours have recently been boosted from part-time to full-time. As you can see, Phyllis' hard work paid off not only at the DMV but in her professional life as well. Although Phyllis graduated from our Transitional Housing Program in February, our caseworker Mark Sossa keeps regular correspondence with her in order to ensure that she has the tools to maintain self-sufficiency. Congratulations, Phyllis!



## COMMUNITY LODGINGS KIDS OUTPERFORM THEIR PEERS

Seventy-nine percent of middle school students in our after-school program passed their end-of-year Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Our kids—who are predominately Latino—achieved at a rate 10% higher than their peers in Reading and 17% higher in Math. In the First Semester, 79% of our middle school students had a C average or better; nearly half of them had an average of B or higher. Way to go, guys!

## KIDS EARN CHANCE TO SHOP FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

From June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Family Learning Center will host our summer store! Community Lodgings is stocking the store for our children to redeem credits they have earned throughout the academic year by accomplishing the goals of our youth programs. If you can contribute any of the following items - in new or like new condition - we would be grateful. Please call Learning Center Director Katrina Kernodle Walsh at 703-739-5856 or email her at kernodlewash@communitylodgings.org if you have any questions.

## BROOKFIELD HOMES FURNISHES APARTMENTS FOR OUR FAMILIES

At the end of May, Brookfield Homes donated a full set of high-end model home furnishings and accessories to Community Lodgings. We will use the furniture for homeless families living in our Transitional Housing apartments. The families that move into these apartments are referred by shelters and often come to us with nothing but the pair of clothes on their backs. A special thank you to Brookfield Homes for helping turn our houses into homes for the dedicated families enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program.

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*Looking for a way your staff can give back to needy families in Alexandria? We have projects large and small including landscaping, painting, light renovation and playground updates. Contact Jim Dempsey at 703.549.4407 for corporate volunteer opportunities.*

## ITSY BITSY SPIDERS FAMILY WORKSHOPS

While reading *Charlotte's Web* in school this month, three of our second-grade students researched spiders. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Learning Center staff watched as our students presented on the subject of spiders in teacher Anna Renhert's Book Museum at George Mason Elementary School.

KI services will help Community Lodgings' staff conduct workshops on HIV and Tuberculosis at our Family Learning Center. These workshops will be available to all adults enrolled in ESL class as well as parents of children that attend after-school program.



**Join Us for an Open House to Celebrate the One-Year Anniversary of Opening the Helen S. Lewis Wing of the Family Learning Center  
Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm—607 Notabene Drive**

Our Family Learning Center is a safe and nurturing environment. Elementary, middle and high school students from the community receive tutoring, mentoring and afterschool classes. Our summer program includes field trips and special events that build self-esteem, character and a community of mutual support. Adults learn English, computer skills, financial planning, parenting and employment skills. Since the Helen S. Lewis Wing opened its doors in May 2008, our expanded programs have served 88 at-risk kids, 87 adults and 56 families. All programs fulfill our mission to **lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency**. For additional information, call 703-549-4407.