



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

An Update from Community Lodgings: May & June 2010

AFTERSCHOOL AND BEYOND: STUDENT GRADUATES FROM OUR PROGRAM BUT RETURNS TO HELP YOUNGER CHILDREN

Thomas S. (see right) has attended our afterschool program since 2nd grade. This June, he became the first child of our inaugural class to graduate from high school. The support we have provided to Thomas over the years is enormous. Through our high school program this year, we helped him to research jobs, obtain an ID, take a graphic design course, and ultimately enroll in Northern Virginia Community College.

Thomas feels at home at Community Lodgings and, furthermore, he recognizes the importance of giving back to our community. Although he now lives in Fairfax, he rides his bike to our Learning Center twice a week. He has undoubtedly set an example for other students by overcoming the barriers in his life. Thomas even demonstrates his effectiveness as a volunteer by working with our elementary school students. According to Ms. Yasmin, "Thomas is a role model for all kids that attend our afterschool program. They see how far he has come through the years and respect his work ethic and selflessness."

For more information, please contact Jim Dempsey at jdempsey@communitylodgings.org



Above: Thomas takes a minute to pose with Ms. Yasmin, who worked closely with him in our afterschool program. Below: Thomas joins friends from Community Lodgings' afterschool program to take a picture.



JULY 13: JALEO HAPPY HOUR

tapas - bar

On Tuesday, July 13th Join Community Lodgings and Crystal City's Jaleo as **WE CELEBRATE YOUR SUPPORT** of our Mission to Lift Families from Homelessness and Instability to Independence and Self-Sufficiency.

When? Tuesday, July 13; 6pm-7pm

What? Free food and drink specials

Where? 2250 Crystal Dr., Arlington

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO **Deloitte.**



On Friday, June 11th, 50 volunteers from Deloitte visited Community Lodgings to take on a few volunteer projects as part of Deloitte's Impact Day 2010. As a small nonprofit with many needs but limited resources, we could not be more grateful for their support. These volunteers painted a vacated apartment, constructed a raised garden bed outside the Family Learning Center, landscaped the property around Elbert Street buildings, and painted the stairwells of 4 of our buildings.



Children enrolled in our Family Learning Center programs attend a rooftop ceremony in Washington, DC. They were accompanied by staff member Ms. Ana (center left) and Board Member Mario Gabalda (center right).

HOMELESS PARENTS RECEIVE JOB TRAINING CERTIFICATION

On June 29th, 12 of our homeless parents received certification after graduating from a job skills training course. Over the past three months, adults in our Transitional Housing program learned skills to help them excel in their current and future jobs. Each adult attended 9 workshops focused on job readiness and office diplomacy. In July, these parents will begin the next phase of job skills courses!

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENT AWARD TO COMMUNITY LODGINGS

On Thursday, June 11th, Community Lodgings' afterschool programs for elementary and middle school students were recognized by Alexandria City Public Schools. We were nominated not once, but twice this year. We are so excited to have received the Outstanding Partner in Education award!

OUR CHILDREN MEET WITH AREA'S TOP BUSINESS LEADERS

On Thursday, May 27th, Community Lodgings Board Member Mario Gabalda took 4 Community Lodgings' children to a DC rooftop event hosted by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The students were honored to meet with some of the most impressive businesspeople in the area and left with a renewed focus on their career path!