



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

An Update from Community Lodgings: September & October 2010

BISHOP IRETON STUDENTS HOST COMMUNITY LODGINGS FOR PRESENTATION ON HOMELESSNESS

On Thursday October 27th, nearly 800 Bishop Ireton High School students participated in Community Lodgings' interactive presentation on homelessness. Staff members Jim Dempsey, Charlyne Braxton and Becca Waltrip discussed common misconceptions about homeless people with the students. After the presentation, all students walked around the track on Community Lodgings' behalf, which counted towards our Walker total for this year's Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon.



SUPPORTERS GIVE PUMPKINS, COSTUMES TO KIDS ENROLLED AT FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Thanks to former Board Member Doug Henry and a few community organizations, over 90 children in our afterschool program had a very Happy Halloween. Doug volunteered to buy a pumpkin for each child in our afterschool program. Our staff took them to the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch to pick up the pumpkins. Then Del Ray Business Association, Trinity United Methodist Church and St. Stephen's-St. Agnes School provided costumes for our kids, who walked in the Del Ray Halloween Parade.



FAMILIES PUT HOMELESSNESS BEHIND THEM AS THEY MOVE ON TO LIVES OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Since July 2010, 5 formerly homeless families have successfully completed our Transitional Housing Program. All adults in these families left our program fully-employed and rented apartments of their own. So far this year, 8 homeless adults in our program have worked with expert budget mentors to make plans for debt repayment and monthly savings. Six adults have increased their monthly income by an average of \$580. Furthermore, with help from a job counselor and job skills training workshops, 5 adults obtained high-paying, full-time jobs. We are proud of the hard work they put in to becoming independent!



"The Transitional Housing Program allowed me to save money and pay my debts. The low rent and the babysitting provided by the program were particularly helpful."
-K.E., October 2010 graduate

"Everything about Community Lodgings' program was helpful, especially all the classes I had to take. Community Lodgings helped me get a job and helped me with my bad credit. I rank my caseworker's efforts at 10. I wish you the best."
-B.L., October 2010 graduate

MARATHON RUNNER RUNS ON 5 CONTINENTS, RAISES MONEY FOR COMMUNITY LODGINGS

This summer, Alexandria resident Brooke Curran chose Community Lodgings as one of the beneficiaries of her RunningBrooke Fund. Through the fund, she pairs her passion for running with raising awareness for important causes. By the end of 2010, Brooke will have run one marathon each month! In September, she teamed up with local store Kiskadee to hold a fundraiser for the local charities supported by the RunningBrooke Fund.



Above: Brooke Curran completes a marathon on Easter Island, Chile.

Don't forget to join us on the National Mall on Saturday, November 20th for the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon. If you would like to walk on Community Lodgings' behalf, you can register at www.helpthehomelessdc.org. Make sure to select Community Lodgings as your beneficiary!

WALMART RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY LODGINGS' COMMITMENT AT STORE'S GRAND OPENING

On Wednesday, October 27th, Community Lodgings was recognized at the Grand Opening of Alexandria's new Walmart. The ribbon cutting ceremony included Walmart executives, local officials and members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Walmart's general manager spoke about Community Lodgings contribution to Alexandria!



Community Lodgings Invites You
To Taste the Wines of Italy!

Our **7th Annual Wine Tasting** is
Sponsored and Presented By
Downey Selections

Sunday, November 7th—5:30pm to 7:30pm
Tickets: \$75 in advance / \$85 at the door

Tasting will be held at:
Historic Christ Church
118 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

A Special Thank You to:
Downey Selections, Rick's Wine & Gourmet,
Steve Wallace, Christ Episcopal Church and
Event Coordinator Kristen Moore

**Guests will have the opportunity to order the
sampled wines at discount prices, for pickup at
Rick's Wine & Gourmet**

BONNIE BAXLEY SITS ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH PANEL AT ACT'S NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE FORUM



Bonnie Baxley, Executive Director of Community Lodgings, talks with CJ Mikowski and Susan Driscoll. Photo by Jane Hess Collins at Washington Life Magazine.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

- Our Walkathon Sponsors: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, McMurray Dispute Resolution, Matt Kasap, Christ Church and John Snow Inc.
- Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: for donating proceeds from their annual Pumpkin Patch to support Community Lodgings!