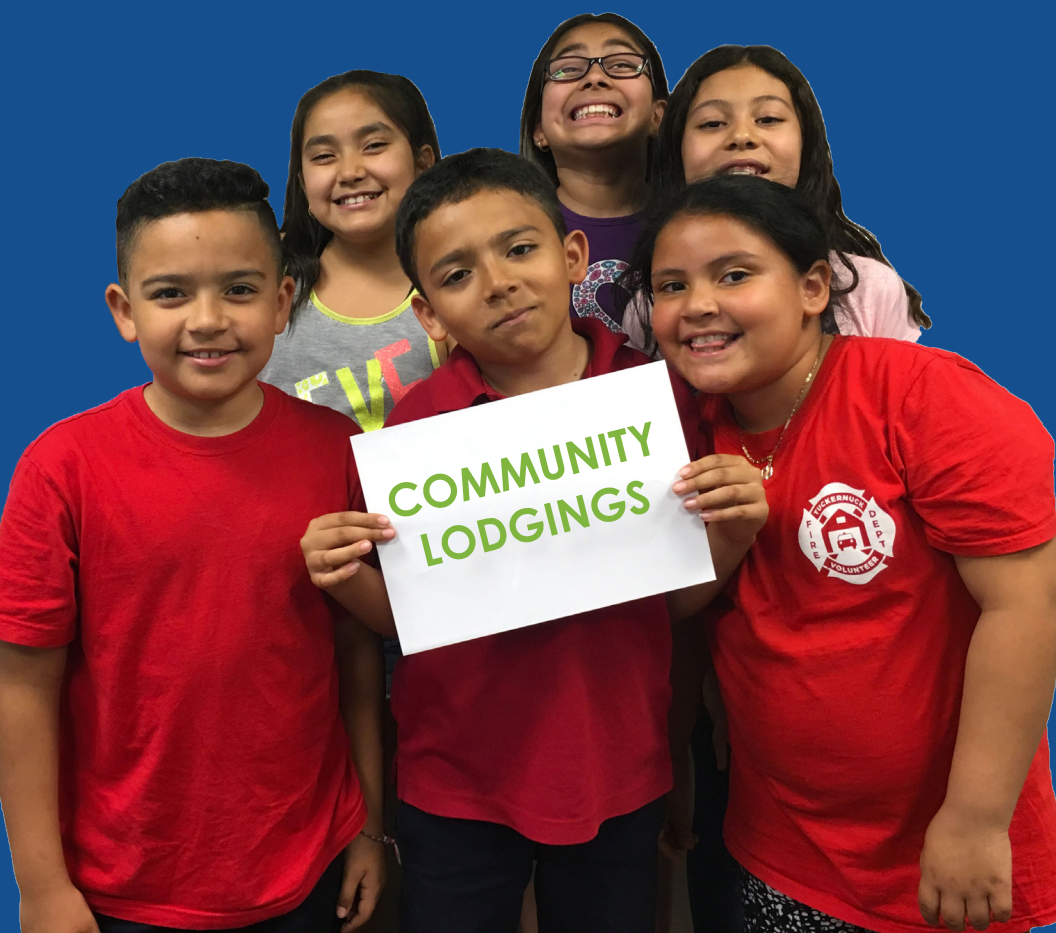


# Involved Impacted Empowered



2015 - 2016  
Annual Report



## Dear friends,

I am pleased to share this annual report highlighting our successes for fiscal year 2015-16, which you helped make possible. We are so incredibly thankful to all of you - our wonderful clients, board members, staff, donors and volunteers - for an amazing year. In 2014, I became the Executive Director of this great organization. As I walked through the doors on that very first day, I was in awe of the humility I found here. After nearly 28 years, this organization was a secret gem in Alexandria, impacting the lives of hundreds of homeless and low income families each year, and yet it still remained relatively unknown. It was then that I realized my personal goal as Executive Director: to ensure that Community Lodgings would achieve the sustainable funding and recognition it needed and deserved in order to continue to impact the lives of Alexandria's most vulnerable families.



Over the past few years, with help from our wonderful donors, volunteers and community members, we have put processes and structures in place to support the long-term success of the agency including a revised strategic plan, a new website, and the implementation of a sustainable funding model. We are so energized by the accomplishments made possible by your involvement and are more committed than ever to empowering every child and family that Community Lodgings serves to move out of poverty and into self-sufficient lives through housing and education.

Community Lodgings will soon be renovating some of our affordable housing units. This renovation will provide low-income families access to housing that is decent, safe and affordable. We are also expanding our educational offerings for adults in our community. English Language Learner (ELL) classes, computer training, financial literacy and home-ownership workshops are just the beginning. We attribute the success of Community Lodgings to those within our community who support our mission day after day. With your continued support, we will help more homeless and working poor families build a stronger future.

I invite you to turn the pages and see for yourself how you are helping Community Lodgings to improve lives in Alexandria.

Thank you!

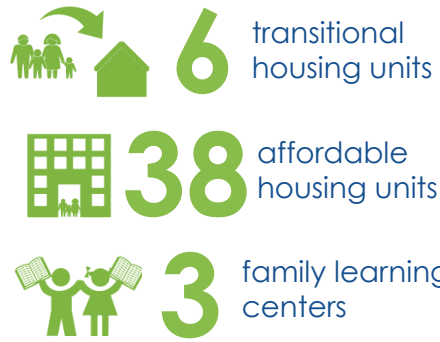
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Thomas'.

Lynn Thomas  
Executive Director

“Community Lodgings  
gave me a safe place  
to get back on my feet.”



*Our mission is to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency.*



## Our History

Since Community Lodgings was founded by local churches in 1987, our goal has been to improve the lives of Alexandria's working poor and families transitioning from homelessness to self-sufficiency. With continued support from the community, five buildings were purchased in the neighborhood to increase affordable housing options.

Today in Alexandria, there are many homeless and low-income families in need of our support. With 44 apartments available at below-market rent (including six transitional housing units), Community Lodgings gives local families access to affordable housing while also offering supportive services to families transitioning to self-sufficient lives.

In addition to housing, Community Lodgings provides children and parents with an educational foundation for success. Since 1998, when we first opened computer literacy and English Language Learner (ELL) classes to adults, we have committed ourselves to improving outcomes for families at risk of homelessness, gang involvement, substance abuse, and physical or emotional abuse. In 2002, we opened the community-based Fifer Family Learning Center to meet the needs of the surrounding community and since then we have expanded to two more learning centers: New Brookside and Brent Place.

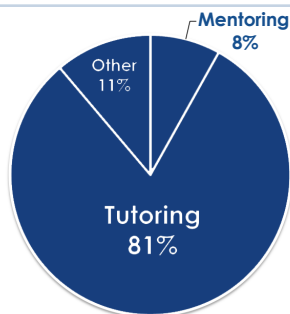


Students of all ages now attend free after-school and summer programs, meet with tutors and mentors, learn valuable life skills, and participate in various enrichment and recreational activities. While their children take advantage of the Youth Education Program (YEP), parents are able to attend workshops and mentoring sessions to improve their skills in areas like finance and nutrition. We promote these programs because we strongly believe that education is the path out of poverty.

## Who is Involved

**153** VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED  
**9,274 HOURS** TO COMMUNITY  
LODGINGS

**OVER 8000 HOURS** OF VOLUNTEERING WENT TO  
TUTORING AND MENTORING STUDENTS  
IN OUR FAMILY LEARNING CENTERS



FOUR DEDICATED  
TUTORS EACH CLOCKED  
IN HUNDREDS OF HOURS  
IN THE PAST YEAR



**4** AMERICORPS MEMBERS  
VOLUNTEERED OVER 4000 HOURS

**16** volunteers mentored  
in budget management,  
job readiness, life skills and  
parenting for a total of **95** hours.



## One Girl Empowered

At Community Lodgings we believe that education is the path out of poverty and Elisa Castro is a prime example of that philosophy. She took advantage of the opportunities presented to her by Community Lodgings and was empowered to improve her life through higher education.

As an eight year resident of Community Lodgings' affordable housing, Elisa spent six years in our Youth Education Program. Growing up with a mother who speaks very little English, Elisa's dream of going to college seemed out of reach. But with two younger siblings looking up to her, Elisa was determined to meet her goal.



In seventh grade Elisa began attending Community Lodgings' Afterschool program where she was able to pursue her dream of academic success. There she took advantage of tutoring and grew to rely on our staff for their support and encouragement. "They always push the students and want the best for them," said Elisa about her time in the learning centers, "Without that extra push, I might not have made it."

In addition to the push she received in the Afterschool program, Elisa was one of the first to participate in our Girls' Mentoring Program. Here she developed a support group that helped her increase her confidence and encouraged her to succeed. According to Gwen Spitzhoff, staff lead on our mentoring programs, "Elisa always had good advice to offer to the younger girls and led by example. She is a natural leader, pushing other students around her to achieve greatness."

Elisa attended Community Lodgings' summer youth job readiness program for two years in a row, dedicated herself to a college preparation class in school, and applied to as many colleges and scholarships as she could. All of this dedication has paid off: she was accepted to Old Dominion University! On top of this amazing achievement, Elisa received two scholarships from local organizations that will ensure this dream becomes a reality for her.



# Our Impact

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
CLIENTS SAVED AN  
AVERAGE OF **\$916**



FAMILIES COMPLETED OUR  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
PROGRAM AND NOW LIVE  
INDEPENDENTLY

**60**



HOURS WERE  
DEDICATED  
TO FINANCIAL  
MENTORING OF  
TRANSITIONAL  
HOUSING CLIENTS

## What the Kids Say

“I like Community Lodgings because it is fun and feels safe. Sometimes I don't want to do my homework but they push me to do better.” - Ashley

“This program is so great that my sister and I come every week in the rain, snow, and hail. Community Lodgings wants us to succeed and have a better future. Last year, with Community Lodgings' help, I got straight As.” - Kevin

“We kids come here to have a better future and life. Our parents came here so our lives don't have to be like theirs. That's why they signed us up for Community Lodgings.” - Sandy

“I love all of the staff here because they make doing homework fun.” - Ruben

**100%**



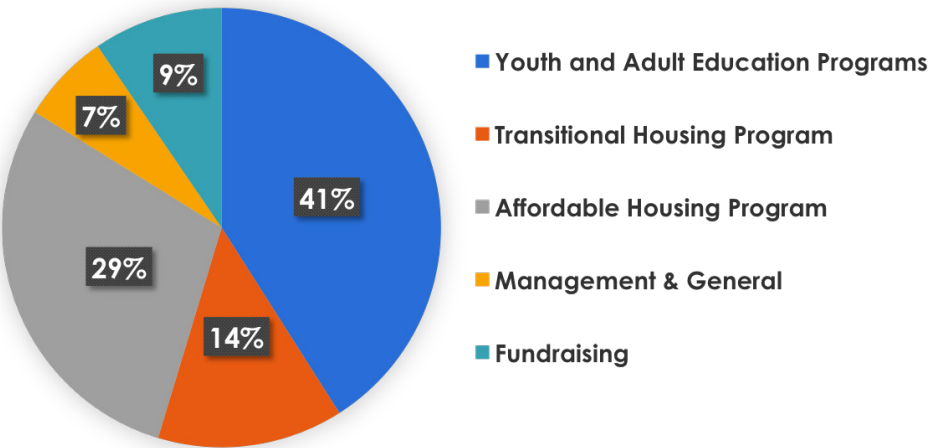
OF OUR STUDENTS GRADUATED  
TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL

**143** **6** STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED  
IN THE CITY OF  
ALEXANDRIA

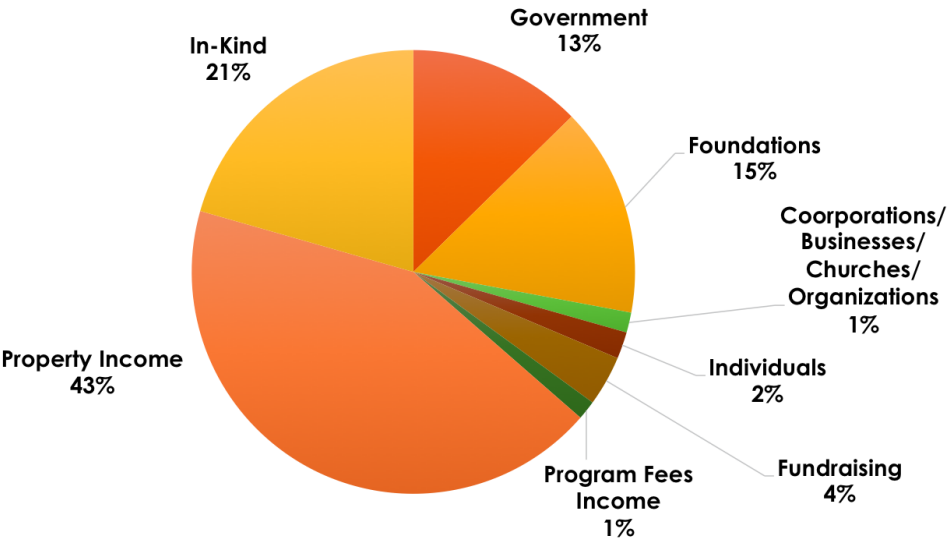
STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATED  
IN OUR YOUTH  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM  
AFTERSCHOOL  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER'S TeensWork!  
SUMMER YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
PROGRAM



# Expenses



# Revenue



# Our Grants

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**ACT for Alexandria**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**The Bergstrom Foundation**  
**The Boeing Company**  
**City of Alexandria fund for Human Services**  
**City of Alexandria Housing Office**  
**Clark-Winchcole Foundation**  
**Community Partenership Grant**  
**The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia**  
**The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region**

**George Preston Marshall Foundation**  
**Ivakota Association**  
**The Reva and David Logan Foundation**  
**The Maple Tree Fund**  
**The Meyer Foundation**  
**Phillip L. Graham Fund**  
**Portals West Associated LP**  
**Rock Spring Congregational UCC**  
**Running Brooke Fund**  
**Rotary Club of Alexandria**  
**Scheidel Foundation**  
**Walmart Foundation**  
**The Washington Forrest Foundation**  
**Wells Fargo**



# Our Board

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**Marie Muscella,**  
*chair*  
**Anne LaFond,**  
*vice chair*  
**Frank Rose,**  
*treasurer*  
**George Tuttle,**  
*secretary*

**Derek M. Argust**  
**Marty DeVine**  
**Susan Fitzpatrick**  
**Ginny Hammell**  
**Doug P. Hibshman**  
**Selena Hutchinson**  
**Helen Lewis**  
**Kristen Moore**

**Barry Roman**  
**Paul S. Stilp**  
**Steve Wallace**  
**Angela Welsh**

# Our Staff

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**Lynn Thomas**  
*Executive Director*  
**Karina Wiggs**  
*Director of Operations*  
**Charlyne Braxton**  
*Case Manager*  
**Erika Orozco**  
*Property and Office Manager*  
**Jasmin Witcher**  
*Director of Development*  
**Jane Collins**  
*Communications/Volunteer Coordinator*  
**Christina O'Brien**  
*Program Coordinator*  
**Melanie Ficke**  
*Program Director*  
**Cindy Lopez**  
*Family Support Worker*  
**Gwen Spitzhoff**  
*Site Coordinator*

**Rebecca Feters**  
*AmeriCorps Service Member*  
**Elizabeth Garibay**  
*AmeriCorps Service Member*  
**Jakeeya Veney**  
*AmeriCorps Service Member*  
**Joseph Muniz**  
*AmeriCorps Service Member*  
**Eric Lopez**  
*Building Engineer*  
**Nelson Vasquez**  
*Building Porter*





3912 Elbert Ave. Suite 108  
Alexandria, VA 22305  
703-549-4407



GREATER WASHINGTON



Donor Designation  
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Amy Holm DESIGNS



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