



Arlington Food Assistance Center

AFAC BUYS BUILDING

On AFAC's anniversary, June 20, 2007, AFAC became the proud owner of its headquarters 2708 S. Nelson St. one of the last remaining light-industrial areas in Arlington, to ensure the continuation of AFAC's ministry to Arlington.

In April, 2006, AFAC's headquarters was listed for sale. Given the spiraling costs of real estate in Arlington, the AFAC Board was concerned that its current site could not be replicated at the end of its lease and decided that it was in AFAC's best long-term interest to purchase its headquarters.

The County supported AFAC by paying for the Property Condition Assessment. AFAC hired a fund raising consultant who affirmed that a capital campaign was viable and a real estate consultant who estimated a fair market price for the building.

Please consider donating to AFAC's capital campaign to pay off the mortgage. That will help us expand and secure our food program.



You can donate online to AFAC. See our website for details. www.afacinfo.org

AFAC RECEIVES DONATION FROM ARLINGTON ROTARY CLUB

Jim Whelan, Chair of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) board, receives a \$1,500 donation from Elizabeth Harr Bricksin, President of the Arlington Rotary Club. The check represents the donation to AFAC by the Arlington Rotary Club of one case of cereal each week. The Club will donate the cereal to AFAC on behalf of each participant in its weekly speaker series program. The Arlington Rotary Club is a group of business and professional leaders serving Arlington.



THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ALLIANCE LEAGUE GIVES TO AFAC

The Northern Virginia Alliance League (NVAL) was founded in 1957. NVAL consists of 42 members who raise money to distribute to charities located in Arlington. Last year NVAL chose AFAC to be the recipient of funds raised. In June of 2007 NVAL's President, Helen Lydon, presented a check for \$23,500 to AFAC's Executive Director, Christine Lucas. AFAC is happy to report that NVAL has voted for AFAC to be the recipient of their 2008 fundraising!

Thanks to NVAL for their generous contribution!

CANSTRUCTION IS A HUGE SUCCESS AS ALWAYS!

Canstruction is a yearly event held in Ballston Mall that benefits AFAC. The event, typically held in the beginning of April, is a competition among local architectural firms to create whimsical structures made entirely of canned goods, while manipulating the can's labels to define their designs. The structures are composed of thousands of cans of food and represent everything from racecars to a bag of popcorn. The event serves not only to bring the architectural community together to compete against each other; it also raises thousands of pounds of food for AFAC and has become our second largest food drive after the Boy Scout food drive. Last year alone it brought in almost 40,000 lbs of food and represented about a tractor-trailer's worth of various canned food items donated to AFAC. We look forward to a continued relationship with the American Institute of Architects and Canstruction as they gear up for another event this coming April.



HUNGER DAY FOOD DRIVES PRODUCE OVER 10,000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR AFAC

Arlington schools, businesses and government agencies donated more than 10,000 pounds of food on National Hunger Awareness Day, Tuesday, June 5. The donated food and money raised through other Hunger Awareness Day activities will help AFAC feed the growing number of needy families in Arlington.

“We’re very grateful and pleased at the strong response of the Arlington community to our call for help,” said Jim Whelan, AFAC Board Chair. “As Arlington’s food pantry, AFAC distributes groceries to nearly 700 needy families each week. These results and the community support they demonstrate really encourage the volunteers and staff at AFAC in our continuing efforts to help deserving families make ends meet.”

In addition to food drives at over 40 locations throughout Arlington, the Crate&Barrel store at Market Common in Clarendon donated five percent of its sales on June 5 to AFAC. In addition, 13 local restaurants donated a portion of their dinner revenue that day as their way of participating in AFAC’s Fourth Annual Restaurant Night, and an estimated 500 people dined out in support of AFAC.



Celeste Kilmer (left) and Kelly Funaro, managers of the Crate&Barrel in Clarendon, present Jim Whelan, AFAC Board Chair, with a check for \$1,750. That represents the results of Crate&Barrel’s special partnership with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) on Tuesday June 5, National Hunger Awareness Day. That day Crate&Barrel and a number of Arlington schools, government agencies, restaurants and other businesses joined in supporting AFAC. Crate&Barrel donated 5% of store sales on June 5th to AFAC

CURRENT AFAC VOLUNTEER NEEDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2007:

- Familiar with ACCESS database program? Help our volunteer department maintain its database and other items for volunteer department. We’d love to have your help once a week, 1-2 hours.
- Chicken bagging help: join our newest team to bag fresh chicken for our clients! A healthier alternative to red and processed meats, fresh chicken has been introduced as a regular item to the AFAC client menu. It’s bought in bulk and we need help repacking leg quarters into smaller bags. Our “chicken bagging team” meets every other Wednesday evening, 6:30-approximately 8:00 p.m. Next bagging is scheduled for September 12th. Wear your old clothes & we’ll provide aprons & gloves.
- Driver to pick up day-end baked goods at The Heidelberg Bakery, 2150 N. Culpepper Street, Thursday evenings, 6 pm and deliver them directly to AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson Street.
- Help pick up end-of-market produce & fruits from vendors at the Arlington County Farmers’ Market (Courthouse) on Saturday mornings, 11:30 am - 1:00. Positions open through September 30, 2007 (and possibly later). Extended commitment preferred.
- Gardener? AFAC’s new project, Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) needs you! Plant a Row asks gardeners old & young, seasoned and novice to plant an extra row of vegetables in their gardens & donate the harvest to AFAC. Help our committee plan for the 2008 season! Help with publicity, seed distribution, seed propagation. Contact Puwen Lee, AFAC’s Plant A Row Coordinator for more information, (703)845-8486 or afacpuwen@aol.com.
- This year’s Boy Scout Food Drive is scheduled for Saturday, November 10th. Plan ahead & put us on your calendar! Volunteers needed to unload, sort, stack donated food items. AM & PM shifts available. Individuals and groups welcome.
- Walk or run in Crop Walk – Saturday, October 20, 2007. Crop Walk is a 10K walk for hunger relief. One-quarter of the proceeds come directly to AFAC; the rest goes for international hunger relief efforts. See www.churchworldservice.org for more information on Crop Walk in the U.S. Call us for details about that day in Arlington.
- Translator needed to translate our brochure and other print materials into Spanish, so AFAC can reach out to the wider Arlington community.

Contact AFAC’s Volunteer Office at (703)845-8486 or afacnancy@aol.com if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities.

KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTH ARLINGTON HOSTED AFAC BENEFIT

On Thursday, May 31st, the Kiwanis Club of South Arlington hosted a reception at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church to benefit AFAC. According to Club President Andres Tobar, “This was a good first effort to appeal to the civic, as well as the religious community to support the great work of AFAC. For next year, we need to expand our base of support to make for a much more successful effort.”