

DOORWAYS for women and families

Formerly The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS) • (703) 522-8858

www.doorwaysVA.org

Doorways is a non-profit, community-based organization providing services to those who are abused, homeless or at-risk.

Shelter Rebuild Takes Firm Footing

Future home of the "Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home."



Significant progress has been made in the last few months on the rebuilding of the Doorways Emergency Family Shelter, to be known as the "Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home." The photos at right illustrate the three major steps taken thus far. The Tyson Service Corporation of Virginia commenced demolition in early November 2006. Village Landscapes and Irrigation, Inc. of Chantilly, Virginia excavated the foundation's hole on November 27. Footings for the foundation were poured on December 14, and New Year's weekend saw the foundation walls poured. We expect to have plumbing and drainage systems installed before the basement slab is poured. The first lumber package will be delivered in February, which will kick off the construction of the first floor system and framing. Stay tuned!

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For updates and more photos of the demolition and construction, or for more information about our project partners, visit our website at www.DoorwaysVA.org.

from the executive director

Dear Friends,

This past fall, by way of a special grant from Temple Rodef Shalom, Doorways played an important role in launching a new county-wide coalition to prevent and respond to domestic violence.

The Arlington Leadership Roundtable on Domestic Violence, convened by County Board member Barbara Favola, Chief Judge George Varoutsos of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and the Arlington Commission on the Status of Women, brought together 25 top leaders from the County's law enforcement, judiciary, health care, human services, education, and non-profit sectors, to discuss the current state of Arlington's domestic violence services and lay the groundwork for establishing an Arlington County "Coordinated Community Response" (CCR) system to domestic violence.

Doorways is delighted that the members of the Leadership Roundtable have endorsed the CCR approach, which will facilitate coordination among agencies, strengthen services, and address gaps in domestic violence prevention and intervention. The CCR planning process will continue throughout 2007.

Our hope is that an Arlington CCR will produce:

- Enhanced safety for victims and greater accountability for batterers
- Stronger and more effective partnerships among agencies that deliver services to families affected by domestic violence
- On-going professional education and training opportunities for those who regularly come into contact with domestic violence victims and their families
- A data system that will measure the responsiveness of domestic violence services, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and
- A community-wide public education and awareness campaign that elevates the issue of domestic violence, and targets underserved populations in Arlington County.

We'll keep our supporters apprised of the development of this exciting new initiative, which Doorways will continue to shape as an active leader and participant.

As always, the staff and board of Doorways greatly appreciate the support of all our donors, volunteers and partners who make our work possible.



Linda Dunphy, MSW
Executive Director

NEWS & NOTES

from the Doorways Office

Staff Changes

Many new faces at the Safehouse! Doorways welcomes back former Family Resource Specialist, **Marielle Filholm**, in her new role as Safehouse Director. **Monique Brown** has switched reins from Client Counselor to Daytime Shelter Coordinator, while **Lawren Dolland** began as the new Evening Shelter Coordinator this past December.

After two years of devoted leadership of the Doorways Safehouse programs, **Vicki Price** has transitioned to a part-time Special Projects Manager to fill some vital gaps in our programming, community outreach, and administrative areas. We are delighted to have Vicki continue with Doorways.

We welcome **Stacie Steinke** to the Doorways family as the new Development Coordinator II. Stacie adds new life to the Development Department, which bid a fond farewell to world-traveling Community Resource Manager **Khyati Desai** in December. **Candice Lopez**, previously a Shelter Case Aide at the Safehouse, stepped into the Community Resource Manager role at the end of January.

Welcome Marielle, Vicki, Monique, Lawren, Stacie and Candice to your new roles at Doorways! ■

DOORWAYS for women and families

Doorways for Women and Families, formerly The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS), empowers women and families who are abused, homeless or at risk to live safe, secure and self-sufficient lives. We provide shelter and services, advocate, educate the community, build and work in coalitions, and influence policy.

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We value your feedback

Have a question about a Doorways project or program? Want information on how to volunteer? Ask a question or share your opinion by calling us at (703) 522-8858 or sending an e-mail to info@doorwaysVA.org.

Housing First—A New Approach to End Homelessness

Without housing—safe, stable, affordable housing—it would be nearly impossible to live our lives with dignity and independence. That is why the mission of the Arlington County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness is called Housing First.

Housing First is not just a fancy slogan. It's a legitimate and innovative new direction being forged in the homeless-serving sector. It represents a paradigm shift from traditional methods of service delivery where "serving the homeless" with shelter, food, basic necessities, and supportive services was the emphasis. Homeless recidivism rates show us that this practice, at best, serves to temporarily suspend homelessness, not end it. To truly "end homelessness," which is the primary goal of the 10-year Plan, a philosophical and programmatic emphasis shift is required by many service sectors. Ending homelessness will require more than one approach. We must work to prevent homelessness before it occurs, and to prioritize, first and foremost, finding permanent housing when homelessness does occur.

The fall to homelessness impacts families in myriad ways, and the climb out of it can take years. By emphasizing one's right to live in the housing of their choice, service providers are able to focus on strengthening family stability and self-sufficiency, and help families and individuals achieve a sense of accomplishment without leaving the family with the fear and despair that comes with not having a place to live. Housing First not only makes sense from a humanitarian standpoint, but also an economical standpoint. Research demonstrates consistently that the cost to society of homelessness can be very expensive compared with keeping families and individuals housed.

Over the past year, key Doorways staff, including Executive Director Linda Dunphy, have attended national conferences aimed at understanding Housing First models that are flourishing in other communities. At Doorways, we have adopted and embraced the rationale and sensibility of shifting our program focus to Housing First and will also adopt it into our agency strategic plan. This will be reflected in two key programs: our new "Freddie Mac Family Home" scheduled to open in Fall 2007, and in our "HomeStart" Supportive Housing Program, formerly known as our Transitional Housing Program.

From 1996–2004, our Transitional Housing Program used a traditional service approach in which families were offered temporary, agency-owned housing with supportive services designed to "train" parents to become more self-sufficient. Families had two years to complete this "training," after which they were presumed to be more stable and ready to move to their own housing. The reality of this approach was quite different. It added more transience to a population deeply impacted by constant uprooting, leaving families to rebuild community support on their own, and low income families suddenly responsible for full market rent amounts.

Beginning in 2004, Doorways began to shift the program design so that families leaving shelter had more permanent housing options with longer-term housing subsidies. We successfully advocated with the County to create a Transitional Housing Grant Program that created the necessary bridge homeless families need to meet the high cost of permanent housing which is essential for very low earning families. Since that time we have worked with landlords to develop partnerships with those willing to offer families a new beginning. Today, families leave shelter and move into housing that either is or will become their own as they progress through the program. Some families are even prevented from the need to use our shelter because of this approach. Ultimately, it is our services that are transitional, not the family's housing. With future housing no longer a worry, the program provides comprehensive, supportive services that help families address the root causes of homelessness and domestic violence, while gaining positive life skills and fostering positive landlord-tenant relations that anchor permanent housing.

The results are very impressive thus far. Last year:

- All 16 HomeStart families lived in housing of their choice, and 10 obtained leases in their own name. This resulted in less disruption in schools and support networks and families continued long-term growth without needing to "start over" as they leave HomeStart.
- In FY06, 100% of children were connected with a health care provider and were up-to-date on immunizations. All 26 school-aged children attended school regularly, 85% of them received tutoring assistance, and 96% became engaged in extracurricular activities.
- 100% of families paid rent on time each month and maintained positive landlord relations, creating the positive rental history essential for long-term housing stability.

(See also "Angela" family story page 5) ■



We must work to prevent homelessness before it occurs, and to prioritize, first and foremost, finding permanent housing when homelessness does occur.

Doorways Supporters Make Strides to Help the Homeless

Tens of thousands of walkers from the Washington metropolitan area converged on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, November 18 for the 19th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon. Doorways staff, Board and volunteers were all represented and proudly carried the Doorways banner for the entire 5K. A big thank you goes out to the entire Merriman-Goldring family, Mark, Natalie, Rachel and Rebecca, and Board

Member MaryLou Christy, Cassandra Smith, Comptroller Brian Smith and his daughter, Danielle Smith for their consistent volunteer efforts on behalf of Doorways! The annual Walkathon is the largest event of its kind in the nation geared to helping prevent and end homelessness, and is the cornerstone of the Fannie Mae Foundation Help the Homeless Program.



Doorways' supporters Rebecca Merriman-Goldring, Executive Director Linda Dunphy, Natalie Goldring, Special Events Coordinator Kerry Goldstein, Board Member MaryLou Christy, Rachel Merriman-Goldring, Mark Merriman, Cassandra Smith, Lauren Lawson, Comptroller Brian Smith, and Danielle Smith, brave brisk morning temps to walk in the Fannie Mae Foundation's 19th Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon.

Shoppers Unite at Crate & Barrel to Support Doorways

On November 29th over 700 people came out to shop, mingle and celebrate the holidays with Doorways' Board, staff and friends at the 2nd Annual Holiday Shopping Event at Crate & Barrel in Clarendon. Guests munched on fabulous food from local establishments, including paella from La Tasca, rigatoni from Pinzimini's, pizza from Cosi and amazing desserts from Natalia's Elegant Creations, while coffee and goodies provided by Starbucks and Edible Arrangements rounded out the offerings! In addition to Crate & Barrel's generous support, corporate sponsors included: PNC Bank, Matrix Group International, COSTCO Wholesale and Beers & Cutler. 100% of ticket purchases along with 10% of the evening's sales were donated directly to Doorways. We are grateful to our 40 outstanding Host Committee members who sold tickets and spread the word, especially Suzanne Madden who sold a whopping 54 tickets! The Crate & Barrel staff were wonderfully supportive and all in all, we could not have asked for a more successful fundraising event.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

Volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, Erica McGrady Johnson(left) and Ami Richardson (right), provide a gracious and efficient welcome to Doorways special shopping night at Crate & Barrel.



Doorways staffer Stacy Collins and Board member Mark Riley at the event.



The festively decorated Crate & Barrel store in Clarendon welcomed Doorways' friends and supporters.

Doorways Promotes the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness

As part of its mission to serve as a community advocate, the Doorways Board of Directors Advocacy Committee is committed to promoting and supporting the legislative priorities of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness.

The Alliance and Coalition currently support a bill pertaining to the confidentiality of domestic violence victims' voter records and addresses. The "P.O. Box" address option ensures that abusers cannot find their victims or potential victims through public records. A version of this bill was nearly adopted last year. Senator Patsy Ticer and Delegate Al Eisenberg will reintroduce the bill this 2007 session where it will hopefully find a successful journey to the Governor's desk. **Doorways is seeking testimonials from anyone who can speak in support of this bill, particularly from personal experience.**

Doorways is also hoping to successfully secure additional funds from the legislature for the rebuild costs of the new family shelter. Last year, Delegate Adam Ebbin and Senator Mary Margaret Whipple secured \$137,500. This year they will again request \$225,000.

Doorways is also supporting The Virginia Fair Wage Act to Increase Virginia's Minimum Wage, and The Budget Amendment for Rental Assistance. Together, these two proposals can make a difference in the lives of working poor Virginians, hundreds of whom are now

in emergency shelters across the Commonwealth. The Virginia Fair Wage Act will increase the minimum wage one dollar per year for the next three years, bringing it up to \$8.15 per hour, and indexing it to inflation from that point on, while The Budget Amendment for Rental Assistance, offered as a pilot this year, will provide funding to bridge the gap between wages and the high cost of housing.

Please contact your legislators and urge their support for these bills:

Virginia Fair Wage Act, Rental Assistance Program, and Domestic Violence Victim Address Confidentiality. You can find your legislators' address, phone number, and e-mail at the General Assembly webpage (<http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>). You can find downloadable cards and talking points for the first two pieces of legislation at www.vceh.org—click "2007 Legislative Agenda."



Angela's Story: Securing Her Family's Financial Base through Doorways' Financial Independence Track Program

Angela is a spunky, vivacious and caring woman who perseveres in the face of any challenge. Angela came to Doorways from a transitional shelter. Prior to her four-month stay there, she completed a residential drug treatment program where she had "gotten clean" from years of crack addiction. After a thorough assessment, Angela and Doorways staff realized that many challenges needed to be addressed to support Angela's progress.

Her challenges: Years of drug addiction following a childhood spent in foster care where she was abused and traumatized; no employment history; single parent of a two-year-old who resides with her, and a 17-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter who each lived in the custody of another family; and lower elementary literacy skills in reading, writing and math. Prior to entering Doorways Transitional Housing Program, she had never lived in housing of her own.

Her successes: Through her own efforts and guidance from staff, Angela secured a job earning \$11.50 per hour. She has worked steadily for the past 20 months earning pay raises and praise. For the last 17 months, she has lived in her own apartment, and paid all of her own independent living expenses. Most months she even pays her rent two weeks prior to the first of the month. Recently, with critical assistance from Doorways staff members, Angela regained custody of her 8-year-old daughter. She now works intensively with Doorways staff to assist with the many issues that come with family reunification. Her two-year-old is thriving in quality daycare.

Angela has been free of drugs for nearly three years. She is in counseling for her substance abuse history and mental health issues resulting from years of trauma and chaotic living. Angela meets weekly with a volunteer tutor, and is improving her reading and writing skills. She also has regular sessions with Doorways' financial educator where together they calculate monthly budgets and review all financial matters. A huge financial success is the more than \$5,000 Angela has saved in her escrow account!

Angela and her family are aware of their successes, however, they continue to encounter life's challenges. With continuing support from Doorways staff, and Angela's determined spirit and faith, her family is well on their way to a stable, secure, healthy and joyous path!

Out of respect for the privacy, safety and confidentiality of our clients, fictitious names and nuances have been used.

volunteer happenings

Volunteers of the Month

September 2006: Pam Holden

Pam joined Doorways to help with Domestic Violence Awareness Month and community outreach. She spearheaded the Poster Outreach Project working with staff and volunteers to contact Arlington vendors and agencies, order supplies, and strategize the best approach to reach out to more than 300 establishments in Arlington to build awareness about domestic violence and the resources available for women and families experiencing violence.

October 2006: Peg Butner

Peg is one of the Safehouse shoppers who are responsible for meeting the weekly grocery needs of the clients in the shelter. Safehouse shoppers collect the needs list, visit the storage facility to check for items, visit the administrative office for gift cards and metro checks, shop for items and deliver them to the Safehouse. Peg's flexibility and patience is greatly appreciated.

November 2006:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Volunteers

DVAM volunteers served in various capacities from distributing posters in the community and tabling events to collection donations and hosting in-kind drives. DVAM 2006 would not have been a success without you! Thank you to these fantastic volunteers:

Janet Alves, Christy Cole, Paula Cruickshank, Lisette Fee, Cory Folliard and volunteers of JLW, Jennifer Hedrick, Pam Holden, Marilyn Jones, Andrea Loveless, Jeanne Mahoney, Julie Noble, Courtney Schmidt, Ksenia Shkaruta, Sharyn Tulley, Blanche Anderson and Jan Witt (Zonta-Arlington), Beth, Rebecca, Erin, Ashley, Courtney and Whitney (GMU Women's Law Association), Claire Erlanger, Joanna Pineda and Raina Rose Tagle (Doorways Board), Ashley Glover (Arlington Chamber of Commerce), Karen Hallingan (Curves-Arlington), Janet Kiel (Mary Kay), Kimberly Martin (Arlington-NOW), Kris McLaughlin and Ted Hobart (AGLA), Selina Tolentino (Ballston Commons Mall), Robert Warne (Interfaith Council).

December 2006:

Jennifer Mainardi and Members of the Cherrydale Baptist Church Bible Study Group

This group helps organize all of the in-kind donations that come into our storage room. For over a year the group has been coming twice a month to sort through and organize the storage area to make it easier for clients and staff to "shop" for their homes and programs. The group went above and beyond in December, performing a major reorganization to create space for the hundreds of toys donated by the Santa Jam 10 event which helped make distributing holiday donations to families run more efficiently than ever! A special thanks to: Paula Dierkes, Cecily Shea, Barbara Ferrell, Laura Nunley, Jane Hart, Tannie Glahn, and Penny Ott for your amazing work in making things run smoothly for our staff and families!

Volunteer and Share Your Talents with Doorways:

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in your community? Consider becoming a **Volunteer** for Doorways!

Day-time Office Volunteers are needed to help with research, mailings, special projects, answering phones (especially on Fridays), and supporting the day-to-day operations of Doorways. This is an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes understanding of what it takes to run a nonprofit in a fun, team environment!

Safehouse Volunteers are needed Monday–Friday, day or night, and especially weekends. Learn how to answer crisis and informational phone calls and assist in the day-to-day operations of our Safehouse. Or, help to organize our pantry, play room and linen closets. Caring, empathetic, nonjudgmental people are needed for 2 to 4 hour shifts. This is an especially great opportunity, for stay-at-home moms, empty nesters or retirees. Learn in-depth about domestic violence and crisis intervention on the front lines. An in-depth training program begins in late February. Call right away if you're interested!

Children's Program Volunteers are needed to assist staff with group activities for a variety of children's programs including our monthly Dinner with Friends (2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30–8:00pm), Conversations about Kids parenting program (3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30–8:00pm), and childcare during our in-house and Community Support Groups (weekly on Tuesdays from 6:30–8:00pm and Wednesdays from 7:00–9:00pm). Mentoring opportunities are also available.

Volunteer Mentors are needed for children in our HomeStart program. Do you have an hour a week to make a difference in a child's life? Would you enjoy making a new "younger" friend to hang out with, shoot some hoops or go to a movie? Our new mentoring program is a big hit with our kids (and parents!). Training is provided.

Contact Candice Lopez by phone at (703)522-8858 or email @ volunteer@doorwaysva.org to find out how you can get started or visit our website at www.doorwaysVA.org.

Volunteer Information Night

First Tuesday EVERY Month
6:30–8:00 PM

Doorways' Administrative Office—3179 Wilson Boulevard

Reserve your spot: register at www.doorwaysVA.org

Santa Jam 10 Rocks the Season of Giving

The bands were jamming, the audience was dancing and the raffle tickets were flowing at Santa Jam 10 on Thursday, December 7th at The State Theatre in Falls Church. With the help of Gwen & Steve Guion, The Tauri Group and John Perry, Doorways received over \$8,000 in donations and toys! Santa Jam is a fun holiday concert event that not only raises donations of cash and toys for needy families of Northern Virginia, but it also brings friends and families together for a night of holiday spirit, raffles, dancing and listening to some of the area's finest bands. According to Santa Jam creator and musician, John Perry, "We believe that as a community we should join together to celebrate the season of giving by helping those who are in most need."



Standing head and shoulders above the crowd, musician John Perry shares the success of Santa Jam 10 with Doorways Board President Raina Rose Tagle, Executive Director Linda Dunphy and Development Chair Joanna Pineda.

Be a Good Neighbor Join the Good Neighbor Club

Make a special commitment to help victims of abuse and homelessness and pledge a monthly donation to Doorways through our Good Neighbor Club. Your unique support will provide vital resources to help the least fortunate in our community make strides to a new life. Monthly support from Good Neighbor Club donors provides nutritious food, clean clothing and transportation for shelter residents, counseling, medical care and educational support for children in our program. Your monthly pledge of \$10 or more can help meet these great needs in our community. Please consider joining the Good Neighbor Club today by returning the enclosed envelope with your first monthly pledge.

Or contact Kerry Goldstein at
kgoldstein@doorwaysVA.org
or 703-522-8858 ext. 19
for more information.

partner spotlight

Washington Women in Public Relations Gives Voice to Doorways

Doorways for Women and Families has just completed its first year of partnership with Washington Women in Public Relations (WWPR) as their pro-bono client for 2006–08. WWPR has worked closely with Doorways over the past year to identify its unique communications needs and priorities. As a result, WWPR was able to deliver a comprehensive communications plan, a radio satellite tour, media training, and public service announcements, all of which have been instrumental in helping increase awareness about domestic violence and raise awareness and funds for Doorways' mission. In addition, at their annual Woman of the Year luncheon, WWPR's raffle raised \$1,000 for Doorways' programs and supportive services.

Doorways for Women and Families and WWPR would like to thank the following individuals and vendors for their services over the past year, including:

Voice Over Artists:

*Pam Bassett, PB's VoxFlavors
Rise Birnbaum, CEO and Publisher, ZComm
Sonia Vekony*

As well as:

*Joe Balintfy and Tammy Lemley, North American Network
Laura Richardson, PR Newswire
Mike Robinson, BurrellesLuce
Peter McCluskey, MultiVu, a division of PR Newswire
Jackie Stevens, Arlington Independent Media*

We are grateful for your commitment to our mission to help at-risk, homeless, and abused women to live self-sufficient lives.

Hold that Phone for Doorways

Turn your unused and unneeded cell phones into a lifeline for families fleeing domestic violence and homelessness.

We are looking for groups to hold used cell phone drives.

Recruit your business associates, place of work, faith community, neighbors, friends and family to become involved in an important cause by collecting their unused cell phones to raise money for Doorways' shelters, programs and services.

Please call Candice Lopez, Community Resources Manager at 703-522-8858, ext. 13 or email her at clopez@www.doorwaysVA.org for information on how you can conduct a cell phone drive.

Doorways donors out-did themselves in their outpouring of generosity during the fall and holiday seasons.

Generous Giving in a Time of Thanks

For Thanksgiving, a group from Saint Mary's Episcopal Church made food baskets and donated gift cards for all of the families enrolled in our HomeStart program (formerly Transitional Housing program). Thanks to their generosity every Doorways family had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner. Neride Ellis and friends prepared and delivered a delicious home-made meal to the Safehouse families for the second year in a row. Thank you, the families loved it—it was positively gourmet!

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
Our Savior Lutheran Church and School
Daphne Papamichael
Phoenix Consulting Group
Randstad USA
Red Hot & Blue Restaurants, Inc.
Judy Steele
Zonta Club of Arlington Area, District III

A special thank you to Renee Bayes who hosted a cookie exchange where she and her friends raised over \$1000 in gift cards and donations. What a creative way to help Doorways families!

Gift Cards Wrap Doorways Families with Good Things

The spirit of giving continued into December, with many donations of gift cards. Thank you to the following for helping our families through the holidays:

Rebecca Ainsworth
Alcova Heights Babysitting Co-Op
Alpha Delta Kappa
Anitra Androh-Powell
Arlington Forest United Methodist Church
Arlington Quilters Unlimited
Aurora Hills Senior Center
Backfence.com
Base Technologies, Inc.
Renee Bayes
Christ Church of Arlington
Claritas
Ralph & Janet Cook
Marilynn Coolidge
Julia Cyphers
Margaret Dean
Linda Discati
Doug, the Safehouse mailman
Faith Lutheran Church
Roseanne Geisel
George Mason University
Heidrick & Struggles
Il Radicchio
John Snow, Inc.
Bob & Susan Jones
Georgia Joyal
Laura Lapin
Louisa Marinaccio-Alford
Matrix Group International, Inc.
Robin Matthews
Charles & Sandy Mitchell
Brent Mitchell
Mothers of Northern Arlington (MONA)

Arlington YMCA Helps Doorways Children Attend Winter Break Camp

Doorways is again grateful for the opportunities that the Arlington YMCA gives to children in our programs and shelters. They provided a 90% deduction for children to attend their Winter Break Camp in late December.

Life-Long Knitter Shares Talents with Doorways

Jean Carter, a life-long knitter, has shared her talents with Doorways since 2000. She spends the whole year making scarves and hats in her spare time. Jean believes that the holiday season is the perfect time to spread the warmth of her brightly-colored accessories to Doorways families. In December 2006 she presented Doorways with 25 hats and 40 scarves, as well as a monetary donation. Doorways is very fortunate to have Jean warm our families with her handiwork.

Doing Small Miracles for Others Provides Warm Coats to Doorways Families

A special thanks goes to Mimi Vishio, Marilyn Lynch and the members of Doing Small Miracles for Others for their generous donation of gift cards to Burlington Coat Factory. Their gift enabled Doorways families to purchase coats and to stay warm this winter.

Cell Phone Drives March to the Year-End

During the last few months of the year, employees at Beers & Cutler, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Matrix Group International, and Nathan Associates took the time to collect used cell phones for Doorways. These phones can help women in crisis as well as provide additional funding sources for Doorways. Thank you very much to the employees of these companies. Your assistance is appreciated.

Generous Supporters Make Holiday Wishes Happen for Doorways Families



Doorways' Holiday Party for families enrolled in our HomeStart Program was a true celebration! Dawn Torti and the St. Ann's Ministry group prepared and served a delicious holiday meal ending with holiday cookies, desserts and candy cane fudge! Jill Zimmerman and a group from Faith Lutheran Church lead activity groups in which each family worked together on various take-home crafts including puppets, necklaces, and ornaments. Each child had their picture taken for a snow globe to give to their parent along with a surprise gift that they personally selected at our children's "shopping" table. It was a fun-filled, joyous evening that will be remembered by our families for years to come.

Community members participating in **Holiday Wishes** and **Adopt-a-Family** programs contributed over \$5,000 in gift cards and gifts for our Safehouse and HomeStart families. Many families were overcome with gratitude. "Thank you for making a wish come true. God Bless you all!" shared one mother in the HomeStart program.

A special thank you goes to the individuals and groups who adopted families for the holidays:

Blanche Anderson of the Zonta Club of the Arlington Area
Jennifer Amore
Lillian Arevalo of George Mason University—Arlington
Allyson Burgess
Jill Burke
Kelly Coyner
Cory Foliard and Mothers of North Arlington (MONA)
Nicki Haltermann-Mitchell
Laura Lapin
Christine Lee
Louisa Marinaccio and Mothers of North Arlington (MONA)
Joanna Pineda and the staff of Matrix Group International
Adrienne Poncy of John Snow, Inc.
Vicki Wood of Church of Christ

Jill Burke and the Junior League of Washington hosted a Holiday Party for the women and children of Doorways' Safehouse. In addition to providing a wonderful meal from Boston Market, the group made gingerbread houses, decorated sugar cookies and a wreath, and provided gift books for the children. The Jefferson Consulting Group and Temple Rodef Shalom also provided the Safehouse with wonderful holiday meals. Thank you to these groups for taking the time and care to make the holidays special for residents of Doorways' Safehouse. ■



Corporate Donors Strengthen Our Community

The photographs below outline just two examples of how corporate donors, through their special support of Doorways, are helping strengthen our community. Doorways extends sincere thanks to all of our corporate donors for their professional expertise, unique leadership and vital financial support dedicated to helping the most vulnerable women and children in Arlington. Corporations are important partners in our work and we very much welcome the additional support of new corporate donors. Opportunities for corporate support of Doorways include sponsorship of special events, funding of shelter, children's services, court advocacy, HomeStart Supportive Housing and other programs and support of community outreach initiatives.

If you are interested in learning more about Doorways corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kelly Ferris at 703-522-8858 x14 or kferris@doorwaysVA.org for more information.



Cecil Black, Chairman of the Board of the Boeing Company's Employee Community Fund presents Doorways Executive Director Linda Dunphy with a donation of \$10,000 in support of Doorways Children's Services Program.



Employees of The Services Group, Inc. an international economic consulting business located in Arlington, join together to present their company's donation of \$5,000 to sponsor Doorways' 17th Annual Benefit Auction.

Doorways: Making a Greater Difference in Northern Virginia

Year in Review (July 2005–June 2006)

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, Doorways provided **18,520 nights of shelter** and housing within our two shelters and **HomeStart Supportive Housing** programs; serving a total of 96 families; 105 adults; and 127 children for a total of 232 individuals. Over half (55%) of the clients were children and nearly 60% of our residents reported domestic violence as a reason for their homelessness. Almost one-half of the adults were employed full or part-time, but at wages insufficient to meet the basic needs of food and shelter, typically \$10,000 to 20,000 annually. The vast majority of Doorways women clients are mothers.

Shelter Statistics

Safehouse Program and Emergency Family Shelter*

Clients served	152 (total)
Adults	77 (51%)
Children	75 (49%)
Family Units	74
Children 12 or younger	92%
Total number of bed nights	5,518
Domestic Violence Hotline	2,165 calls
Court Companionship and Advocacy	925 hours

Upon leaving Doorways' shelters:

- 90% of residents obtained mental and physical health services and were assisted with financial planning, employment, childcare and other resources
- 30% of clients went on to HomeStart Supportive Housing or other temporary living programs
- 34% located their own private housing or went to live with friends or relatives
- 8% of battered women and their children returned to the home of their abuser.

Financial Independence Track Program

Doorways expanded its Financial Independence Track (FIT) program last year to begin in the shelters. The FIT program enhanced financial literacy and management skills, and set goals for resource management, savings and debt reduction for Doorways' clients.

Families served with Financial Counseling	71
Individual Financial Counseling Sessions	234
Families establishing personal money management system	100%
Achieved savings	\$19,120 by 24 families
Reduced debt	42% of families
Increase in average family savings	90%

(*only reflects July thru March for Emergency Shelter due to early closure for rebuilding of shelter)

HomeStart Supportive Housing Program

Doorways' Supportive Housing Program, HomeStart (formerly named Transitional Housing), assisted clients post-shelter with obtaining housing, landlord assistance, schooling, healthcare, family stability and job seeking. This year, the program extended its services to include clients affected by the close of the Family Shelter.

Clients served

Parents	28 (35%)
Children	52 (65%)

Bed Nights of housing

Paid rent on time	100% of families
Attended school	100% of school-aged children
Participated in extracurricular activities	100% of school-aged children
Received tutoring assistance	85% of school-aged children

- HomeStarts' home visitor provided **344 home visits**, made 69 group contacts, and had a **home visit compliance rate of 99.5%**.
- All 16 HomeStart families lived in housing of their choice and 10 obtained leases in their own names in FY06. This resulted in less disruption in schools and support networks and families continued long-term growth without needing to "start over" as they leave HomeStart.
- **100% of HomeStart families paid rent on time** each month and **maintained positive landlord relations**, creating positive rental histories **essential for long-term housing stability**.
- 100% of families reported HomeStart strengthened their parenting and life skills

Children's Program

In FY2006, the Children's Program dramatically increased focus on the problems of children entering shelters, namely the violence, trauma and chronic family disruption they experience. All parents and children met individually with our Children's Specialist in the first week of shelter to review individual children's needs and strengths, and to develop individualized service plans to meet needs.

Children served	124*
Counseling provided	176 sessions
School attendance	100%
Health screening	100%

A Community of Giving

Doorways for Women and Families is grateful to the following individuals, foundations and corporate sponsors for their outstanding contributions made between September 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006. *Thank you for making a difference.*

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* We apologize for any omissions, misspellings or other errors and welcome your corrections and suggestions.

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