

DOORWAYS

for Women & Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Formerly The Arlington
Community Temporary Shelter
(TACTS)

PO Box 100185
Arlington, VA 22210
(703) 522-8858
Fax (703) 522-4338
www.doorwaysVA.org

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Contact Linda Dunphy Chalfant (703) 522-8858

Arlington, VA-based Doorways for Women and Families Chosen for New 2005 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

Arlington, VA-based Doorways for Women and Families has been selected as a featured charity in the 2005 *Catalogue for Philanthropy*. This is the *Catalogue's* third year in the Washington, DC region. Supported by local foundations (Harman, Meyer, Cafritz, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Marriott and Fowler) as a service to the community, the *Catalogue* profiles environmental, cultural, educational, human services, and international organizations. Seventy-five new nonprofits are featured each year, and those from previous years are re-listed as well. Organizations from 2003 through 2005 are live at the website, www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc.

Over 14,000 people in our region are homeless--almost half outside the District. Operating the only shelters in Arlington for women and children (more than half the victims of "intimate violence" live in households with children under age 12) Doorways for Women and Families (formerly TACTS) first provides a place to stay and then empowers women and children by teaching them how to live safe and self-sufficient lives. A 16-bed family shelter and 11-bed "safehouse" offer a warm atmosphere, food, childcare, transportation, and a caring staff to help women achieve their individual goals: safety, employment, housing, and long-term stability. After "graduation" women can join the supportive transitional housing program where counseling and life skills training help them embark on a new beginning. Just last year, the program provided shelter to more than 250 women and children, and 100% of transitional housing participants reported that they stabilized and strengthened their families, improved relationships with their children, and learned how to locate and use community resources. But Doorways also turned away about two-thirds of those who sought help--nearly 1,000 women and children--because of shelter capacity limits that they would like to increase. Safety, care, and hope: let's make sure the doors are open to all who are in need.

After an inaugural year in the District of Columbia, the *Catalogue* expanded to the Greater Washington region—adding nonprofits in Northern Virginia and nearby Maryland counties. Over 30,000 individuals and hundreds of foundations will receive copies of the *Catalogue* in mid-November. To date, the *Catalogue* has helped to raise over \$1.3 million in pledges and gifts for local nonprofits.

Safehouse Shelter
for Battered Women
and Children
(703) 237-0881
Fax (703) 237-1146

Emergency Family Shelter
for Homeless Women
and Families
(703) 237-1147
Fax (703) 812-9250

Doorways Thrift Shop
5643 Lee Highway
(703) 237-0867

According to Barbara Harman, Executive Director of the Harman Family Foundation, "The *Catalogue* is designed to be a showcase for DC region philanthropy and an inviting way for individuals and families to participate in charitable giving." A single check sent to the *Catalogue's* DC office, or an online donation at its website, www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc, can be allocated to as many charities as the donor pleases. Donors may also contact the charities directly. "Because the *Catalogue* is fully paid for by its philanthropic partners," Harman notes, "100% of every donation goes to the designated nonprofits."

Doorways for Women and Families was selected from a competitive field of nearly 250 candidates. Proposals were reviewed by 50 professional grantmakers and leaders at 30 local foundations and nonprofit organizations. "Charities were selected for excellence, innovation, and cost-effectiveness--and for what they can teach us about the extraordinary ways that philanthropy works," Harman said. "These are certainly among the best small charities in the Washington, DC region."

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Doorways for Women and Families, formerly The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter (TACTS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that empowers women and families who are abused, homeless or at-risk to live safe, secure and self-sufficient lives. Doorways provides shelter and services and educates the larger community about violence and homelessness. www.doorwaysva.org