CREATING PATHWAYS

SCARCITY IN THE MIDST OF ABUNDANCE:
POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN ARLINGTON

RENEWAL APPEAL:
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR RENEWAL CAMPAIGN GOAL!
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Finally, summer is in the air. I hope you are all finding it as rejuvenating as we are here at Doorways. Seeing all of the bright new growth in our environment makes me think of the many “new starts” we see each day here at Doorways. In recent communications, we shared more about the aspects of safety (domestic violence services, housing and help beyond shelter). In this newsletter, we want to talk about another key aspect of our mission — stability.

At Doorways, our immediate efforts focus on ensuring our clients have a safe place to call home. This is clearly critical, however, our efforts cannot stop there. We strive for our clients to be stable in this safe home. To meet this part of our mission, we come face-to-face with the harsh realities of poverty. Yes, the daunting, century-old, complex issue — poverty. As a child of the 70s, I recall many images of The War on Poverty — the presidential speeches introducing programs and initiatives to lift poor women and children out of horrific living conditions and bleak futures. While these efforts, and those of the private sector, have improved many lives, we are by no means victorious in this war. As one looks at our booming community, it’s no surprise that Arlington ranks as one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the nation. At the same time, 16% of the county’s population (over 35,000 residents) earns less than 50% of the annual median income, with 4,826 households earning less than $35,000.

To us at Doorways, poverty is not a political issue — it is a human issue. It is a harsh, daily threat to our goal of ending abuse and homelessness. In many cases, it is the largest obstacle our clients must overcome to permanently leave abuse. It is what makes the amazing parents we meet at Doorways face unthinkable choices for their children. Not the “Sorry, son, I cannot get you the designer brand sneakers.” Rather, the “I’m not sure if we get to eat one or two meals today, kids;” or the “I can’t go to work today because my paycheck doesn’t keep up with increased child care costs.” Our survivors and families overcome so much as they rebuild their lives. Yet, too often, basic needs are precariously met as they attempt to become independent.

In this edition, we hope to fill you in on how our clients cope with this enormous challenge and how our programming has evolved to provide targeted, practical strategies to help them in this endeavor. We hope you find this informative and thought-provoking. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas as together we work to create meaningful and lasting pathways out of abuse and homelessness.

In partnership and with appreciation,

Caroline Jones, MSW

Mission
Doorways for Women and Families creates pathways out of domestic violence and homelessness leading to safe and stable lives.

Vision
We envision a community where all people live free of violence and have safe and stable housing.

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Doorways Domestic Violence Programs are confidential.

Unless otherwise noted, all men, women and children in photographs are models whose images have been used for illustrative purposes only.
POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN ARLINGTON

SCARCITY IN THE MIDST OF ABUNDANCE:

By nearly every measure, Arlington is one of the richest counties in America. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development calculated the average median income for a household of four in Arlington to be $107,500. Over the last ten years, average salaries in the county have grown by 37%—a rate that far outpaces most other areas of the country. Arlington also regularly tops the list of most educated communities, with 72.9% of persons twenty-five and older possessing at least a bachelor’s degree. With so much wealth and education, it’s hard to imagine poverty, let alone homelessness, in Arlington. While wealth and poverty occupy opposite ends of the financial spectrum, they are not mutually exclusive. In fact, some of the attributes that make Arlington one of the wealthiest places to live also contribute to the economic instability of a portion of its residents.

HOUSING

It’s expensive to live in Arlington, and the primary driver is the affordability of housing. While homeownership is usually out of reach for those on the low end of the economic scale, renting used to be a viable alternative for both individuals and families. This allowed for both reasonable housing costs and the opportunity to save—perhaps toward eventual home ownership. Today, low-income and middle-class households are increasingly priced out of the rental market in Arlington. While the last ten years saw wages increase by 37%, rents increased by 47%, making Arlington County the 6th most expensive rental market in the nation. In fact, the average rental rate in Arlington is 72.1% greater than the overall Virginia average.

Housing affordability is not a vague concept—it is generally defined as 30% of household income. This standard leaves room for a household, depending on size, to comfortably afford the myriad of other living expenses, while ideally allowing for modest savings. Here is a simplistic example: if a single parent rents (after taxes) $45,000 per year, he/she should spend $13,500 on housing; in some cases, daycare for an infant or toddler can rival the cost of a year of in-state college tuition. In Arlington County, one child in daycare can average around $15,000 per year, and that doesn’t usually cover extras like after-hours care, camps or even lunches. In high-income families, one couple may find themselves working primarily to cover child care costs. While that can be a difficult choice, there are many who would be grateful to have it. For lower-income families, working to cover housing and living expenses is the norm, and child care costs can often force much more difficult choices. It’s a catch-22: finding employment without child care is impossible, as is finding affordable child care without decent employment.

CHILD CARE

For parents, securing safe and stable child care can be nearly as costly as housing. In some cases, daycare for an infant or toddler can rival the cost of a year of in-state college tuition. In Arlington County, one child in daycare can average around $15,000 per year, and that doesn’t usually cover extras like after-hours care, camps or even lunches. In high-income families, one couple may find themselves working primarily to cover child care costs. While that can be a difficult choice, there are many who would be grateful to have it. For lower-income families, working to cover housing and living expenses is the norm, and child care costs can often force much more difficult choices. It’s a catch-22: finding employment without child care is impossible, as is finding affordable child care without decent employment.

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare costs are high everywhere, and Arlington is a bit higher than most. In Arlington, a routine dental visit is 5% higher, and prescription medicine is 6% higher than the national average. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research Quality, the average stay at a hospital was $10,000 in 2011—a negotiated rate by health insurance, which poorer families sometimes go without. In fact, many of our families face significant medical debt when they enter our programs.

FOOD

Beef, chicken, milk, eggs, potatoes, bananas, bread—all of these foods are more expensive in Arlington than the national average. And money is not the only barrier to healthy eating for a family. Single working parents don’t always have time to prepare meals—and with most prepared meals not covered by food stamps, homeless and poor families can be left with little choice but to give in to fast food options.
nothing (i.e. debt). This is usually the category where families of poverty are usually left with nothing, or less than soap to haircuts and clothes. After paying for housing, child care, healthcare, and transportation costs can exceed 32% of household income, making it, at times, a greater burden than housing. “In many of the areas where households ‘drive to qualify’ for affordable housing and transportation affordability is lacking. According to a 2011 report by the Center for Neighborhood Technology on housing and transportation — are lacking. Conversely, places where housing is more affordable are often found in outlying areas where land is less expensive and amenities — such as public transportation — are lacking. According to a 2011 report by the Center for Neighborhood Technology on housing and transportation affordability in the metro region, “...in many of the areas where households ‘drive to qualify’ for affordable housing, transportation costs can exceed 32% of household income, making it, at times, a greater burden than housing.”

HOUSING/PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES

That leaves just about everything else — from toothpaste and soap to haircuts and clothes. After paying for housing, child care, healthcare, food and transportation, families on the brink of poverty are usually left with nothing, or less than nothing (i.e. debt). This is usually the category where families choose to go without — oftentimes sacrificing extracurricular activities for the children, new clothes or shoes or a movie night for the family.

ADDING IT UP

Taking our previous example of the single parent (we will call her Elizabeth) earning $45,000 per year, after taxes, we can see how these costs play out. Elizabeth lives in a one-bedroom apartment that costs $1,900 per month for herself and her 18-month-old daughter, Emily. Her electricity is not included in her rent. She depleted her savings account to cover the $1,900 security deposit and $400 in moving costs. Emily attends a daycare near Elizabeth’s office, which costs $1,250 per month. Fortunately, Elizabeth and Emily are covered by Elizabeth’s health and dental insurance from work, but she still has to pay some out-of-pocket costs for co-pays and prescriptions (averaging about $20/month). Her food costs are around $400 per month, which includes packing both her lunch and Emily’s and not eating out. The store is close to her home, but Elizabeth and Emily take the metro to and from work/daycare — from Ballston Station to U Street in the District every weekday, with a round trip fare of $6.10. Elizabeth has a cell phone so that she can be reached by Emily’s daycare if needed. She does not have a home phone or cable, nor does she own a car.

With a take-home salary of $3,750, Elizabeth could be a teacher, police officer or County Board officer in Arlington. Yet as you can see, she would not make enough to cover the most basic necessities for herself and her daughter without going into debt — nearly $2,500 by the end of the year. And without any savings, almost anything could push them into homelessness.

Now imagine a more typical Doorways client. He/she works as a child care provider, waitress or administrative assistant, earning an hourly wage that brings in $20,000–$30,000 per year, assuming he/she works full-time and takes no sick leave, vacation or emergency leave. He/she has two children, no healthcare, and has poor credit and no savings from trying to make ends meet for years. Living this way—an edge of homelessness—is frightening, exhausting and stressful, with every single decision having significant ramifications for the family’s safety and wellbeing. And that stress often leads to poor health for every member of the family. Sadly, this is where many of the women and families we serve are when they first come into our programs. They are in extreme stages of poverty, and have been for years. The road from this financial state is not short, but thankfully our strategies provide so much more than a safe place to call home. The remaining key ingredients in building long-term safety and stability for the women and families we serve are the individualized services we offer, including financial counseling, workforce development, case management and referrals, court advocacy, parenting support and children’s mental health care. While our formula may not be able to change the societal influences that lead a family into poverty, it does provide them with the tools and resources they need to lift themselves to independence – breaking cycles of immense vulnerability and hardship in the long term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Take Home Pay ...........$3,750</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent ........................................ $1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity ................................ $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare ..................................$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare ................................ $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food ...........................................$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone ..................................$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro ........................................ $120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers .....................................$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toiletries ...................................$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining ...................................$-202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. A Housing Advocacy Source Book for Arlington, Virginia. The Alliance for Housing Solutions
2. Areavibes.com
3. Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development
4. Northern Virginia Magazine
Doorways for Women and Families is all about the future. Every day we strive to make the future brighter for women and families escaping domestic violence and homelessness. You can help ensure that this mission remains an integral part of Arlington’s future by making a planned gift to Doorways and becoming a founding member of the Legacy Society. By making a planned gift to Doorways today, you help guarantee that ten, twenty even fifty years from now—women and families in Arlington will have access to safe shelter, long-term housing and supportive services that help them overcome abuse and poverty.

It’s easier than you think. Making Doorways a part of your estate plan can be as simple as naming us as a beneficiary of your:

- Will or Living Trust
- Retirements Plan
- Life Insurance Policy
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Gift of Real Estate
- Any other gift that benefits Doorways in the future

Planned gifts can be funded with cash, marketable securities, a donation of real estate or other tangible personal property.

In addition to ensuring the future of Doorways for Women and Families, planned gifts offer many possible benefits, such as:

- Making a larger charitable gift than you thought possible
- Increasing your current income
- Reducing your income tax and/or avoiding capital gains tax
- Planning for the financial needs of a spouse or loved one
- Providing inheritances for your heirs at a reduced tax cost
- Making a gift that may cost nothing in your lifetime but is priceless for future generations

Please consider safeguarding the future of Doorways’ response to domestic violence and homelessness in our community by making a planned gift today. To discuss options and learn more about how you can leave a legacy, please contact Heather O’Malley at 703-504-9290 or HOMalley@DoorwaysVA.org.

P.S. Have you already named Doorways as a beneficiary of your estate? Let us know right away so we can recognize and thank you as a founding member of the Legacy Society!

How long have you been supporting Doorways for Women and Families?

I first learned of [Doorways for Women and Families] about 26 years ago, when it was called TACTS, through my work at the American Red Cross as Director of Volunteer & Community Services for the Arlington County Chapter. Meeting the agency director enabled me to learn about the mission and services of what was to become Doorways.

What made you decide to make a planned gift to Doorways?

After many years of making smaller annual contributions, I was approached by Doorways to see if a more substantial and planned gift could be considered. Consequently, I made my pledge to join the Brighter Futures Society to supplement other giving opportunities throughout the year. [More recently], I informed Doorways that I had designated the organization to be a beneficiary of my estate upon my death. Based on the many successful outcomes for its residents and clients, I feel Doorways will continue to be such a necessary agency to rescue and shelter persons fleeing domestic abuse and homelessness well into the future. By providing a portion of my estate to Doorways, I am ensuring that I can continue to be a force for good in the future.

What personal values does this planned gift represent?

[Planned giving enables Doorways to evaluate its current and future service needs to meet such a goal.]

In many ways, I hope that Arlington and other communities will see a decline in domestic abuse through continued educational outreach and appropriate financial support. Certainly, planned giving enables Doorways to evaluate its current and future service needs to meet such a goal.

What would you tell someone who was considering making a planned gift to Doorways?

The investment of a planned gift to Doorways is an investment in the future security of other individuals and families. For those of us who have enjoyed healthy relationships—be they familial or spousal—we can be grateful. For those whose lives have been altered through neglect or abuse, Doorways literally and figuratively enables us to help open the door to a brighter future.
GOOD WORKS

A “FLOOD” OF SUPPORT

While the new year brought a challenge with the flooding of the Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home due to freezing temperatures and a subsequent pipe burst, it also demonstrated the depth of support we have here in Arlington. With considerable repairs needed, and a limited time in which to return our clients to their home, the battle ahead seemed quite daunting until something truly amazing happened—you brought a flood of your own—a flood of support! You left us inspired and beyond thankful to be reminded of how much Arlington supports our families and the work we do.

THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISING

2013 was the year of the third-party fundraiser! Third-party events are sponsored or hosted by individuals, organizations or groups in support of Doorways for Women and Families. Recently, many friends, neighbors, businesses and congregations rallied together in unique ways to support those in their community who need them the most—making big memories, and an equally big impact in the process. Interested in how to turn your idea into a fundraiser for local women and children in need? Visit www.DoorwaysVA.org to learn more.

Pete’s New Haven Style Apizza

This Spring, Doorways embarked on a new partnership with locally-owned, Pete’s New Haven Style Apizza to bring pizza to local apartment communities and donations to Arlington women and families in need. The results were astonishing! In eight “Eat Well. Do Good” events, Pete’s helped raise over $1,000 in donations for Doorways programs—and they aren’t done yet! Events will continue throughout the year, so keep your eyes peeled for a chance to support Doorways from the lobby of your own apartment building—and taste some delicious Pete’s Apizza while you’re at it. Win-win!

The Hair Cuttery

This February, Hair Cuttery™ launched its annual “Share a Haircut Program” in which participating salons nationwide donate a free haircut to homeless children and adults for every haircut purchased over the course of all hours. Something as simple as a haircut can do so much to boost the self-esteem of an adult or child who has been in crisis for so long. Your support, along with the support of other customers in the region came together in droves, raising a total of 400 certificates for haircuts! Because of the outpouring of support, Doorways was able to not only share these gifts with our clients, but with children and families at other agencies around the community. Thank you for sharing haircuts!

Girl Scouts

Sometimes it’s the littllest ones who make the biggest impact. For years, Girl Scouts have graced us with their cheerful smiles, and generous hearts! This February, a local Girl Scout troop stopped by our office to donate cookies to our families in shelter. Thanks for your generosity now and always girls.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Doorways volunteers are a special group indeed! From providing child care and grocery shopping, to helping us organize all of the important donations we receive to help our families day to day, volunteers are such an integral part of the work we do. In just the past seven months, volunteers provided more than 2,500 hours of service. Thank you to each of our volunteers for your dedication, flexibility and downright awesomeness!

Volunteers of the Month:

September: Dawn Young and Gregg Seitz
October: Chris DeRosa
December: Miguel Buddle

Volunteers of the Month:

January: Helene Kelly
February: Sheila Archambault
March: Jenica Hardy

Dinner with Friends Hosts:

September: Kiwanis Club of Arlington
October: National Automobile Dealers Association
November: Northern Virginia Junior Women’s Club
December: Liberty Tavern/Lyon Hall/Northside Social

January: Metaphysical Church of Arlington
February: Zonta Club
March: NextGenNow

Holiday Party Volunteer Groups:

Accenture
Clark Construction
Zonta Club of Arlington

A special thanks to the tireless individuals who provided hot meals to our displaced clients every night for nearly six weeks: Susan Arnold, Anne Catrine Skoog-Ehmer, Tony Tilton, Joady Cambridge and friends, Malolle Pinto, Laura Young, Patricia Ani-Adjei, Bonnie Flynn and The Special Events Committee. Christy Denny, Jenica Hardy, Daisy Espinosa, Jan Burke, Kelly Kaelin, and Naina Dumera/Arlington Rooftop/Delhi Dhaba. Thank you!

In Christy’s Shoes: High Hope in High Heels

In memory of a lost friend, In Christy’s Shoes was founded to aid and empower women in need. This April, In Christy’s Shoes and Doorways brought together over 100 guests and over 70 donated pairs of shoes to make the 2nd Annual High Hopes in High Heels event in Arlington a huge success. “It’s just a natural fit,” one of In Christy’s Shoes’ founders, Jacki Barnett said of the partnership with Doorways. Guests gathered at Clarendon’s Lyon Hall restaurant to celebrate and support women and families working toward independence and self-sufficiency. The proceeds will benefit Doorways and Dress for Success, an organization that provides business attire to women in need seeking employment. We cannot say thank you enough for the support of all in attendance, especially In Christy’s Shoes founders Katrina Levy Zidel, Becky Sweeney, and Jacki Barnett for honoring us with a partnership that is sure to grow and support many more women in the future.
Since this year marks the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, as declared by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, it seems a good time to take stock of our progress. What have the years taught us about how to shape programs and services for those in need? What key services help the poor and homeless establish and maintain self-sufficiency and independence? Have we reduced the number of poor or homeless in this country? And what specifically has helped women and families in Doorways’ programs overcome poverty—a tremendous risk factor for our clients to return to violence or homelessness?

Both President Kennedy and Johnson brought attention to poverty in America, and their efforts at combating it helped create the infrastructure we now know as government assistance programs. The U.S. Census Bureau first began tracking the number of Americans at or below the poverty line in 1964. In 2012, Arlington County had 6,585 CAFs, close to 15% of the total apartments in the County.

In the previous section, we shared the common definition of housing affordability—30% of income. In order to ensure this level of affordability, the high incomes in Arlington need to be adjusted for. Therefore, affordability is based on a percentage of average median income by household size for the DC metro region (as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development). Rent is established at around 30% of the discounted income, divided by twelve months. For the most part, CAFs run at about 50% - 80% of the average median income. You will recall from our previous section that the average median income (AMI) for a household of four in the DC metro region is $83,500. Below are the adjusted income limits and resulting rents at 80%, 60%, and 50% of average median income for one, two, three and four person households. It is unfortunate that a family earning $53,750 per year, let alone $86,000, needs a committed affordable unit.

Even more unfortunate is that those living in poverty and severe poverty earn half that much and still have to pay the same ‘affordable’ rent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>80% AMI</th>
<th>60% AMI</th>
<th>50% AMI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Household</td>
<td>$60,140</td>
<td>$43,180</td>
<td>$37,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Household</td>
<td>$68,800</td>
<td>$51,600</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Household</td>
<td>$77,440</td>
<td>$58,080</td>
<td>$48,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Household</td>
<td>$86,000</td>
<td>$64,500</td>
<td>$53,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efficiency</th>
<th>80% AMI</th>
<th>60% AMI</th>
<th>50% AMI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
<td>$1,506</td>
<td>$1,209</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>$1,613</td>
<td>$1,452</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedroom</td>
<td>$1,716</td>
<td>$1,507</td>
<td>$1,307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The War on Poverty: 50 Years Later
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDED FAMILIES (TANF)

In 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act into law, changing both the name and focus of Welfare, the government’s primary means of cash support for the poor. Known now as TANF, the program offers short-term financial assistance to families in need. TANF, the program offers short-term financial assistance to families in need. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability.

CHILD-CARE SUBSIDIES

Child-care subsidies are available to eligible families to provide financial assistance to help cover child-care costs while parents are working or attending training or education programs. To qualify, a parent or guardian must be working or taking part in an education/training program, have a child under 13 years old (up to 18 years old if the child has special needs), and meet the income eligibility guidelines. Those families receiving TANF, formerly receiving TANF, or participating in the SNAP employment and training program qualify for child-care subsidies. If a family is not or has not been a part of these programs, their eligibility depends upon their monthly income.

Would Elizabeth & Emily qualify? With a monthly income of $3,750, they would be over the maximum of $2,392 per month for a household of one. Adults have a harder time qualifying for medical assistance, starting at a maximum income limit of $496 per month for a household of one. Would Elizabeth and Emily qualify? Their monthly income level of $3,750 is above both child and adult monthly income limits of $1,874 and $462, respectively. Neither Elizabeth nor Emily would qualify to receive medical assistance through Virginia Medicaid or FAMIS programs. Many Doorways’ families qualify for Medicaid and FAMIS; however, survivors of domestic violence without children are not eligible unless they have a qualified medical condition such as breast or cervical cancer. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability. The EITC is a credit that taxpayers can use to reduce their federal tax liability.

CHART 1: EITC INCOME LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Qualifying Children</th>
<th>Single Annual Income Limit</th>
<th>Married Annual Income Limit</th>
<th>Maximum Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 or more</td>
<td>$46,227</td>
<td>$50,567</td>
<td>$6,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$43,058</td>
<td>$47,417</td>
<td>$5,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$37,870</td>
<td>$42,870</td>
<td>$3,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>$16,540</td>
<td>$19,580</td>
<td>$4,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE

While some of the families we serve qualify for one or more of these government assistance programs, the high standard of living in Arlington creates a ‘bubble’ in which many families who need assistance are deemed ineligible (Elizabeth and Emily are prime examples). They earn too little to afford the housing, child care, health care and other costs associated with their community, but too much to qualify for assistance. And those families that do qualify usually find it difficult to live in Arlington with the limited financial assistance they receive. Plus, an entire segment of the population is almost entirely left out: single survivors of domestic violence.

At Doorways, our counselors and financial educators work with each woman and family to explore what programs they are eligible for, how appropriate they are for their given situation, and how long they should be accessed in relation to overall goals of independence. But 36 years of experience has taught us that financial assistance alone cannot build a family’s long-term independence. For our families to create and maintain brighter futures, they need to develop new skills and awarenesses about how to manage the various pieces of their life. That is why we’re building in counseling and education, workforce development, court advocacy, counseling and mental health care for children. And ultimately, it is the skills they develop while at Doorways that they can turn back to five, ten, twenty years from now, long after they have moved on from direct assistance.


Would Elizabeth & Emily qualify? Elizabeth’s earned income is her pre-tax salary, which is roughly $30,000, whereas the single income limit for a one child household is $5,870. Elizabeth would not qualify for the EITC on her tax return. Many Doorways’ clients qualify for the EITC. Doorways’ financial counselors work with clients in completing their tax returns so that they receive the maximum deductions and refund. We encourage clients to use any tax refunds to pay down debt or increase savings.
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Contribute Today to Our Renewal Campaign and Help Us Raise $35,000 to Help Women and Families.

Brianna and her parents have moved into their own apartment and are working closely with Arlington County Public Schools to help Brianna with her recent diagnosis of autism. With Doorways’ help, her bus was re-routed to their new apartment so that her routine could remain uninterrupted. Brianna will be attending summer camp in a few weeks, and she is really excited about the chance to make new friends.

Patrick and his mother are developing structure and routine into their daily lives. Patrick is now in Early HeadStart where he makes progress on his goals every day, communicating with more words and playing with more complicated toys. He’s even started making friends and playing in larger groups, which used to terrify him. His newest adventure: potty training!

Twice a year we send you a letter to tell you about one or more of the clients we have served through your generous support. We describe their challenges and their successes so you can have a sense of the impact you make on the lives of so many. At the same time, we ask that you consider making your next donation to ensure our services are available for the woman or family that needs us tomorrow.

We know you get many requests for support from other worthy causes, and we very much respect your dedication to those we serve. The truth is that we rely greatly on our two annual fund drives—our Year-End Campaign in November/December and our Renewal Campaign in May/June. Together, these drives make up more than 5% of our budget each year. Every donation that you bestow moves us that much closer to meeting the need in a given year. And sadly, we have yet to see the need lessen.

This Summer, we hope you will join us in celebrating the remarkable success of Brianna and her parents, and Patrick and his mother by donating to our Renewal Campaign. These young children had seen so much trauma and instability before coming to Doorways—as did each of the 163 children we served in our residential programs last year. Today, Brianna and Patrick are thriving, as are so many other children and families, thanks to your support. Their social, emotional, psychological and physical developmental needs are being met, and they are succeeding in school and beyond. They have safe homes, healthy parents and hope.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation now to our Renewal Campaign and extend the successes of Brianna and Patrick to the children we meet next.
We have clients who are trained and ready to start working!

It is our mission to make sure every family has a safe home and stable future. Doorways’ staff and volunteers work closely with clients to prepare them for the workforce. Skills taught include time management, effective communication, customer service and problem solving.

Employment Leads to Independence!

Marsha completed a 6-month, intensive clerical skills program. Plus, she has over 3 years of experience working as an Administrative Assistant.

Some of our clients have work experience and professional training in the following industries:

- Health care
- Child care
- Administrative
- Hospitality
- Service

We strive to match our qualified clients with potential employers through thorough skills assessments and training. We can help you find the employee you’ve been searching for!

If you are interested in interviewing any of our qualified clients, please contact the main office at (703) 504-9400 and we will direct you to the appropriate staff.

I came to the [Domestic Violence] Safehouse about 10 months ago because I was a victim of abuse. I still remember the day I was able to escape; my son was only 5 weeks old, and I was scared. My husband was following me.

I first went to Arlington County [Department of Human Services]. The woman who I met with asked me if I wanted to return to my house, and I said no because I was afraid. I was alone with no place to go. The case worker called Doorways right away, and I was interviewed over the phone. I was relieved to hear that Doorways was going to accept me.

When I arrived at the Safehouse in a secure and safe manner, I knew the warm smiles greeting me were the light I had not seen for a long time. Not only were staff welcoming, but the place felt like a real home. The staff introduced me to other families, and then I started getting things for my baby— it felt like I was having a baby shower! Staff told me that everything was going to be okay and that they were going to help me, and I felt their sincerity. For a moment I completely forgot all of the bad things I had gone through.

While I was at the Safehouse I was able to get legal assistance, and I learned I qualified for a visa through the Violence Against Women Act. Another important service I got was mental health—I really needed to see a counselor for my depression. I also took English classes to improve my language skills and to get a good job. For the first time I learned how a credit report works and how to pay my bills and do a monthly budget. The Children’s Services Counselor was always attentive to my son’s needs, and she answered all my questions and doubts about his development.

Once I got stable, I was referred to HomeStart [Supportive Housing Program]. Because of Doorways, to this day, I can say I live in peace and enjoy living in my own apartment. I have a job and pay my own bills. It feels good to be independent, and I continue to get guidance on my finances and housing.

For me, Doorways is the door to freedom and independence. I want to thank everyone for helping people like me. I’m one of many fortunate women receiving the blessings of Doorways and changing our lives for a brighter future.

“Marsha completed a 6-month, intensive clerical skills program. Plus, she has over 3 years of experience working as an Administrative Assistant.”

- Ketourah Harden, Lead Financial Counselor
Kedron Simon lived an extraordinary life as a devoted mother and wife, veteran, businesswoman and member of the Arlington community. Raised by her single mother, Nancy, Kedron learned early the challenges facing women and the importance of standing up to them.

Breaking barriers throughout her life, she earned an ROTC scholarship to attend Harvard University. After graduation, she received a commission as a surface warfare officer in the United States Navy at a time when women could not serve aboard combat ships. Following the lifting of the ban in 1994, Kedron was among the first women assigned to a combat ship – the USS Belleau Wood – beginning a life of breaking down gender barriers.

In 2003, Kedron was honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant commander and pursued a successful career in business. She offered her leadership and expertise to companies in the information technology and personal wealth management fields, often as both the top performer and one of few women.

While juggling the demands of a successful career and as a mother to two young children, she was introduced to the remarkable work of Doorways. Kedron was drawn to Doorways’ ability to provide pathways to a better life for women and children in dire circumstances. She was raised by strong women and surrounded by a strong family network throughout her life, but knew how fragile the path to success could be.

In life, she was a role model for women to show what was possible. In death, over $11,000 in donations were made in her name to help women and families move out of harm’s way toward a life of success.

My path to Doorways began with my long-term interest in early childhood development and education. I was fortunate to be able to take a few Child and Family Studies classes in college and one of the most eye-opening classes was titled: Power, Control, and Violence in Families. This class fostered my interest in how domestic violence affects children and families.

When I moved to the DC area a few years later, I was looking for volunteer opportunities to work with families that had experienced domestic violence. After a cursory Internet search, I landed on the Doorways volunteer page. Almost immediately, I knew this was the opportunity I was looking for because there are so many different ways to be involved — from hands-on experience like answering the 24-hour hotline and interacting directly with clients and their children, to grocery shopping, organizing storage and working in the administrative office.

I will never forget my first shift with the Children’s Program. I had no idea what to expect, but luckily I was paired with another long-term volunteer. I certainly wasn’t prepared to see the pure elation on the faces of the children from the moment we first walked through the door. My heart instantly melted and we spent the evening doing arts and crafts and playing hide and seek. I felt like I was five again. Not every child who comes to Doorways is playful and carefree right away, but I have seen astonishing transformations in just a few short months — a real testament to the extraordinary work of Doorways. Given a safe, stable environment and access to Doorways’ resources, especially the amazing staff, I have seen children change from hesitant and frightened to kind, cheerful, and energetic. The resiliency that each child shows is nothing short of phenomenal.

I always felt there was a need for a program like Doorways, but my volunteer experience has further opened my eyes to how great that need is and how unique Doorways’ programs really are. Doorways’ well-rounded approach provides support, education, financial literacy and advocacy for each individual client. There is no set path — each individual gets a personalized experience that not only builds on the skills he/she already possesses, but also helps to empower him/her as they navigate the long path out of domestic violence or homelessness. I see clients leave with newfound respect for themselves, determination to stay on track and renewed hope for a better future for their family.

Seeing families successfully transition through the Doorways program has also inspired me to donate. I see the difference that each dollar makes every time I am at the shelter and see the progress each client has made. I see the difference every time a child’s personality starts to shine through a little more. I see it in the community as Doorways works to educate the public about domestic violence through Project PE.A.C.E. I also see it when Doorways works with local government to end homelessness through the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and 100 Homes Campaign. Every dollar donated brings us another step closer to lessening the impact that domestic violence and homelessness have on our community.

What I didn’t expect about becoming part of Doorways was the impact it would have on me. I have never met a group of more tireless, dedicated people, whether they are staff members, fellow volunteers or donors. Each one inspires me to be better in my own life and continue to give back to the community because I see the difference we truly make together.
CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT: O’SULLIVAN’S IRISH PUB

On a typical day, O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub is filled with neighborhood customers and friends, who congregate to eat, laugh, drink, and wind down from the day’s events. It was not until one day in February, however, that O’Sullivan’s transformed itself into a horse-racing themed derby-styled venue and put on a memorable event to raise funds and awareness for Doorways and our families. Patrons and Doorways’ supporters from far and wide came together for a ‘Day at the Races’ to test their luck on exciting virtual horse races, full of race commentary, competition and prizes, all in the name of charity! Winners and bidders walked away with some awesome memories and treasures, and the event ultimately resulted in $3,475 in generous donations. We cannot say thank you enough to the wonderful staff and event participants at O’Sullivan’s for making this unique event such a success.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SAINT MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church and its generous congregation have been long-time supporters of Doorways’ work, families, and our mission. For years, their volunteer service, donations and advocacy for their neighbors in need have helped us spread the word of our work far and wide, and this philosophy has certainly trickled down to even some of the youngest members of their congregation. This spring, a youth group from Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church selected Doorways for Women and Families as their Mission of the Month and rallied together to assemble welcome baskets for incoming families who were seeking safe shelter. From ages 7-17, children from Saint Mary’s gathered their donations of laundry detergent and baskets, trash bags, pillows, and more, and assembled them into packages for other children in need while inquiring about more ways they could help throughout the year. We are so appreciative for this special group of children and their families who continue to help Doorways serve Arlington’s most vulnerable populations.

How Our Program Can Benefit You:

If you agree to rent to a Doorways’ tenant, there are certain things you can count on:

Finders Service:
You can list your available units with us, helping you save on broker costs and lease up quickly.

Rental Subsidies:
We connect qualified tenants with rent subsidies that guarantee a portion of the rent payment each month.

Tenant Education:
We provide your tenant with education and support to help them maintain their housing.

Financial Education Counseling:
We assist your tenant with budgeting, financial counseling, and credit repair.

Housing Support:
We provide regular home visits to families enrolled in HomeStart to work on their goals and help them to be successful tenants. We are available to you if there are any issues that arise that may affect the tenant’s housing stability.

DID YOU KNOW?

HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITY EVEN STRONGER BY PARTNERING WITH OUR HOMESTART SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Offering your rental property can help strengthen our community.

Housing and supportive services for up to 18-months can ensure an end to the cycles of family homelessness and domestic violence by promoting self-sufficiency.

Contact: Kathy Paal, Housing Locator/Advocate
703-504-9285 • KPaal@DoorwaysVA.org
The Brighter Futures Society is a special giving society of donors who recognize the need for ongoing, sustainable funding. As investors, philanthropists and change agents, members commit to donate $1,000 or more on an annual basis for a five-year period. This investment in the long-term sustainability of Doorways’ programs and services ensures we will continue to be there for those in need, year after year.

Champions for Brighter Futures ($25,000 or more for 5 years)
- Caruthers Foundation
- Tom & Rana Rose Tagle
- Heidi Wagner

Stewards for Brighter Futures ($10,000 – $24,999 for 5 years)
- Christy & Don Cole
- The Ruth Lawrence Fund
- Frances Storey

Guardians for Brighter Futures ($1,000 – $9,999 for 5 years)
- Marty Almquist* (pictured right)
- John Andelin & Ginger Geoffrey
- Anonymous
- Becky Ault
- Denise Bloomfield
- Shirley Bloomfield & Donald Patterson, Jr.
- Robin Buckley & James Olds
- Blain & Peg Butner
- Kristin Cabral
- Richard & Joedy Cambridge
- Henry & Susan Cassidy
- Christopher & Margaret Chase*
- Kimberly Cody*
- Ann Cole
- Thomas J. Colucci
- Erin & Cary Comer
- Congregation Etz Hayim
- Joseph & Dorothy Conti*
- Ralph & Janet Cook
- Doug & Paula Cruickshank
- Pam & Peter D’Ambrosio
- Philip Dale Dean, Jr.
- Wendy Loverson Dean
- The Pearl L. Deck Fund
- Craig & Tammy Donnelly
- Nicholas & Haley Evans
- Joel & Sarah Fuglin*
- Stephen Fedorochak & Kirstin Gibbs
- Alice & Brendan Feeley
- Gerri & Glenn Ferguson
- Eileen M. Flynn
- Lisa G. Foster
- Shelly Goodie & Thomas Matthews
- Julie Goon
- Eric & Renee Gutshall*
- Kent & Donna Hamaker*
- Douglas Hamilton
- Janice Haub Ryerson
- Ben & Caroline Holt*
- Shawn & Kristine Howard
- Dr. Rosemary Hubbard
- Frank & Marie Jaeger
- Caroline & Christopher Jones
- Celeste Kearney
- Elaine Kendrick
- Christine & Terence Kim
- Gary & Vicki Kirkbride
- Aida & Lee Knight*
- The Kropp Family
- Laura Lapin
- Peter & Kathleen Sheehan
- Mahaney Family Fund*
- Helaine Marie, SunDial Foundation*
- Michelle Martin*
- Barbara Schaefer McDuffie*
- Kathleen McSweeney & Michael Rally*
- Justin & Laura Miller
- Kevin & Judy Moak*
- In Honor of Evelyn Moak
- Heath O’Malley
- Carmen C. Oviado*
- Paul & Angela Pagnato
- Mary Pendegast
- Josh & Joanie Petty*
- Julia Potter
- The Preminger Family Foundation*
- Carol Rakatansky
- Leagh Ann & Mark Rizzi
- Russell & Ellen Rosenberger
- Yun & Michelle Sagatov
- Greg Selz & Dawn Young (pictured right)
- Allison Senold & Douglas Kantor*
- The Kari Shull Team
- Brad & Diane Smith
- Jim & Patty Smith
- Dana Snyder
- Judith & Frank Stearns
- Lynne J. Strobel
- Peggy Tevis
- Al & Laura Young
- Monte & Christine Zaben

*New in FY14
Leadership Circle members are individuals whose annual cash support of Doorways’ mission and services equals $1,000 or more. This list includes Leadership Circle members from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

**Champions ($10,000 or More)**
- Anonymous
- Rachel Brand & Jonathan F. Cohn
- Shooshan Family Fund
- Wayne & Susan Stacks
- Christopher & Dawn Torti
- Daniel & Linda Vilaro

**Stewards ($5,000 - $9,999)**
- Mary Hennessy
- Jeffrey Jackman & Melanie Nathanson
- Mary Mallon
- Bevin Moeller*
- John & Winifred Silverson

**Guardians ($1,000 - $4,999)**
- Kyla Fahrbach
- Andrew Ferguson*
- Bonnie Flynn (pictured left) & Tilly Smith
- Glenn & Kathy Fong
- Gail Francis
- Shanda George & Dolores Dorsett
- Mary Alice Garda
- Oscar Goldfarb & Christine E. Fisher
- Amy Gonzalez*
- Shelley Goodle & Thomas Matthews
- J. Beth Goss
- Todd & Sherry Gray
- Lisa Grozio
- John & Vicki Nelson
- John & Ann Heinrich
- Michelle Hormozdi
- The Horoshak Family Fund
- Mark & Melissa Isakowitz
- Susan Jewett
- Donald & Barbara Jones
- James Johnson, Jr.
- Claude & Nancy Kooner
- Charity Fund
- Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation
- Ingrid Keune
- The Kinney Family Fund
- The Kiplinger Foundation
- Karl & Susan Klauck
- Gail Lang*
- Wendy LeBaron
- Lowell & Jean Lynch
- Lisa MacVittie & Andrew D. Ruge
- Marybeth Majka & Patrick R. Gregerson
- Carl W. Mangum Jr.
- Margarette S. Mangum Fund
- David Martin*
- John McGladdery*
- Kerensa McConnell & Ian Dillner*
- Patrick & Teresa McGreevy*
- Ray & Nancy McKinley
- Stephen & Beth McNally
- Stephen & Clare Messinger
- Monica Michaud*
- James Moran
- Nicholas & Alton Marmann
- Debra Moss
- Mary & Kirk Nelson
- Tor & Linda Winston*
- John & Kathleen White
- Luise Welby
- Susan Raines
- Jane & Matthew Werth
- Mary Alice Giarda
- Shanda Georg & Dolores Dorsett
- James Moran
- Monica Michaud*
- Stephen & Claire Messinger
- Monica Michaud*
- James Moran
- Nicholas & Alton Marmann
- Debra Moss
- Mary & Kirk Nelson
- Tor & Linda Winston*
- John & Kathleen White
- Anne Marie Wilson
- Tom & Linda Winston*
- Jean Schiro-Zavala & Vance Zavala

**Ambassador Level ($2,500 – $9,999)**
- Acumen Solutions
- Apex Foundation*
- Baker Tilly
- Boeing Employees Community Fund
- Bogart Associates, Inc.
- C. Mack Solutions
- CapitalSource
- Clark Construction*
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- Care Foundation
- Compass Point Research and Trading
- Charitable Foundation
- Dalloite
- Dominion Virginia Power
- Dry Home Roofing Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- IBM
- John Marshall Bank*
- Kooson Arlington Toyota
- M & T Bank
- Macy’s

**Silver Level ($10,000 – $24,999)**
- The Allstate Foundation
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation*
- BJ’s Wholesale Club, Inc.*
- The Boeing Company*
- Capital One Bank
- ECG Management Consultants
- The Liberty Tavern
- Mack Sumner Communications
- Matrix Group International
- Morrison & Foerster Foundation
- Venable Foundation
- Wells Fargo

**Gold Level ($25,000 – $49,999)**
- Freddie Mac Foundation
- Keller Williams Arlington Community Total Support (KW ACTS)
- Sagatov Associates, Inc.
- Minuteman Press
- Mount Vernon Preparatory
- National Capital Builders Network, LLC
- O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub*
- The QED Group, LLC
- Pacers*
- Pete’s New Haven Style Apizza*
- Dair One Imports*
- Rocklands Barbeque
- Sogek Technologies
- SunTrust Foundation
- TD Bank*
- T.J.X Foundation
- Training Resources Group
- United Technologies Corporation
- Universal Title
- Verizon
- Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Walsh

**Platinum Level ($50,000+)**
- Caruthers Foundation, Inc.
- The Liberty Tavern
- Holiday Inn at Ballston
- Mack Sumner Communications
- Matrix Group International
- Morrison & Foerster Foundation
- Venable Foundation
- Wells Fargo
Doorways is deeply grateful for the generous support of all individuals, corporations, foundations, civic groups and faith communities. The following list includes cumulative cash gifts and gift card donations of $250 and higher from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, excluding giving societies (recognized on pages 25-27). If you find a misspelling or omission, please contact Heather O’Malley at 703.524.9290 or Homalley@DoorwaysVA.org

**$2,500 – $9,999**

- America’s Charities
- Arlington Chapter of Links, Inc.
- Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance
- Arlington Young Democrats
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Dominion Foundation
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Fannie Mae
- Homestead Virginia International Monetary Fund
- Kiwani Club of Arlington
- LaSalle Hotel Lessee
- The P&K Family Foundation
- PAVE
- The Philip L. Graham Fund
- Restoration Anglican Church
- Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- WHF Foundation
- World Bank Community Connections Fund

**$1,000 – $2,499**

- Anonymous
- Arlington County Bar Foundation
- Arlington County Tennis Association
- Balston BID
- Bagot Associates, Inc. of Northern Virginia
- Ballots and Poets Inc.
- Capstone Title LLC
- Cardinal Bank
- Paul & Wendy Carothers
- Church of the Covenant Presbyterian
- Citibank
- Crossroads Associates, LLC
- Eidolon
- Ellison Fisher
- Equifax Foundation
- First Home Mortgage Corporation
- Independent Project Analysis, Inc.
- JBG Properties
- Jane Snow Inc.
- Little Falls Presbyterian Church
- The Marshall & Coayne Foundation
- Marymount University
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- Miller’s Office Products
- MOMS Club of Arlington
- Mothers of Northern Arlington
- Mount Olive United Methodist Church
- Northrop Grumman ECHO
- Orange Line Living, LLC
- Pauzance Management
- Pave Koch PLC
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Restoration Lutheran Church
- Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ
- Saint Agnes Catholic Church
- Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church
- Saint Michael’s Episcopal Church
- Skanska Infrastructure Development
- Temple Rodef Shalom
- ThnkGeek
- Washington Speakers Bureau
- Yum! Brands Foundation, Inc.

**$500 – $999**

- Anonymous
- Arlington County Bar Foundation
- Arlington County Tennis Association
- Balston BID
- Bagot Associates, Inc. of Northern Virginia
- Ballots and Poets Inc.
- Capstone Title LLC
- Cardinal Bank
- Paul & Wendy Carothers
- Church of the Covenant Presbyterian
- Citibank
- Crossroads Associates, LLC
- Eidolon
- Ellison Fisher
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- First Home Mortgage Corporation
- Independent Project Analysis, Inc.
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- Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church
- Saint Michael’s Episcopal Church
- Skanska Infrastructure Development
- Temple Rodef Shalom
- ThnkGeek
- Washington Speakers Bureau
- Yum! Brands Foundation, Inc.
ATTE N D A BR I G H T E R F UTU R ES TO U R ! Learn more about the specialized services Doorways provides to survivors of domestic violence and families experiencing homelessness.

Space is limited, so sign up today!

• Thursday, July 10th, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
• Thursday, August 14th, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
• Thursday, September 4th, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

To sign up to attend a tour, please contact Kristina Dugan at 703-504-9289 or KDugan@DoorwaysVA.org

VOLUNTEER! To learn more about our volunteer program and opportunities, attend one of our monthly Volunteer Information Nights held the 1st Tuesday of the every month, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at our administrative offices.

• Tuesday, July 1st
• Tuesday, August 5th
• Tuesday, September 2nd

To sign up to attend a Volunteer Information Night, or to learn more about our volunteer program, please contact Simone Schönberger at 703-504-9290 or Simonesch@DoorwaysVA.org

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION to show your commitment to the most vulnerable in our community. Doorways is a sound investment with $.83 of every dollar donated going directly to support the women and families we serve. You can make a donation by going to our secure website at www.DoorwaysVA.org/donate or contacting Heather O’Malley at 703-504-9290 or HOMalley@DoorwaysVA.org

START A COLLECTION DRIVE! Join the Caring Community by supplying personal care and household items to the families in our programs by coordinating and hosting a collection drive. Rallying together friends, family, co-workers, or your faith group can be a fun way to build community and help a local cause at the same time. To learn about our daily needs and how to host a collection drive, contact Rachael Dove at 703-504-9283 or RDove@DoorwaysVA.org. Learn more about the Caring Community at www.DoorwaysVA.org/CaringCommunity

CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISH LIST! The needs of our clients and shelters can change quickly. The best way we have found to let you know what our latest needs are is through our Amazon Wish List. The next time you are shopping on Amazon – check out our Wish List and send a gift our way: http://tiny.cc/9y3dvw

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED & MAKE A DIFFERENCE