

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,



or those of you that have been receiving our newsletters for years, you've undoubtedly noticed that we have a brand new look. I am proud and grateful to share that this beautiful new design was achieved through the support of our friends and partners at Mack Sumner Communications. Thanks to their generosity and expertise, we can now bring you even more stories and spotlights from our clients, staff, volunteers and donors; all without diverting a single penny from our critical work. Thank you Mack Sumner Communications!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time when we do even more to remind our community that there are women, men and children living in fear and violence. While this work is year-round at Doorways, we are grateful for the opportunity to call greater awareness to how to seek help, why help is needed, and how help transforms people's lives.

A question we often hear is "Why doesn't she (or he) just leave?" This is a fair question, after all, our society has learned a lot in the past 40 years about domestic violence. There are anti-bullying, healthy relationship, and teen dating safety classes in our schools. Why would people continue to live in abuse knowing they have alternatives?

The awareness has helped a great deal, no question. Calls to our Domestic Violence Hotline have soared by over 65% in recent years. While people are reaching out to seek safety, not all are ready to leave their homes, uproot their children, or leave the life they know — even when they are being harmed. Change is a terrifying process. Many of us hesitate to take on even one major life change such as relocation or a new job. Imagine trying to take on several of these at once, at a time when your self-esteem is at a devastating low. To add to this, the person you are trying to leave is someone you love. It's not so easy.

It's been 40 years since domestic violence was brought to light as a social issue. We are still learning how to best address this problem, as well as understanding the enormity of its scope and impact. We are excited to share in this edition some of the promising practices that are evolving in our response to survivors. We have long known that it takes more than shelter to end abuse permanently. We are encouraged to see more alternatives that prevent the need for shelter when domestic violence occurs and offer survivors a way to remain safe and stable in the long-term. Fleeing and hiding should never be a way of life. Enhanced laws and law enforcement practices that shift the burden of long-term behavior change to the abusive party are now on the horizon. Access to affordable housing for survivors and their children must be a priority. Together, these tools will allow us to reach hundreds more who call our **24 Hour Domestic Violence Hotline** every year; including those who are ready to stop the abuse, but not ready to completely overturn their family's lives.

While these opportunities give us great hope, we know there are challenges on the horizon. 2014 will bring the heavy loss of a longtime, major supporter of Doorways. At that time, the Freddie Mac Foundation will begin reducing their financial support from their current level of \$350,000 a year to \$0. Thankfully, this reduction will take place over a three-year period, giving us time to build new strategic partnerships and inspire new supporters to join us in creating pathways out of domestic violence and family homelessness. Now, more than ever, the support of everyone in our community is critical to our ability to continue meeting the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

In partnership and with appreciation,

Carolan Janes



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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.

$Board\ of\ Directors$

Christy Cole, President

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Trey Walker

Alisa Wong

Laura Young

Welcome to our newest board members Sherrie Bakshi, Rachel Brand, Suzanne Garwood, Joanne Petty and Laura Young!

Doorways' Domestic Violence Programs are confidential.

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



THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MOVEMENT:

A 40 YEAR EVOLUTION

It is hard to believe that as a society we have only been talking openly about domestic violence for the last four decades. Prior to the Women's Movement of the 1970s, abuse perpetrated by a husband or boyfriend was not only considered a "family matter," but often times women themselves were blamed for the abuses they suffered. It was the early feminists of the Women's Movement who broke the silence and called our attention to the violence women were experiencing at home, arguing that something had to be done. Since then, nearly everything about our attitudes, ideas and responses to victims of domestic violence has evolved.





When we first started openly talking about domestic violence as a society, victims were labeled "battered women," an expression that painted a picture of the physical abuses so many endured, but hid the more complex and insidious cycles of domination and power that typically involve multiple forms of abuse. This one-dimensional focus on the visible effects of abuse reflected our society's discomfort with the issue and dictated our earliest response: move the victim into emergency shelter (and out of sight). Domestic violence safehouses and shelters began popping up across America throughout the 1970s. Arlington joined this trend when a group of caring community members established Doorways in 1978 – first providing motel nights to women and children fleeing abuse, and then opening our Domestic Violence Shelter, which still stands today as Arlington's only shelter for domestic violence.

When a woman did choose shelter, she was forced to cut herself and her children off from family and friends, work and school, routine and comfort. And in return, she signed up for a very uncertain future. With safety as the primary, if not only, goal of domestic violence programs of the past, very few thoughts or resources went toward preparing victims for a life of safety and self-sufficiency after shelter. While economic independence was becoming a reality for many women during this time, victims of domestic violence had frequently been denied a place in the workforce as a form of control and isolation, preventing them from earning an income and

supporting themselves and their children. Combine this with a welfare system that traditionally denied benefits to victims of domestic violence and it is unsurprising that many women who found the courage to leave had no choice but to return and hope that their abuser would take them back. Because of this, domestic violence quickly emerged as a leading cause of family homelessness, which has dramatically risen since the 1990s. Only in the last twenty years have domestic violence programs grown to look beyond a victim's physical safety and offer opportunities and resources for securing an independent future. At Doorways, survivors and their children have long had this opportunity through our HomeStart Supportive Housing Program, established in 1996, and with our financial literacy and children's services programs, both established in the mid 2000s.

As nonprofits and community groups like Doorways evolved their responses to include more than shelter, they looked to the courts and law enforcement agencies to provide the legal protections victims would need to find long-lasting safety. While many states and local governments had laws on the books that would enable law enforcement to arrest and restrain abusers, they were rarely used until the late 1980s. Instead, domestic violence was seen as a "family squabble" for which crisis intervention was more appropriate than arrest; police officers and judges were encouraged to serve as counselors and mediators — referring couples to psychiatrists and psychologists to "work things out in private."

Public pressure followed headline cases in the 1980s and 1990s of wives being murdered by their husbands, and with that pressure came funding for mandatory trainings for police, judges and parole officers. Officers responding to domestic disputes in most states were now allowed to make arrests based on probable cause without the need for a warrant, and they were required to provide information on local shelters, community resources and criminal and civil legal options to victims. Restraining orders, which were previously only available in divorce, separation or custody proceedings, became the primary legal recourse for victims of domestic violence, and abusers who violated them were subject to arrest and prosecution. Many court systems and nonprofits began establishing court advocacy programs to help victims understand their rights, identify resources and navigate the complex legal system. In 2005 Doorways launched its own Court Advocacy program and since then, we have helped over 3,000 women, children and men obtain legal protections to ensure their safety, as well as educated hundreds of Arlington County police officers, judges and court officials.

The 2000s brought even more attention and resources to survivors of domestic violence and altered our image of a "typical abuser" and "typical survivor" (the term now preferred over "victim"). Survivors of date rape and violence came forward to demand the same legal protections as married survivors of domestic violence. Same-sex couples increasingly reported abuse and more men began seeking help (recent statistics show that men have become close to 15% of the survivors of abuse by a partner or loved one). Several decades of research could now prove what advocates had long known: domestic violence affects people of all races, ethnicities, religions, incomes and educations. And with no standard survivor, there could be no standard response – organizations and groups aimed at helping survivors escape and recover had to adapt their interventions and services to build multiple pathways out of abuse. At Doorways, this has meant individualized goal plans for every survivor that enters our Domestic Violence Safehouse or HomeStart Supportive Housing Program for more than 15 years.

Recently, advocates fighting to end domestic violence and family homelessness have come to realize that only by addressing both issues concurrently can either be permanently resolved. Programs like Doorways that offer housing options beyond shelter, combined with services that address the emotional, psychological and financial well-being of domestic violence survivors are demonstrating great success. What began 40 years ago as a temporary escape has evolved into a comprehensive response that empowers survivors and gives them the skills and resources to reclaim their lives. At Doorways, we are proud to have been part of that evolution for 35 years and we remain committed to even more advances in the future.

Domestic violence affects people of all races, ethnicities, religions, incomes and educations.





For more than a decade, the Freddie Mac Foundation has been an integral part of the Doorways for Women and Families story. As a major catalyst for combating homelessness, the Foundation has contributed millions to help families find safety, shelter and housing. But after 22 years of strengthening our region's safety net and improving the lives of children and families, the Foundation has officially announced its closing.

Doorways first partnered with the Freddie Mac Foundation to fund what was then called our Transitional Housing Program today known as the HomeStart Supportive Housing Program, moving families from our shelters into homes of their own with ongoing supportive services. As this program grew, so did their support. In 2005, the Foundation provided a \$500,000 lead gift towards our Family Home rebuild campaign that resulted in a new emergency shelter with bed space for 21 adults and children: our Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home. With this investment, the Foundation committed to increase their annual operating support to expand Doorways' capacity to meet the needs of homeless families in, and beyond, shelter. This annual funding not only helped operate the larger Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home, but doubled our capacity in HomeStart to serve 24 families at a time versus 12. In recent years, their giving has totaled \$350,000 annually. With the Foundation's closure, this funding will now be reduced by 25% per year, ultimately reaching \$0 in our 2018 fiscal year.

This significant loss, both of a strategic partner and muchneeded financial resources, marks a new chapter for Doorways. To ensure our response to survivors and families in need remains strong, we are working with new and longtime philanthropic partners to leverage the power and generosity of our caring community. Building upon our already diverse funding sources, we are increasing our efforts to reach more individuals, corporations and foundations with the potential to contribute major, sustainable gifts and build long-term, strategic partnerships. And in keeping with our policies that have consecutively earned us six years of the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, we will continue to review expenses to ensure we are providing the most service for every dollar we receive.

Despite an external environment that can be chaotic and unpredictable, we remain committed to providing proven, life-changing programs and maintaining a solid organizational foundation for our next chapter. Now, more than ever, it is the steadfast support of the community that will enable us to continue creating brighter futures for over 2,000 women, men and children each year.

THE FUTURE OF

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE



Over the past 40 years, domestic violence programs across the Country have successfully helped millions of women, men and children put an end to the abuses they've suffered. We've learned a great deal over that time, but the truth is that domestic violence continues to affect far too many: 1 in 4 women will be impacted by domestic violence in her lifetime. In order to provide real solutions for the number of people experiencing violence we must evolve our responses so that every person suffering abuse can see his or her own pathway to safety and independence.

Thankfully, we are beginning to see a profound shift in how our society thinks about addressing domestic violence, and with this shift comes some promising new strategies that will encourage more survivors to leave abuse for lives of safety and stability.

PARADIGM SHIFT

Often times, the biggest ideas seem obvious to us only in retrospect. Since our society first began addressing domestic violence, the onus of change has been on the survivor. They are the one that must leave home, cut ties with friends and family, leave behind pets, change jobs, take children out of school and change nearly every aspect of their lives. The system just replaces one type of control and isolation with another — albeit with the goal of keeping the survivor safe.

Our justice system has also placed the burden of proof on the survivor. Domestic violence survivors are required to face their abusers in court and share every intimate detail of the abuses they've suffered. While that testimony is often enough to be granted a protective order (a civil matter), it is rarely enough to put an abuser behind bars in a criminal case. In reality, protective orders can do little to prevent the reoccurrence of violence if an abuser is determined — in fact, about 40% of protective orders are violated each year.

Domestic violence organizations and advocates are finally looking at these traditional approaches and the resulting affects and asking "why?". Why do we force domestic violence survivors to change every aspect of their lives, from their home to their habits? And why do our justice and law enforcement systems only react to violence (often times too late), instead of preventing it? The simple

answer to both of these questions is that until recently, we didn't know there was a better way. But thanks to the creativity and determination of those at the forefront of the domestic violence field. we now know that there are better options and we are starting to see what they look like. Doorways and Arlington's Project P.E.A.C.E. (Partnership to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone) collaborative are actively working to make these promising strategies increasingly available for survivors in our community. 40 years have taught us a lot about how to best respond to this complex social issue. And we remain committed to evolving our practices to give domestic violence survivors the best possible opportunity for long-term safety and stability.

THE OLD AND THE NEW: CHANGING APPROACHES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

OLD STRATEGY

- Survivor flees abuser and enters emergency shelter
- In shelter, survivor "hides" and cannot talk to family and friends or continue employment and routines
- While in shelter or housing, survivor is required to participate in all programs and receive all services offered by the provider
- Domestic violence programs, law enforcement and court officers work separately and do not communicate
- Every domestic violence case is treated the same, spreading advocates and law enforcement very thin
- ► Law enforcement is reactionary
- Abusers who violate restraining orders are assigned bail based on flight risk
- Programs strive to cut the abuser out of the survivor's life forever

NEW STRATEGY

- Survivor has several options in addition to shelter:
 - Retaining residence (abuser is legally required to leave)
 - Moving into now housing
 - Transition from shelter into new housing
- Survivor can continue relationships and habits while in shelter; confidentiality is managed differently
- Survivor can voluntarily choose what programs and services are suited to their needs
- ► Representatives from domestic violence programs, law enforcement and the courts form task forces that meet and communicate regularly to understand an entire domestic violence case and coordinate activities
- Each case is assessed individually, based on risk factors, to identify those survivors most in danger for reoccurrence of violence so they can be given the highest priority
- Abusers deemed to be high-risk for repeat behavior wear ankle monitors so law enforcement is aware of any violation of a restraining order; arrest is mandatory
- Abusers are assigned bail based on results of behavioral hearings which assess risk to the survivor
- Continued interaction is understood to be a reality, especially when children are involved: supervised visitation and other strategies for reducing risk are used





As the child of a domestic violence survivor, I know firsthand the detrimental effects an abusive relationship can have on families.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for the children of domestic violence victims to mimic the abusive pattern in their own relationships. The cycle of abuse can be difficult to break. Many years ago, I was in a physically and emotionally abusive relationship but was too embarrassed to let anyone know.

Most people are shocked when they find out about my past, but this is precisely why domestic violence awareness is important. I had friends who didn't believe me and downplayed the violence. They saw me, a strong woman with a law degree and a pageant crown, and they just couldn't make sense of it. An abuser can have a criminal past as much as he can be a seemingly outstanding member of the community. And domestic violence can happen to anyone, regardless of socio-economic background, race, religion, age or education level.

I began my association with Doorways for Women and Families many years ago when I was a student at the College of William and Mary. My internship was an eye-opening experience and motivated me to go to law school. Today, I enjoy being an advocate and role model for how others can break the cycles of abuse and live up to their full potential.

I regret not calling the police when I should have and doubting the power of a restraining order. You should trust your instincts and not be afraid. Doorways is a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence and I encourage anyone who needs their help to reach out — they will be there for you just like they were for me.

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 703-237-0881



One of the most critical services Doorways provides at our **Domestic Violence Safehouse** and through our **24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline** is safety planning. Here are some of the important topics we discuss with those experiencing abuse:

If you know someone who is being abused, the most important thing to do is listen and let them know you are concerned for their safety. Be supportive and acknowledge that the situation is very difficult and scary. Help them recognize that the abuse is not their fault, reassure them that they are not alone and let them know that there is help and support available. What they need most is someone who will believe and listen to them. They may leave and return to the relationship many times. Be non-judgmental — they will need your support even more during those times.

PHONE SAFETY: Every cell phone can be tracked through GPS or tracking devices. Smartphones can even have apps installed that run constantly without the user's knowledge. If the survivor needs to call a hotline or another number that would raise suspicion from their abuser, they should use a public phone or borrow a phone from someone else. When they leave the relationship, it is best to remove the battery from their phone and dispose of it.

DANGER ZONES: Survivors of abuse can usually tell when their abuser is escalating the violence. At these times, it is important to stay out of the two most dangerous rooms in the house – the kitchen and the bathroom. These rooms have hard surfaces and weapons that can cause serious injury.

AN ESCAPE PLAN: Leaving is the most dangerous time in an abusive relationship. Survivors should try to pack a bag that has copies or originals of important documents for themselves and their children, and changes of clothes or personal items that they would not want to leave behind. If possible, they can keep this in a place that is easily accessible if they need to leave hurriedly but will also not draw the attention of their abuser.

CODE WORDS AND SIGNALS: If a survivor reaches the point where they are in severe danger but are not able to call 911 or escape, it is good to also have another way of reaching out. For example, someone who needs to immediately escape her home could call a supportive friend and give a code word that would signal the friend to call the police. A dish towel hung outside the window could signal to someone that the family is in distress.

WHAT DOES A COURT ADVOCATE DO?



Since its beginning in 2005, Doorways' **Court Advocacy** program has provided a much-needed service to Arlington County residents or those who have been affected by family violence within Arlington County. Based out of the Arlington County Courthouse, Iris Vega, our bilingual Court Advocate, helps survivors of violence easily access and navigate the court systems (Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and General District Court), whether they are part of another Doorways program or not.

Iris plays a critical role in Doorways' response to domestic violence. She helps survivors obtain petitions such as protective orders, child custody and child support. In criminal cases, Iris serves as a liaison to Arlington County's Victim Witness program to help survivors serve as witnesses to their own crime. And because the most lethal time for a survivor of domestic violence is when they leave their abuser, Iris ensures that each family that she serves has an extensive safety plan in place when leaving the court. These safety plans can be complex and are tailored to each family and environment, so Iris works in tandem with law enforcement and other agencies to ensure the greatest possible safety is taken.

Last year, Iris helped survivors — women and men — file 533 petitions in Arlington County Court. In addition to this direct service, Iris helps to connect families with additional supportive resources within Arlington; ensuring that not only are the client's needs met within the courthouse walls, but that each family escaping a violent home is afforded referrals to pro bono legal services, medical providers, child welfare agencies, and other nonprofit agencies.

For more information on the Court Advocacy program, please contact Iris at (703) 228-3749 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Monday - Friday.

A Court Advocate Client: Sarah

Four months ago, Sarah called Iris Vega,
Doorways' Court Advocate, for help. The night
before she called, her husband demanded that
she have sex with him in front of their 8
year-old son Richie. When she refused, the
conversation became heated and was moved
to the bedroom away from Richie. It was then
that Sarah's husband attacked her by punching
her in the face and attempting to strangle her.

Iris advised Sarah of her legal options for protection and she decided to file for a civil protective order. She also recommended that Sarah document her injuries, which included severe bruising to her face and neck.

In possible retaliation, Sarah's husband soon filed for sole custody of Richie. However, this effort failed as Sarah had already been granted physical custody in another county. In light of her visible injuries and the revelation of a long history of abuse, Sarah was granted a preliminary protective order the day she filed. A few weeks later, Sarah attended her permanent protective order hearing accompanied by Iris and an attorney from Northern Virginia Legal Services. After difficult questioning and a denial of the abusive history by her husband, Sarah was granted a permanent two-year protective order and continues to have sole physical custody of Richie.



THANK YOU TO OUR BACK TO SCHOOL SPONSORS!



With your help we were able to send all of the children we serve to school with the supplies they needed to start a great school year!

Your generosity had far-reaching impact. Thanks to you, we:

- ➤ Sent 70 children to school with new backpacks, supplies and new school clothing!
- ➤ Raised over \$4,000 to make sure each child has access to proper after school care, extracurricular activities, field trips, and medical and dental visits!
- Showed over 40 parents just how much their community supports them in their journeys to lead more safe and stable lives.

Your continued support means so much to the families we serve! Thank you for making sure every child in our program has the same opportunities as their peers to thrive and succeed!

THANK YOU TO COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, INC.

Doorways recently partnered with Community Residents, a local nonprofit serving men, women and youth with disabilities, to craft inspirational paintings for our families. The pieces were created by the adult clients in their ArtWorks program and will be permanently displayed in our **Domestic Violence**

Safehouse and Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home. We are so grateful for the beautiful depictions of family and community that radiated from their artwork!

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Doorways' amazing volunteers provided more than 2,500 hours of service from April to August 2013! They tutored children, shopped for groceries, baked cakes, provided coverage at our shelters, mulched our lawns, cooked for our clients at Dinner with Friends and so much more. Thank you to each of our volunteers for your incredible dedication to our clients.

Volunteers of the Month:

APRIL: Tara Claeys, Storage and graphic design volunteer

MAY: Fatoumata Diallo, Family Home coverage and children's program volunteer

JUNE: Laura Rickloff, Safehouse coverage volunteer

JULY: Liz Caselli-Mechael, Children's program volunteer

AUGUST: Sarah Wise, Family Home coverage volunteer

Dinner with Friends Hosts

APRIL: National Automobile Dealers Association

MAY: NV Juniors

JULY: Clark Construction

AUGUST: St. Andrews Episcopal Church

Volunteer Groups:

Thank you to the team from QED, Inc. who spread mulch at the **Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home** in April!

Thank you to the 20 Deloitte employees who cleaned and organized the **Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home** and dug out the bamboo at our **Domestic Violence**

Safehouse on ImpactDay!

Thank you to the experts from Deloitte who provided Microsoft Office training for Doorways Staff in May and July!

SPOTUDGH

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:



Arlington's Project P.E.A.C.E. – Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone – is a community-wide collaboration dedicated to improving Arlington's response to domestic violence. It brings together representatives from the faith community, County government, schools, courts, law enforcement and nonprofits to leverage resources and coordinate efforts to make Arlington a peaceful place to live, work and play.

The committees that make up Project P.E.A.C.E. have many focuses, including how to reduce violence and prevent it from happening in the first place. One recent accomplishment was supporting the Arlington Public Schools in adding Safe Dates to middle and high school health classes. (Safe Dates is nationally recognized as an effective program to reduce teen dating abuse). Committee members sought out donations for training and curriculum that prepared teachers to talk to our teens about healthy and unhealthy relationships. With the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, Project P.E.A.C.E. will be gathering data to measure changes in reported unhealthy dating behaviors among teens.

In the next twelve months, Project P.E.A.C.E. plans to roll out a daylong training for professionals in violence intervention, presentations for parents on how to talk with their teens about healthy and unhealthy relationships and meetings with youth leaders from diverse faith communities.

Doorways is very proud to partner with Project P.E.A.C.E. on these initiatives, and more. If you are interested in knowing more about Project P.E.A.C.E. or would like to be part of that voice in our community that says that violence is never okay, please contact Jo Johnson, Project P.E.A.C.E. Coordinator at <code>jejohnson@arlingtonva.us</code>.



CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT:



Though Doorways has had a long, fruitful relationship with the **Boeing Employees** Community Fund for many years, we are proud to recognize The Boeing Company as one of our newest Corporate Ambassadors in 2013! The **Boeing Company**, a mainstay in the Arlington/DC area, is well known as the world's largest aerospace company, and a premier manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defense technology. We were honored to be selected this past summer as the recipient of funds from the company's Springfield office's Boeing on the Move initiative. In an effort to support the well-being of their employees, The Boeing Company incentivized its staff to "walk for a cause," donating \$100 for each employee who participated in a two mile trek around the office park complex. Thanks to an energetic group, Doorways received a donation of over \$10.000! We would like to thank The Boeing Company, as well as the individuals at Boeing who helped make this happen: Bonnie

To find out more about our Corporate

Ambassador program, contact Kerry Lombard at

703-504-9291 or

KLombard@DoorwaysVA.org.

Ewasiuk, Tom Bartlett, Michelle Sam, Abbey

Flowers, Kendra Smith and James Heiertz.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Rebecca Ault

Written by Rebecca Ault, an Executive Assistant living in Tyson's Corner.

I first came to know Doorways when it was The Arlington Community Temporary Shelter. As a member of the Junior League of Washington I regularly volunteered with my friends to plan activities and play games with the children. Then and now, I love that Doorways' approach is so holistic, providing financial training and goals, assistance, housing, counseling resources and a domestic violence hotline.

For years I have been hosting an annual Beaujolais Nouveau wine party each November. In the beginning, my friends would ask what they should bring. Thinking about the children and mothers at Doorways, I ask them to bring something off the organization's wish list. People always love giving toys, but household & family essentials are often overlooked. Each year, I am overwhelmed with diapers, household cleaning wipes, laundry soap, paper towels and other items desperately needed by the families at Doorways. This annual event is one of my favorites! Last year I asked Doorways for suggestions and we donated new pillows so each family leaving the shelter had a new pillow to take with them.

In 2010, I attended the first annual **Brighter Futures Breakfast.** While hearing the success stories I realized I was paying more for my gym membership (that I rarely used) than I was giving to Doorways. I immediately signed up for a five-year financial commitment so that families would have a safe home.

We live in the nation's capital and having people who are homeless and victims of domestic violence here shows this is a tough problem and happens everywhere. I know the results from Doorways' programs help families to break away and I think we all have a role to play in that outcome. Give to Doorways in any way you can. Make a donation, pick up a few extra essentials at the grocery store and tell your friends to bring something from the Doorways' wish list (available at DoorwaysVA.org) when you host your next event. These are easy ways to help others, take time to be thankful for all we have and enjoy our friendships.

To find out more about our in-kind donation program and needs, contact Rachel Dove at 703-504-9283 or RDove@Doorways VA.org.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS DEROSA

Written by Chris DeRosa A donor, volunteer, mother and educator

As I begin my 7th year as a Doorways volunteer, I'd like to take a moment to thank those of you have contributed to Doorways' Back to School campaign, this year and in past years. Your contributions, big and small, have brightened the lives of so many children in the Doorways' programs!

Like most of you, I remember the excitement of a new school year. The first day of school meant a new dress for school (no pants for girls in "the old days"), and brand new supplies – sharpened pencils, clean notebooks and shiny new lunch boxes (yes, in my day, they were metal lunch BOXES!). The first day of school was the beginning of a new year full of endless possibilities!

But for many of the children in Doorways' shelters and HomeStart program, the beginning of school does not promise to be fun and exciting. Many of them come to the **Safehouse** or the **Family Home** with only the clothes on their backs. Their young lives have been turned upside-down. Some have witnessed violence; a few have been hit or beaten themselves. For some, the backseat of a car or a bench in the park has been their bed at night. Most have known hunger and fear.

As a retired public school teacher, I know how important it is for children to believe in themselves. Your contributions to Doorways' Back to School campaign provide brand new backpacks, clothes, and school supplies for our children. But most importantly, you give our children the hope for a wonderful school year and the promise of a brighter future!

Thank you, thank you!

Chris De Rosa





YOUNG PHILANTHROPIST SPOTLIGHT:

Rose Goldstein

Written by Rose Goldstein, a 13-year-old philanthropist at Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington. She loves swimming, photography, singing, dancing, writing and reading.

I remember first hearing about Doorways for Women and Families at my uncle's annual fundraiser, called "Santa Jam," where musicians from the area get together to perform and raise money and collect gifts during the holiday season. Then, when I looked at the web site, I wanted to be able to reach out to the kids at Doorways, because I felt so lucky to have a home and wanted to help kids who had to give up their homes. I thought I might be able to read to them or babysit, but found out that, for privacy reasons, that would not be possible. So, I asked how I could help and learned about how to do a collection drive at the grocery store.

After sitting outside the Giant asking for donations when I was in 6th grade, I came up with the idea of asking my classmates to bring things into school when I was in 7th grade and wanted to do a "mitzvah" project as I prepared for my Bat Mitzvah. I also liked the idea of putting out brochures on healthy relationships and the idea that women deserve to be treated respectfully, because middle school is when these issues start to come up.

When my Bat Mitzvah day got closer and my parents and I were about to send out a lot of invitations, I decided that I

did not need all of the gifts that people would bring and would, instead, suggest in the invitations that people make donations to Doorways or a fund for cancer treatment and research in lieu of gifts. This really made my Bat Mitzvah (which is all about becoming a Jewish adult and following the commandments, such as giving to those in need) more meaningful.

I found that the kids and the teachers at my school and the guests at my Bat Mitzvah are very generous people and really appreciated the chance to do something to help. Plus, when I was sitting at my collection drive table at school, people came to talk to me and help. I learned that a couple of my friends' families had actually gotten help from Doorways and one of the teachers had once counseled there. It made me realize even more that Doorways is a part of our community.

I think shelters and places like Doorways are important because our community should help people who find themselves in abusive homes or homeless, and show them that we care and that there is no shame in accepting help to start fresh. That's what community is all about.







FRIENDS AND PHILANTHROPISTS





THE BRIGHTER FUTURES SOCIETY

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)

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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 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.



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THE CORPORATE AMBASSADORS

The Corporate Ambassadors program is a leadership group of businesses that work in partnership with Doorways to end homelessness and domestic violence in our community. Corporate Ambassador giving levels represent a combination of monetary contributions, pro-bono professional services, in-kind donations, matching gifts, and volunteer hours.



CORPORATE * AMBASSADORS

Platinum Level (\$50,000+)

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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 July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, excluding giving societies (recognized on pages 20-23). If you find a misspelling or omission, please contact Heather O'Malley at 703-504-9290 or Homalley@DoorwaysVA.org.

\$25,000+

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HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join us as we create pathways out of domestic violence and homelessness.



ATTEND AN EVENT! Doorways staff and volunteers will be out and about this fall. Join us, along with our wonderful partners, at one of these upcoming events:

SATURDAY, OCT 26TH: 3rd Annual "Howl-O-Ween" Dog Walk to End Homelessness & Domestic Violence

THURSDAY, NOV 7TH: Keller Williams Arlington Community Total Support 6th Annual Cocktail Reception & Fundraiser to benefit Doorways

THURSDAY, NOV 28TH: 8th Annual Arlington Turkey Trot to benefit Doorways and others, hosted by the Christ Church of Arlington

To find out more about these events visit our website at www.DoorwaysVA.org



ATTEND A BRIGHTER FUTURES TOUR! 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, November 14th, 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 12th, 6:30 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13th, 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. To sign up to attend a Volunteer Information Night, or to learn more about our volunteer program, please contact Mattie Colborn at 703-504-9284 or MColborn@DoorwaysVA.org



MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Doorways is a sound investment with \$0.83 of every dollar donated going directly to support the women, children 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 Rachel Dove at 703-504-9283 or RDove@DoorwaysVA.org

Learn more about the Caring Community at www.DoorwaysVA.org/caringcommunity



STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Administrative Office: 703-504-9400 • Domestic Violence Safehouse & Hotline: 703-237-0881 Court Advocacy & Companionship Program: 703-244-5165 • Freddie Mac Foundation Family Home: 703-907-0022

www.**DoorwaysVA**.org



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