



Carpenter's  
Shelter

# THE CORNERSTONE

930 North Henry Street • Alexandria, VA 22314

*Summer 2011*

## Carpenter's Cook-Off Raises over \$85,000



*A special thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible and our key supporters: The Melonheads, Ridgewells Caterers, and The Birchmere.*

Carpenter's Shelter's 9th Annual Cook-off was a tremendous success. Hosted at the Birchmere, more than 400 families, children, and adults came out to sample delectable food from 24 local restaurants, bid on exciting auction items, dance with the Peeps mascot and support Carpenter's mission of ending homelessness in the Northern Virginia community.

With generous contributions from guests, donors, and volunteers, the 9th Annual Cook-off raised over \$85,000.

Congratulations to The Majestic, which won the People's Choice Award with its scrumptious she crab soup! Winner of the Kids' Choice award was Bread & Chocolate and Best Dressed Award for the second year in a row with a Wizard of Oz theme was Tempo.

Another thank you to our participating restaurants whose culinary treats delighted the crowd and kept people coming back for more.

## The Shelter Gets Social

Carpenter's is now on social media! If you haven't already done so, make sure to "Like" our Carpenter's Shelter Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for the latest updates about what's going on at the shelter, any needs we may have, and homelessness in the news. We also have a YouTube page featuring videos from events like our Help the Homeless Walkathon in the Fall. One of our favorite new uses of technology is our Amazon Wish List. When a need arises at the shelter, whether it be for all residents or an individual, we add an item to the wish list. Your generosity in purchasing these items has been AMAZING. To date, we have received 114 items amounting to \$2,033.60 including several items for one of our Aftercare clients who is getting ready to attend college next Fall!

[www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org)

# Staff Changes

It's a year of new beginnings, fresh ideas and wonderful changes at Carpenter's Shelter. We are certainly growing but without the pains. The updates have been welcomed by the staff and embraced by the volunteers. Executive Director, Lissette Bishins has a unique approach and is excited to share with the community members and volunteers the exciting changes and updates around the shelter. Our organizational chart will be transformed to fit our client's needs. The reorganization will provide a more comprehensive continuum of care and is more financially efficient. Under the Residential Program we will add a senior case manager, three full-time, and two part time case managers. Two full-time staff members will run our outreach programs at David's Place. Managing our supportive services will be: Child and Family Services Coordinator, Education and Employment Service Coordinator and a Housing Resource Coordinator. We will continue to offer the same services and support to our clients, but in a more efficient manner. When a person enters the shelter the same case manager will work with them through the duration of their time at Carpenter's whether they are living here as a resident or in the community and participating in the Aftercare Program. We are thrilled to share our progress and are excited to be moving forward.

## Staff updates:

- After over 21 years of service to Carpenter's Shelter - Mary Martin announced that she will retire from her Deputy Director position on July 31st. Our programs have grown and flourished under Mary's leadership and her commitment to the organization will be sorely missed. Mary Parker Lamm will become the new Deputy Director - making the transition for staff, volunteers and clients smooth and seamless.
- Jasmine Witcher has left the shelter to explore new opportunities at another nonprofit. In June we will welcome Kelly Andreae as the new Development Director.
- Kim Myers will start graduate school at Brandeis University in the fall.
- Maureen Ford will also be attending graduate school in the fall at NYU. Alex Stevens will join us as the new Development Associate.
- Katrina Tabb will be promoted to the Senior Case Manager.



## Volunteer Spotlight : Charlotte Grzebien



Circle of HOPE, founded in 2010, came into being through the support of mothers with young children who were deeply concerned about local homelessness in Alexandria through a committed partnership with the wonderful staff, board members, other local families and individuals. Circle of HOPE members make an impact in several volunteer projects throughout the year such as the Back to School decorating.

Charlotte Grzebien, Circle of HOPE founder, has recently been recognized as a participant in the Choosing to Participate initiative. Choosing to Participate features a traveling multi-media project that engages students, community members. The goal of Choosing to Participate is to encourage people to think deeply about the importance of participating in a democratic society.

For information about joining Circle of HOPE, please contact Kelly Andreae.

# Football Dreams

Eric and his family came to Carpenter's Shelter when he was 15 years old. As the oldest of four children with a single mother, Eric helped care for his younger siblings. While Eric's presence will be missed, his family is delighted to see him leave next fall as he enters the incoming freshman class at Shenandoah University.

Eric was recently offered a scholarship and will play football at Shenandoah University. As the first member of his family to attend college, he will face even more challenges as he kicks off his freshman year. Just as he tackles his opponents on the football field, he tackles the endless obstacles that life has thrown at him. Eric plans to study computer science and hopes someday to play in the NFL. He is truly the epitome of breaking the cycle of poverty. With the help of our generous community of supporters, Eric is equipped with all the tools he needs to start his college career. Thank you to all who have rallied around Eric and shown your support for this amazing young man. The Carpenter's Shelter family is so proud of Eric and his amazing achievements, both on and off the field.



# Honoring Service



In November, we honored Alice Rogalski with the Bob Douglas Award for Service. This award honors the unsung heroes at Carpenter's Shelter, who fulfill a critical on-going responsibility with consistency, humility, and dedication. Alice has volunteered with Carpenter's Shelter for over four years and has provided over 600 hours of service to the Shelter. Alice volunteers with Carpenter's most vulnerable population at David's Place and the Hypothermia Shelter.

In April, we added four names to the Wall of Honor. This award is special because it recognizes longstanding volunteers who constantly provide exceptional service to make the Shelter run more efficiently. Bruce McCarthy exudes happiness and warmth, making Carpenter's Shelter more like a home for those who live here. Doug Miller has been unfailing in his commitment to the chronically homeless population served by the Winter Shelter and serves every Wednesday at the front desk. Tim Lank serves on the IT Committee. He troubleshoots our internet, server, and thoughtfully devises strategies to update and improve our systems.

Also added to the wall of honor posthumously, was founder and President of PCI Communications, Sam Del Brocco. PCI Communications has had a wonderful partnership with Carpenter's Shelter for three years. The staff of Carpenter's Shelter was saddened by the loss of such a dedicated volunteer. His service to Carpenter's Shelter will be remembered for years to come.

We truly value the dedication of all our volunteers and are humbled by their continuing service to the Shelter.

of founder Charlotte Grzebien and other Alexandria melessness. They wanted to make a difference in ard, and volunteers of Carpenter's Shelter as well as annual contribution of \$250 and also agree to participate hool Drive, Thanksgiving preparation, and Christmas tree

ed as a Community Upstander as part of the Choosing media exhibition and provides resources for educators ourage young people and adults around the world to think

ae, (703) 548-7500 x203

Friends:

It's been a whirlwind year at Carpenter's Shelter. So many memorable events to tell... the stories of client successes, the amazing volunteers that come year after year to help us deliver critical services and the generous donors and partners that help break the cycle of homelessness for so many.

**With the support of the community...**

- Carpenter's sent 11 kids went to camp last summer, for many first time opportunity.
- 92 School age children "shopped" for backpacks and school supplies.
- Our holidays were celebrated with festive holiday meals and fabulous gifts for over 200 clients.
- Over \$20,000 was awarded in scholarships
- Dr. Rodgers received 1100 client visits to the clinic

We're gearing up for another year of making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals, children and families and continue to count on your support to do so. Come on by for a Thursday grilled cheese lunch – it's a great way to spend a part of your afternoon!

**More importantly** – I ask that you stay engaged and consider others ways you can help

- Send a child to camp this summer
- Contribute to our education fund
- Purchase an item from our Amazon Wishlist
- Host a canned food drive – our cans abound in the fall, but not so much in the summer!
- Organize a "Jean Day" at work.

**Thanks so much for your continued support.**

Best,  
Lissette S. Bishins  
Executive Director



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