



The CORNERSTONE

Spring '09

Carpenter's Shelter at the Hoffman Center for Homeless Families

930 N. Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 703-548-7500 (Phone) 703-548-3167 (Fax) www.carpentersshelter.org

7th ANNUAL CARPENTER'S COOK-OFF A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

The 7th Annual Carpenter's Cook-off was a resounding success! Record numbers of families, children and supporters, 23 participating restaurants and caring volunteers helped to raise more than \$100,000, including a special appeal to help send Carpenter's kids to summer camp.

Key supporters of this year's Cook-off included the **Freddie Mac Foundation; Mirant Mid-Atlantic, Booz Allen Hamilton; Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc.; QinetiQ North America, Mission Solutions Group; The Velsor Properties; The Melonheads; Ridgewells Caterers** and **The Birchmere**.

Participating restaurants included: **a la Lucia, Asian Bistro, The Birchmere, Bread & Chocolate, Buzz, Del Merei Grille, Evening Star, Farrah Olivia, Fireflies, Fresh Start Catering; Generous George's, Jackson 20, The Light Horse, Majestic, misha's Coffeehouse, Restaurant Eve, Southside 815, Star Catering, Stardust Restaurant & Grille, The Warehouse Bar & Grill, The Wharf, and Union Street Public House.**

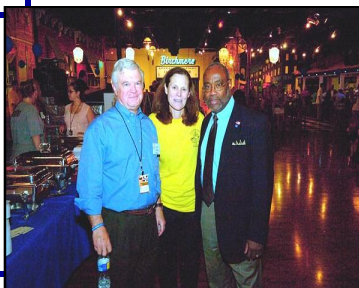
Jackson 20 won the People's Choice Award for their delicious crab balls. The Kid's Choice and Best Dressed Restaurant Awards were won by **Del Merei Grille**, whose hot dogs and outdoor camping theme complete with a tent and fishing gear was a crowd favorite.



Another highlight of the event was our interactive Kid's Corner, staffed by Freddie Mac's Rising Leaders, which featured face-painting by the talented Greta Gonzalez and balloon animals created by artist Miriam Barrow. Children enjoyed crafting and sampling before expending their energies in our dance and air guitar contest. Proceeds from Carpenter's Cook-off benefit our Transitional Services Program, which supports our families as they move back into community living.

"The Cook-off is a great community event which allows us to connect with the community in which we serve, and that frankly—serves us. Also, it is a great way to kick start the summer, the staff looks forward to it, and they even fight each other to see who gets to participate!"

Jennifer Russell, Stardust Restaurant and Lounge



Please visit us at www.carpentersshelter.org

- 2008 Annual Report
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Donate Online

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From the Desk of The Executive Director, Fran Becker

For more than 20 years, Carpenter's Shelter has relied on a community that cares to offer critical programming for our clients. Our core expertise is in understanding and addressing the complex and diverse needs of homeless families and adults.

We are not without our challenges, however. Because of current economic realities, we are developing contingency plans that might delay our strategic vision. We are seeing record requests for services, and expect that this trend will accelerate. While every program we offer serves a specific sector of the homeless population, we might have to reduce our services. **Now more than ever, we need the support of you, our partners and our volunteers, as together we hold our vision where all are entitled to safe affordable housing.**

Here's a snapshot of those we currently serve: Many of our residential shelter families are homeless for the first time. Our 80-bed residential shelter is full and we fear that we will not be able to accommodate the anticipated surge in bed requests. And, we are concerned about the growing number of formerly homeless families who are facing unforeseen circumstances and are being evicted.

To prevent these families from returning to homelessness, in March, Carpenter's Board of Directors took a proactive stance by initiating Carpenter's Homeless Intervention Program (CHIP) with \$50,000 from our reserve funds and a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation "Neighbors in Need Fund." CHIP is designed to provide temporary rental assistance and supportive case management services to families and individuals actively involved in our *Aftercare* program. Clients who have experienced job loss, illness or injury, loss of income, or foreclosure on the part of their landlord are eligible to apply. Our goal is to allow these families to maintain their permanent housing.

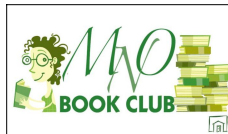
As I am finishing our FY10 budget, I am hopeful that our community support will allow our award-winning programs to continue. Please consider supporting us today! *No child deserves to be homeless.*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

For over twenty-five years, Alexandrians have been providing emergency shelter to those living on the streets during cold winter nights. Over the last decade, Carpenter's Shelter has been responsible for coordinating the City's efforts to provide warm, safe, and dry shelter during inclement weather. **Alfred Street Baptist, the Fairlington United Methodist Church Church of St. Clement, the Alexandria Community Shelter**, all open their doors to more than 300 adults and families this year. The spirit remains consistent throughout the city: when those living in Alexandria do not have somewhere to sleep on cold winter nights, community members throughout the city are reaching out to ensure that no one is left out in the cold.

To celebrate the close of another successful winter season and the service of our dedicated winter shelter volunteers, Carpenter's Shelter hosted its annual Hypothermia Breakfast at Alfred Street Baptist on April 4, 2009. Volunteers and staff from each site shared memories of social impact, human connection, and their own personal experiences. Many thanks to more than 200 night-time servants for giving of their time and energy to ensure the safety and dignity of Alexandria's chronically homeless population.

THE CORNERSTONE IS GOING GREEN! OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WILL SOON MOVE TO A BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION. WE WILL STILL PROVIDE OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ON HOW CARPENTER'S IS SERVING THE NEEDS OF ALEXANDRIA'S HOMELESS AND FORMERLY HOMELESS CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CARPENTERSHELTER.ORG TO VIEW OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS, @THESHELTER AND PEOPLE IN MOTION. OR CONTACT JASMINWITCHER@CARPENTERSHELTER.ORG TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL SUBSCRIBER LIST.



Mother's Day Cards benefit Mom's Night Out (MNO) program

Carpenter's Shelter extends a very special thank you to all who supported our Mother's Day Campaign by purchasing our Mother's Day cards. Your generous contributions benefited our "Mom's Night Out" (MNO) Program--a monthly gathering of graduated shelter moms who come together for mutual support, encouragement, and fellowship. Because of you, ten moms will enjoy dinner and "The Color Purple" at the Kennedy Center this summer.

CARPENTER'S SHELTER RECEIVES 4-STAR CHARITY RATING AGAIN

Carpenter's Shelter has received the highest rating possible from one of the most influential charity ratings groups in the nation.

Charity Navigator has awarded Carpenter's Shelter its coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management—for the fifth

Only 4% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator receive this prestigious rating for at least five consecutive years. This exceptional designation signifies that Carpenter's Shelter "consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America."



NEW STAFF ADDITIONS

SENAI BEYEN

Senai Beyen is Carpenter's new Child and Family Services Coordinator. A graduate of Old Dominion University, Senai is a former special education teacher and City parks and recreation counselor. He brings eight years experience working with disadvantaged and special needs children. In his current role, Senai coordinates all screenings and services for children and families and works to ensure that the social and emotional needs of Carpenter's children and their families are being met.



ERIN MELISSA MULL

Carpenter's Shelter welcomes Erin Melissa Mull to the team. Erin joins the staff for eight weeks this summer as our Development Assistant Intern, a position made possible through funding from the prestigious ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP) and Volunteer Fairfax. Erin will assist with planning for Carpenter's fall fundraiser, *Urban Country Night*. Erin is a rising sophomore at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia where she is pursuing a degree in Political Science.

2009 VOLUNTEER WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES RECOGNIZED

Carpenter's Shelter's existence and success reflect the service of thousands of volunteers contributing over the past two decades. Amid this great community, a small group of individuals are annually nominated for our volunteer Wall of Honor which recognizes exceptional commitment, impact and spirit dedicated to ending homelessness for children, families and individuals. These are the men and women named on our volunteer Wall of Honor.

On April 23, 2009, Carpenter's Shelter inscribed the names of six honorees on our growing Wall of Honor during a special induction ceremony and reception. The 2009 Honorees are:

- Kevin Heanue**
- Ellen Lerner and Ray Barber**
- Sue McAnneny**
- KC Moller**
- David Speck**

We extend our sincerest thanks to these individuals for their outstanding service and Commitment to Carpenter's Shelter.

CARPENTER'S TEENAGERS WIN CITY-WIDE VIDEO CONTEST



Teenagers in Carpenter's Shelter's Teens of Promise program recently premiered their prize-winning video campaign on teen pregnancy. With the help of Alexandria Community Services therapists, the teens entered their short video in a contest sponsored by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent

Pregnancy. Responsible for not only the theme, content and acting, our teens also wrote and sang the lyrics. A panel of Alexandria citizens reviewed seven entries and to the delight of our teens, they won first prize of \$500! With the winnings, they plan to purchase a much needed item for the shelter. In the words of one therapist, *"The leadership skills and participation of Carpenter's teens were awesome – and I think it was the reason they won."* The video was recently premiered at a city breakfast attended by the Mayor, and will be used in City schools in the prevention of teen pregnancy.



Wall of Honor recipients L-R: Ellen Lerner, KC Moller, Sue McAnneny, Ray Barber, David Speck, Kevin Heanue

Save the Date!

Back by Popular Demand

Saturday, September 26, 2009
Reagan National Airport, Historic Terminal A
7:00 pm—11:00 pm
For more information, contact (703) 548-7500 or
jasminwitcher@carpentersshelter.org

Carpenter's Shelter's Board of Directors

Chair: Carson Lee Fifer, Jr.

Vice Chair: Matt Sheldon

Treasurer: Tom Clark

Secretary: Jim Coakley

Board Members: Kerry Donley, Jeremy Flachs, Rita Grazda
Val Hawkins, Kim Jackson, Anthony Lowe, Peter Lunt,
Sherry Schiller, Gary Simms, David Speck,
Phil Sunderland, Carlton Willis, and Dr. Robert Wineland

Carpenter's Shelter's Staff

Executive Director: Fran Becker

Deputy Director: Mary Martin

Transitional Services Director: Mary-Parker Lamm

David's Place Director: Chris Woodard

Hypothermia Director: Larry Roberts

Director of Development & Alliances: Jasmin Witcher

Director of Volunteers: Allison Clausen

Finance Officer: Christina Perkins

Operations Manager: Kim Myers

Night Supervisor/Case Manager: Calvin Thompson

Case Managers: James Beckwith, Monte Jones

Weekend Supervisor: Carmen Sarraga

David's Place Case Manager: Michael Shields

Child & Family Services Coordinator: Senai Beyen

Aftercare Child & Family Services Coordinator: Katrina Tabb

Midnight Monitor: Michael Turner

Monitors: Terri DeRae, Ira Lindsay, Keith Long, Wesley Miller,
Harold Price, Michael Shields, Carroll Shumpert, Teresa Starr