

# AWCA Newsletter

## June 2025

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ladies, thank you all for helping make this year such a wonderful experience. A special thank you to my board who graciously managed to keep the year running so smoothly.

I am proud that we were able to raise \$25,000 to contribute to the Arlington Free Clinic Women's Center. Well done ladies!!

I look forward to next year with Peggy at the helm.

Angie



# AWCA Annual Benefit

### Benefit Proceeds

A terrific time was had by all at our May 17 annual benefit at Jen Irvin's house. The rainy weather cleared just in time for everyone to enjoy Jen's beautiful backyard, and many members went home happy after winning the special items they bid on at the Silent Auction. Most important of all, we raised \$25,000 for our beneficiary, The Arlington Free Clinic, Women's Center! See a few photos from the evening on pages 8 & 9.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Hello from Volunteer Services! We finished the year strong by supporting two incredible organizations this spring: The Arlington Career Center and The Arlington Free Clinic. In honor of Mother's Day, we collected much needed items for teen moms at The Career Center, and we created a Mother's Day gift table for the patients at AFC. Both organizations were overwhelmed by the generosity of our group!

As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank our members for all of their support to help so many incredible organizations in Arlington. In summary, these are the efforts we made to have a positive impact on our community this year:

**September:** School Drive for Arlington County's Child and Family Services Division

**November:** Coats and Cocktails Coat Drive event supporting Casa Mariflor and Clothesline for Arlington Kids; Hands-on volunteer days at Clothesline for Arlington Kids

**December:** Book Nook Collections for Arlington Public Libraries; Volunteer Lead for Arlington Foster Family Holiday Event (event set-up, staffing and clean-up in addition to donation collections); AFAC food drive collection (326 pounds of food!)

**February:** Giant gift card collection (over \$1,000!) for Women's Health at The Arlington Free Clinic

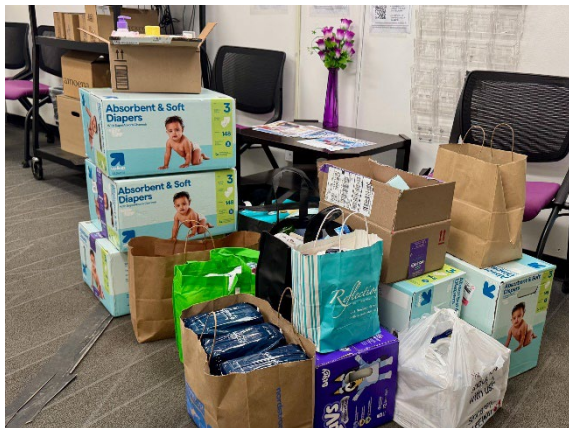
**March:** Hands-on volunteer days at Clothesline for Arlington Kids

**May:** Mother's Day table at AFC and Mother's Day item collections for the Teen Parenting Program at The Arlington Career Center

--Carrie Branon and Erin Langley



Carrie Branon, Beth Gorman (AFC Director of Development) & Sarah Trimmer with the Mother's Day Table at AFC



Items donated to the Career Center

## BOOK GROUP



Be on the lookout later this summer for an announcement of our first meeting in the fall and details about our book selection. Enjoy your summer and feel free to share any good books you are reading!

**The group is open to all members.** We are always happy to see you, even if you have not finished or read the book! And it's fine to attend only one meeting a year.

If you would like to be added to the book group email list for updates on dates and the books we'll be reading, please email Amy Reif: [aeekreif@gmail.com](mailto:aeekreif@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Please contact Carrie Branon or Erin Langley if you would like to sponsor a friend to add to our waitlist. Fall 2025 invitations will be contingent on changes in membership. We generally have openings each year, but anyone who isn't admitted this year will be carried over to next year's list.

[carriبرانon@yahoo.com](mailto:carriبرانon@yahoo.com)  
[eedemp@hotmail.com](mailto:eedemp@hotmail.com)

## 2025-2026 DUES AND BENEFIT TICKET PAYMENT

The combined 2025-2026 annual dues and benefit ticket payment of \$175 was due June 15. If you haven't already made your payment, please do so in one of these ways:

- Through our website [AWCAVA.org](http://AWCAVA.org)
- By check made out to AWCA and mailed to  
Emily Kiggen  
4401 35th St. N  
Arlington, VA 22207

## AWCA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The AWCA Scholarship Fund, administered by the Arlington Community Foundation, provides annual grants of \$2,000, up to a total of \$8,000 for four consecutive years, to women who live in Arlington or graduate from an Arlington high school, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and plan to begin their education at Northern Virginia Community College. Preference is given to first-generation college students or those who can demonstrate financial need. Renewal grants can be used at NOVA or a four-year school.

This year, we granted one scholarship. Our current balance, before the new grant, is \$39,046, with \$27,000 of that amount having been designated to cover future years for existing scholarship recipients.

Since its founding in 2008, our fund has given out over \$60,000 in scholarship aid.

## 2025 – 2026 MEETINGS

We have hostesses for all our 2025 – 2026 meetings! Our hostesses are:

**September @ Sarah Trimmer**

**December @ Kathy Seidel**

**February @ Katie Reed**

**June @ Kathleen McKenna**

Look for an email blast in September for the date of our September meeting and Sarah Trimmer's address.

## 2025 – 2026 OFFICERS

President: Peggy Richardson

Vice President/Benefit: Nicki Ferramosca & Erin Tripodi

Secretary: Katie Reed & Val Smolinski

Treasurer: Emily Kiggen

Membership: Carrie Branon & Erin Langley

Programs: Amelia Gay, Stephanie Carpenter & Angie Wilcox

Community Support: Jen Irvin & Sarah Trimmer

Volunteer Services: Ariel Blessed, Ellen Sher & Pat Silverman

Newsletter: Maureen Caughran

E-Blasts: Janis Wear & Mary Panke

Hospitality: Kathleen McKenna, Tammy Holleman & Basma Paget

Website: Kathy Mimberg & MaryLynn Haase

Parliamentarian: Angie Wilcox

## AWCA WEBSITE

[awcava.org](http://awcava.org)

**Q**uestions about the next meeting, group activity, or gala information? Wondering how or when to pay your dues? Book Club details? How to make a donation? Latest volunteer opportunities?

Check out our newly updated website!

[awcava.org](http://awcava.org) Password: goawca

You'll find all relevant and timely information on the landing page—no more searching through past emails. Follow the links for more details.

Please contact MaryLynn Haase or Kathy Mimberg if you have comments or suggestions.

MaryLynn Haase [marylynn.haase@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn.haase@gmail.com)

Kathy Mimberg [mimbergk@yahoo.com](mailto:mimbergk@yahoo.com)

## Email Blasts: Important Note

- **Make sure your email replies are received**

**Do not reply directly to the periodic AWCA email “blasts”** that announce upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities, Book Group meetings, and the like. If you hit “reply” when the sender is Arlington Women’s Civic Alliance ([arlingtonWCA@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonWCA@gmail.com)), your email will languish in an *unmonitored* AWCA account. No one will see your reply.

We use this account to *send* the email blasts, but members each use their own email addresses to *receive* email.

Instead, **reply by sending a new email to the address(es) provided** in red-highlighted text or accompanying the names of the Committee Chairs who authored the email. We don’t want anyone to misdirect and miss out!

## THANKS

**T**hanks to Carrie Branon and Erin Langley for sending in the photos in this newsletter, to Janis Wear for copyediting and proofreading, and to the following board members for their contributions to the newsletter:

Carrie Branon and Erin Langley  
Basma Paget, Tammy Holleman and Kathleen McKenna  
MaryLynn Hasse



**Have a great summer everyone!**

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June 21, 2025

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### AWCA Newsletter

Published four times a year  
Editor: Maureen Caughran  
Submissions: [AWCANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AWCANewsletter@gmail.com)

Please share your news with us, happy or sad, so that we can celebrate with you or provide support. Examples could include: a new baby, grandbaby, job change, graduation, engagement, wedding, accomplishment, award--whatever you'd like to share.

Please send your news to [AWCANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AWCANewsletter@gmail.com) and put MEMBER NEWS in the subject line.

## AWCA Volunteer Opportunities with Arlington Organizations

### Aspire! Afterschool Learning

<https://www.aspireafterschool.org/>

Aspire expands learning opportunities to help historically underserved 3rd through 8th grade students in South Arlington fulfill their potential through afterschool and summer learning programs. Aspire is committed to closing the opportunity gap and offers our programs at no cost to families.

In May 2025, as a result of funding cuts, Aspire lost its crew of AmeriCorps volunteers. The Aspire Board is working hard to ensure that no children are left behind as a result of these cuts and has received commitments from its current and former board members for a \$100,000 matching gift fund.

### Bridges2independence

[Bridges2.org](https://Bridges2.org)

Bridges operates Arlington County's emergency family shelter, known as the Sullivan House, which has approximately 45 beds across 10 separate apartment units. It is a temporary solution for those with little or no resources. While there, families receive intensive case management.

- Volunteer opportunities range from simple donations, assisting at community outreach programs, event drives, and helping at the Sullivan House food pantry – individually or as a group.

### The Clothesline for Arlington Kids

[Clotheslinearlington.org](https://Clotheslinearlington.org)

The Clothesline's mission is to collect new and clean, gently used quality clothing from the community and distribute it free of charge to low income school-aged children in a welcoming space.

There are many ways in which you can volunteer to help the Clothesline. We have tasks to help the mission including:

- Sorting and preparing clothing for display
- Working with customers in the store
- Picking up clothing from various drop-off locations
- Organizing clothing drives at neighborhood schools
- Administrative tasks for the store

### AFAC

[Afac.org](https://Afac.org)

- AFAC's [Sponsor Purchased Food \(SPF\)](#) initiative enables your group to sponsor healthy food for AFAC families and prepare that food for distribution. With SPF, volunteering, fundraising, and team-building come together to help feed our neighbors in need. Whether you're sponsoring 2,000 pounds of healthy food or 10,000, we need your team to join our team! SPF events can be scheduled on weekdays or weekends. AFAC can bring the SPF to your team or we can host your team here at our warehouse.

### Meals on Wheels

[Mealsonwheelsarlington.com](https://Mealsonwheelsarlington.com)

Meals on Wheels of Arlington, Virginia is a largely volunteer organization delivering meals to homebound residents in Arlington, Virginia. Meals are prepared by a commercial caterer, packed in individual thermal coolers, and delivered to our staging area at First Presbyterian Church in Ballston at around 11 am.

- Volunteer drivers report to the MOW dispatcher at the church and pick up their meals and route books with detailed route instructions. Meals for a week at a time, 5 fresh and 5 flash frozen, are delivered on Wednesdays. Some of our volunteer drivers are associated with churches, synagogues, civic groups, and companies which 'adopt' one or more routes and provide drivers on a regular basis.

### Path Forward

[Pfva.org](https://Pfva.org)

PathForward's mission is to transform lives by delivering housing solutions and pathways to stability. There are myriad ways to volunteer whether in-person or remotely, in groups or as an individual.

- There is a kitchen at the Homeless shelter center located adjacent to the courthouse building where you can help serve meals or drop bagged meals off. They are always collecting bed bundles, hygiene kits, food, and clothing.
- HBMP – prepare/drop off 50 bagged meals for distribution.

### **Doorways for Women and Families**

[Doorwaysva.org](http://Doorwaysva.org)

Doorways creates pathways out of homelessness, domestic violence, and sexual assault leading to safe, stable, and empowered lives. Volunteers do everything from frontline service to fundraising. Without volunteers, Doorways couldn't deliver the life-changing services and lasting results it does. Fundraising and monetary donations are great ways to assist this important organization.

- To volunteer at the shelter, a one year commitment is required as well as a mandatory 40 hour training due to the very specialized work they do.

### **The Salvation Army**

[salvationarmynca.org](http://salvationarmynca.org)

The Salvation Army serves families and people in crisis living throughout the National Capital Area of DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Whether it is a hot meal, help paying a bill, or a more long-term obstacle, the team is ready to serve anyone in need.

- The Angel Tree Program is a unique holiday assistance program that connects Sponsors with needy children "the Angel" so children can receive needed items and some special gifts at Christmas.

### **AHC (Affordable Homes and Communities)**

[ahcinc.org](http://ahcinc.org)

Founded in 1975, AHC Inc.'s mission is to produce and preserve high quality affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families in the mid-Atlantic region and to build strong futures for our residents through onsite educational programs.

- Volunteer opportunities include making snack bags and gift bags for students and seniors and then deliver to one of the AHC community centers. \* Easy and impactful. There is a sign-up genius link on the website.
- Tutoring students at various grade levels or assisting with college readiness. This would require an ongoing commitment of one hour/week for a designated period of time and would take place at one of the AHC community centers.
- Bi-monthly delivery of produce boxes.
- The website has a ton of information about volunteer opportunities available as well as information about volunteer application and training if necessary.

### **Arlington Public Schools**

[Apsva.us](http://Apsva.us)

Volunteer & Partnership opportunities include:

- Individual opportunities: reach out to a particular school to find out their volunteer needs.
- Community partnerships: resource, service, and strategic partnerships. Something AWCA may consider is "adopting a school" each year and working in partnership with the school to meet the needs through service (backpack buddy program) or financial support (amazon school wishlist). We do this now in the beginning of every year.

### **Arlington Education and Employment Program – adult ESL program volunteers**

[Reep.apsva.us](http://Reep.apsva.us)

- REEP (Arlington Education and Employment Program) volunteers have a desire to help immigrants from all cultures and backgrounds gain the tools that allow them to thrive in a new country. By sharing their everyday knowledge, volunteers make a profound difference in immigrant students' lives in America. At

the same time, volunteers gain a rare insight into a different part of their community and the chance to interact with people from a variety of countries and cultures.

- Support opportunities include donating money for school supplies directly or through the Amazon Wishlist. Easy!
- Online or community center classroom teacher, assistant teacher - 1.5 hrs/week commitment for 3 month semester.

### **AWLA (Animal Welfare League of Arlington)**

awla.org

The AWLA was founded in 1944 by volunteers and is still going strong after 75 years. Volunteers contribute valuable resources – time, knowledge, talent, skills, and leadership – that further infuse AWLA with energy and passion in service of our organizational mission: to improve the lives of animals and people.

- Volunteer opportunities include walking dogs, interacting with cats, feeding the animals, laundry, cleaning kennels, transporting animals and handling them at adoption events.
- There is a volunteer waitlist but once your location on the waitlist is reached, they will send you an email with information to sign up for a New Volunteer Orientation. Orientation spaces are offered in order of when the interest form is submitted.
- Once you attend orientation you can start volunteering! Most volunteer jobs require training. Training consists of a mix of at home videos and in-person instruction.
- There are also teen volunteer opportunities.
- Fun fact: there is a walk-in dog walking program – but call first!!

### **Lost Dog & Cat Rescue**

lostdogrescue.org

<https://www.lostdogrescue.org/volunteer/other-opportunities/#gallery-2>

(volunteer opportunity brochure link)

- Lost Dog Café opened in Arlington's Westover neighborhood in 1985. Lifelong

animal lovers, Ross & Pam, started rescuing dogs early in their business career. It began with a few dogs being rescued from local shelters. Employees at the Café were soon fielding calls from dog adopters in between orders without missing a beat; and the rescue mission became part of the Lost Dog culture. In 2009 Lost Dog Café opened a second location on Columbia Pike and soon followed with McLean (2011), Dunn Loring (2013), and Alexandria (2015). All Lost Dog Café locations are owned and operated by former employees and members of the Lost Dog Café family who are well versed and committed to carry on Ross and Pam's dedication to good food, good beer, great customer service, and a deep-rooted love for animals that embody the Lost Dog Café way.

- Volunteers are needed daily to socialize with animals, help care for them, and take them out for a dogventure. Volunteers can also transport animals to vet visits and adoption events.
- New volunteers are always welcome! A volunteer orientation teaches you about the processes and procedures for interacting with the animals at the Rescue Care Center.



