

AWCA Newsletter

June 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ladies,

Thank you all for your participation and support this year. It has been a wonderful experience to be president of such an amazing organization. Each of you contribute in a special way to make the AWCA something special!

I am excited to work with the new and returning board members for 2024-25.

Last but not least—the benefit and resulting contributions will make such an impact in our community!!

Have a great summer and see you September.

Proudly,

Angie



AWCA Annual Benefit



We raised \$35,000 for our two beneficiaries at our May 17 benefit—The Clothesline for Arlington Kids and Bridges to Independence! See two photos of the spectacular evening at Katie Reed's house on page 9.

Each beneficiary received a check for \$17,500.

Bridges will use the donation to add to their emergency fund, which aids with a variety of needs including childcare costs, clothing allowances, food, transportation, legal services, dental/vision/medical needs, car repairs, and unit repairs.



Rozetia Morris (Residential Support Specialist, Bridges), Erin Langley, Ray Bolton (Director of Development), Angie Wilcox, Sarah Trimmer





The Clothesline will use these funds to purchase high-need items for their shoppers. These items, which cannot be second-hand (clothing donations) include undergarments and footwear.



Crocs™ are an especially popular shoe choice for teens right now, so in addition to our general gift, we created a "Croc™ Pot" fund. Donations to this specific fund were for the purchase of brand-new Crocs™ for Clothesline kids and teens, and we raised nearly \$3,000!

VOLUNTEER SERVICES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Volunteer Services team would like to thank all the AWCA members who joined our group volunteer days at The Clothesline this spring. Our members helped to sort, hang, and organize clothes; and to sort shoes and accessories for low-income children in Arlington. And thank you for your

generous donations to the "Croc™-Pot." The folks at Clothesline were thrilled by this idea and know the kids will love the Croc™ selection. We look forward to our continued partnership with The Clothesline next year!

We would also like to thank everyone for bringing so many generous donations to our May 30 membership meeting to support Bridges to Independence. We collected a Suburban full of much needed items for The Sullivan House, Arlington's emergency family shelter operated by Bridges. Ray Bolton, Director of Development, came to our membership meeting and expressed his gratitude for our monetary and in-kind donations. He also talked about ways AWCA can continue to support Bridges. If you are interested in supporting this community further, here is the Senior Wish List, which helps high school seniors in Bridges' youth program as they graduate and go to college, technical schools, and into the workforce.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/LUNBQA-XZB5LI/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



May 30 meeting at Tammy Holleman's house

More Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking for more ways to become involved in our community, Christine Van Kirk pulled together a helpful reference document that summarizes the missions and volunteer opportunities for many organizations in Arlington. This is a great reference to better understand the volunteer needs of these Arlington organizations. We'll continue to review and update this document and publicize it on a regular basis. Please see pages 6 -8 at the end of this newsletter for the list.

2024 Benefit Recipients

The Clothesline for Arlington Kids

<http://www.clotheslinearlinton.org/>

With the generous donation of new and gently used clothing from Arlington residents and businesses, The Clothesline for Arlington Kids provides a welcoming, fun, retail-like environment for qualifying Arlington Public School students to select a season's worth of quality clothing – twice a year – completely free.

Bridges to Independence

<https://bridges2.org/>

Bridges to Independence provides the largest emergency shelter for families in Arlington Co. The organization also includes a Community Services Center, Rapid Rehousing program, Workforce Development program, Youth Development program and other wraparound support services. These services reach over 500 Arlington residents.

MEMBERSHIP

Please contact Nicki Ferramosca if you would like to sponsor a friend to add to our waitlist. Being invited to join in the fall of 2024 depends on changes in membership. We generally have some changes each year, but anyone who isn't admitted this year will be carried over to the beginning of next year's list.

nferramosca@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP



Our AWCA Book Group met five times this past year.

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: aekreif@gmail.com

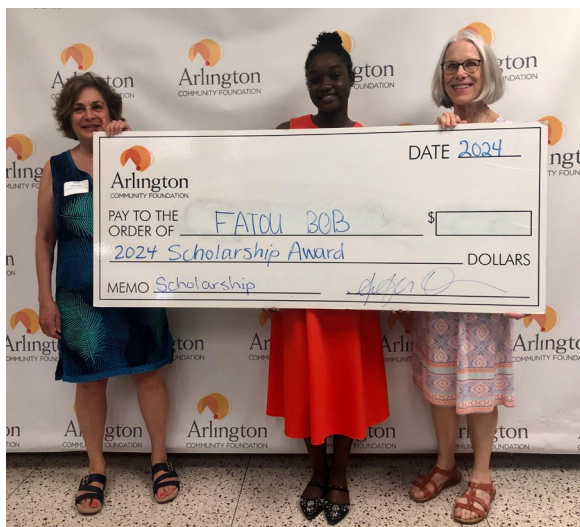
Look for our first meeting of 2024-25 sometime in the fall.

AWCA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

AWCA Scholarship Fund Grants Two New Scholarships

The AWCA Scholarship fund, administered by Arlington Community Foundation, has awarded \$2,000 grants to two 2024 Arlington graduates, Fatou Bob (Wakefield High School) and Luciana Ajhuacho Escalera (Washington-Liberty High School). Our fund provides annual grants of \$2,000, up to a total of \$8,000, for women who live in Arlington or graduate from an Arlington high school, have a 3.0 GPA, and plan to begin their education at Northern Virginia Community College, with preference for first-generation college students or those who can demonstrate financial need. Renewal grants can be used at NOVA or a four-year school.

AWCA members Diane Greenless and Candy Fowler had the pleasure of meeting Fatou Bob at the ACF scholarship reception June 4. Ms. Bob, who is originally from Senegal, hopes to pursue biomedical engineering.



Diane Greenlee, Fatou Bob, Candy Fowler

Since its founding in 2008, our fund has given out \$56,000 in scholarship aid. With this spring's two new grants, we will reach \$60,000! The fund's current balance (before deduction of the new grants) is \$46,704.75.

MEMBER NEWS

Basma Paget's daughter Sara Helwe Paget graduated from Yorktown High School in June and is headed to JMU in the fall. Go Dukes!



Kim and Rex Wackerle welcome their first grandchild, Wyndham Ryan Wackerle. "Wynn" was born May 29 at Duke University Hospital, where their daughter-in-law completed her neurosurgery residency and spine fellowship just a few weeks later. Happy times! We couldn't be more excited for Kelly and Doug and our growing family!



2024 - 2025 OFFICERS

President: Angie Wilcox

Vice Presidents/Benefit: Stephanie Carpenter
and Erin Tripodi

Secretary: Katie Reed and Valerie Smolinski

Treasurer: Emily Kiggen

Membership: Nicki Ferramosca and
Amelia Gay

Programs: Nancy Pilchen and Ellen Sher

Community Support: Kathleen McKenna and
Sarah Trimmer

Volunteer Services: Carrie Branon and
Erin Langley

Communications

Newsletter: Maureen Caughran

News Blasts: Mary Panke, Janis Wear

Hospitality: Tammy Holleman and
Basma Paget

Website: MaryLynn Haase and
Kathy Mimberg

Parliamentarian: Peggy Richardson

accompanying the names of the Committee
Chairs who authored the email. We don't want
anyone to misdirect and miss out!

THANKS

Thanks especially to Basma Paget and Carrie
Brannon for sending in the photos in this
newsletter and to the following board members
for their contributions to the newsletter:

Basma Paget and Tammy Holleman

Carrie Branon and Erin Langley

Erin Tripodi and Stephanie Carpenter

Kathleen McKenna and Sarah Trimmer

Email Blasts: Important Note

➤ Make sure your email replies count!

A reminder to all members: **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), 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

June 30, 2024

AWCA Newsletter

Published four times a year

Editor: Maureen Caughran

Submissions: 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 and put MEMBER NEWS in the subject line.

Volunteer Opportunities with Arlington Organizations

Bridges to Independence

info@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

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 you can volunteer to help the Clothesline. Tasks to support the mission include:

- 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

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

Meals on Wheels of Arlington, Virginia is a largely volunteer organization delivering meals to homebound residents in Arlington. 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 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

- 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 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

Path Forward'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

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

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 children (the “Angels”), so children can receive needed items and some special gifts at Christmas.

AHC

Affordable Homes and Communities

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 delivering them 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

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 at the beginning of every year.

Arlington Education and Employment Program

Adult ESL program volunteers

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 hours/week commitment for a 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, AWLA 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 and 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 committed to carrying 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.



Benefit! – May 17, 2024

