

Dear friends,

Thank you for giving us reasons to smile. The last few months have been painful. I know you're hurting right now, too. Homelessness can be an isolating experience, and that isolation is something that many of us now understand much better after having to stay at home during this pandemic. Luckily, you knew that our homeless neighbors needed to know that they are still part of a greater community, and you've showed up with your gifts of meals, clothes, and much more.

We had been planning to restart our newsletter earlier this year. You should get to see all that you help accomplish for your homeless neighbors and how we are using your gifts. What has always sustained us on tough days was getting to see the smile of a volunteer coming in to serve, or the smile of a shelter guest who had just received good news. Even though our faces are usually covered up nowadays, we're happy to fill our first new newsletter with some smiles with you!

With gratitude and hope,
Pam Mitchell, Executive Director

LOVE DOESN'T WAIT

Sabrina and Charles couldn't wait to start the rest of their lives together, so they got married on June 13, 2020! Though separated from friends and family due to the pandemic, the ceremony was held in a lovely park with guests joining by Zoom. We're so happy for them!

Sabrina and Charles were going to be the guest speakers at our fundraiser that we had to cancel in March. We're sad we couldn't celebrate them in person, but are happy to share a video of them telling their story of overcoming homelessness together. Congratulations!



Watch Their Story Here:
<http://bit.ly/sabrinaandcharles>



VOLUNTEERS ARE AWESOME

Debi shouted “I can do that!” when she found our new volunteer projects online in April. Within days of reaching out, she had started making sandwiches for our extra drop-in programs! She now drops off at Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing every few weeks. Debi has done even more by getting her family and friends involved donating items to create Welcome Home Baskets!



The Nichols and Minor families are just two of the dozens of families who have volunteered to make bagged lunches in the past 3 months and learn more about homelessness in their community. Not only do they get everyone in their families involved, but they’ve dropped off at multiple sites AND signed up to serve throughout the summer! Thank you!

See back cover for ways to get involved!

HELLO NEW NEIGHBORS!

Way back on February 3rd, New Hope Housing officially took over operations of the Residential Program Center (RPC) shelter in Arlington! Staff were on site at midnight to get the keys and install new staff for this 44-bed emergency homeless shelter for single adults. Only a few weeks later the coronavirus would begin to affect operations. But since then, we have met so many caring neighbors in Arlington. We’re grateful to be here and to serve more of Northern Virginia with you!



AWARD-WINNING VOLUNTEERS!

We love to shout from the rooftops how amazing you, our volunteers, are! But we were asked to stop doing that, so we nominate them for awards. This year the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards recognized two of our nominees: Washington Community Church and Keller Williams Metro Center! Both groups were amazing in 2019 but have also been very active during the pandemic, continuing to serve their communities.



Washington Community Church, selected as this year's Adult Volunteer Group, provides Thanksgiving meals, hosts their SERVE Day each year, serves at the Kennedy Shelter monthly, and so much more. Keller Williams Metro Center, selected as this year's Corporate Volunteer Group, hosts their yearly RED Day with us, raises money to take kids back to school shopping, renovates housing units, and so much more.

Visit volunteerfairfax.org to read more!



WELCOME HOME

Congratulations to Ms. D. and Mr. B. who moved from shelter to housing in Arlington on April 17! Ms. D. had been at Residential Program Shelter since late September and was thrilled to be moving into a home. Thank you to everyone who provided move-out gifts for their new apartment and to Arlington Community Foundation for their grant that helped this move out take place!





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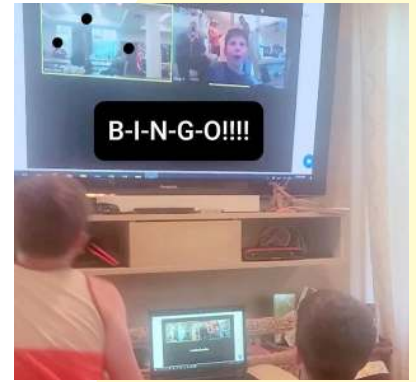


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VOLUNTEER VIRTUALLY!

Sometimes technology can be a wonderful thing! In the past few months, so many committed and caring volunteers like you have done everything they can to serve their homeless neighbors. Including volunteering virtually! Now that we've worked out some kinks, you can sign up to host a bingo game night or become a one-on-one mentor to someone in shelter. Virtual volunteers will need to complete an online training prior to service. Special thanks to Kristin Francis and her family for test-running virtual bingo and to Arlington Chamber of Commerce for helping shape our virtual mentoring program!

For more information and to get involved, contact Sami Smyth at ssmyth@newhopehousing or 703-799-2293 ext.11



GOODBYE TO OUR GOLDEN GIRL

This June, we said farewell to our Chief Program Officer and friend, Tonya Golden, after 12 years of remarkable, dedicated service to New Hope Housing. Tonya is now the Homeless Services Program Manager at the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center in Prince William County. Tonya came to us with a commitment to help others, especially people with disabilities. Tonya has given so much for our guests and been a mentor to so many staff and guests. Words cannot express our gratitude for all that Tonya has contributed to New Hope Housing and our community. Thank you, Tonya!



It's time to rethink homelessness.

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