



F o r I m m e d i a t e R e l e a s e :

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F o r M o r e

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APAH, DHS Expand Supportive Housing Partnership

Homelessness rose 10% in Arlington County between 2005 and 2007, and with the recent economic crisis, it is expected to increase further. The hardest hit and most vulnerable group in Arlington County are those whose disabilities prevent them from working or lead them to work in entry-level or lower level jobs. In a bad economy these workers are most likely to be laid off or let go. Already this has led to a major increase in the need for affordable housing in Arlington, especially supportive housing. To meet this need the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACTS) is expanding its partnership with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to bring 6 new apartments into the supportive housing partnership between APAH and DHS.

“Affordable Housing continues to be a critical need in our community,” explains Marikay Crangle, the housing coordinator for the Behavioral Healthcare Division of Arlington DHS. “Yet, this shortage affects people with disabilities disproportionately. APAH helped us pioneer Project Hope, the model for the PACT program. We’re glad we could come to them now, when we desperately need to expand the scope of supportive housing in Arlington.”

In partnership with APAH, DHS will increase the number of supportive housing units at APAH properties by six. These subsidized apartments offer rents that are scaled to be 30% of an individual’s income if they receive Section 8 vouchers, or 40% of their income if they receive an Arlington County housing grant. PACT has 11 staff members, including a doctor, nurse, substance abuse counselor, and employment counselor. Program participants receive daily visits from program staff.

“We’ve been really concerned by what we are seeing in Arlington,” says Nina Janopaul, APAH’s President/CEO, “which is why I’m so glad APAH’s size allows us to be nimble and act quickly when we see a need we can address.”

The supportive homes offered at APAH properties not only help prevent homelessness, but offer individuals with disabilities a safe platform from which to achieve greater job security, lower medical expenses, and experience greater independence. Expanding supportive housing partnerships, like this one between Arlington County and APAH, is also an opportunity for Arlington, since a 2001 study found that municipalities spend more maintaining individuals in homelessness than providing supportive housing to help them out of homelessness. The 2001 study found that municipalities spend about \$40,000/year to maintain individuals in homelessness, versus about \$17,000/year to deliver supportive housing services. APAH currently provides homes for 5 individuals with mental illness participating in the DHS Project Hope program.

This partnership with DHS is one of several supportive housing programs run through APAH properties. APAH also partners with Doorways for Women and Families and Borromeo Housing to create supportive housing.

APAH is a nonprofit that owns, develops, and preserves quality housing that is affordable to low and moderate-income families, and is the only nonprofit affordable housing developer working exclusively in Arlington County. Founded in 1989, APAH now helps 2,300 Arlingtonians live in stable, secure, and affordable homes each year. In 2008 APAH was named Developer of the

Year by the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers and Best Small Business of the Year by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on APAH and its current projects, visit www.apah.org.
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