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AHC Inc. Opens New 10,000-sq-ft Community Center at Gates of Ballston

(Arlington, VA) – AHC Inc., the largest nonprofit developer and owner of affordable housing in Northern Virginia, celebrated the opening of a new two-level, 10,000-square-foot community center at the Gates of Ballston affordable apartment complex today. More than 300 residents, community leaders and supporters attended the neighborhood event.



The new community center is a vibrant new space with numerous classrooms, meeting areas and offices, plus a colorful community room with a fireplace, plenty of seating and an open, airy kitchen. “Our goal was to provide a supportive neighborhood resource to the Gates of Ballston neighborhood, as well as a nurturing home away from home,” said AHC President and CEO Walter D. Webdale.



“We are proud of this important community asset in the Gates of Ballston,” said Barbara Favola, Arlington County Board Vice Chairman, during the dedication ceremony. “Funding services for families and children is the most important investment Arlington can make.”

Along with AHC’s numerous programs for children, teens and their families, the community center also provides space for several partner organizations, including a pre-kindergarten program managed by the Child and Family Network Centers. There are also offices and classrooms for Arlington County’s Community Outreach programs, which have been a staple in the community for years. The Buckingham and Gates Tenant Association (BU-GATA) also has an office in the building. The Gates Leasing and Property Management Office is located on the first floor.



The new community center is part of AHC's \$108 million renovation of the historic Gates of Ballston complex. Built in the 1930s, the 464-unit affordable community has been completely updated with new roofs, windows, kitchens, bathrooms, heating and cooling systems, and carpeting. The renovation has received national recognition, winning the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developer's (HAND) 2008 "Best Project Virginia" award and being named a finalist in the J. Timothy Anderson

Awards, which honors outstanding preservation design, community collaboration and historic integrity.

The Gates of Ballston is an outstanding example of a community working together to preserve affordable housing. AHC worked with Arlington County, Gates residents, and concerned citizens to save The Gates from demolition, revitalize this long-neglected community, meet residents' needs, and ensure the historic integrity of a rapidly developing neighborhood.

The building was designed by the architectural firm of Collins and Kronstadt and constructed by Harkins Builders. The interior spaces were designed by Builders Design.

Project partners included: AHC Management, Arlington County, Arlington Industrial Development Authority, 2006 Builders Ball, Builders Design, Collins & Kronstadt, Harkins Builders, NeighborWorks America, RBC Centura, RBC Capital Markets, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Wachovia Bank, and Wachovia Securities.

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AHC Inc. is a private, nonprofit developer of low- and moderate-income housing. Founded in 1975, AHC produces and preserves affordable rental housing; provides homeownership services; and offers onsite educational services to improve the quality of residents' lives.