For more than 10 years, 100% of the seniors in AHC’s education program have successfully graduated from high school. And almost all have gone to college – the first in their families to achieve that dream.

That’s just one of the ways AHC Inc.’s “Housing + Education = Success” mission is changing lives.

AHC believes affordable housing is the first step in family stability. Our extensive education and social services programs build on that foundation. We help our residents overcome obstacles, develop their potential and build successful lives.

Our Resident Services programs work because we provide programs where people live. Our services are consistent and accessible. Our staff are trusted resources.

AHC’s “Report Card” is an annual overview of Resident Services’ activities and success stories, including our K-12th grade education programs, social services initiatives, and volunteer activities.

We are deeply grateful to our many supporters, partners and volunteers for making this work possible. For those new to AHC’s programs, please join us to help build stronger communities. Together we can do so much.

2018-2019 REPORT CARD

Afterschool Program
94 students participated regularly. 90% (85/92) of the students read on grade level or made meaningful progress.

Teen Program
93 students participated regularly. 69% (53 out of 77) maintained an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. 96% (50 out of 52) met their enrichment goal.

College and Career Readiness Program
44 juniors and seniors participated in the program. All 24 seniors graduated from high school. 100% of the seniors received admission to college and are enrolled in fall classes. All are the first in their families to attend college in the U.S. Students received approximately $600,000 in scholarships and financial aid.

2018 Summer Camp
97 students participated regularly. 84% of the students maintained or improved reading skills.
Afterschool and Summer Camp Programs
Building Elementary Students’ Literacy Skills

AHC’s Afterschool and Summer Camp programs provide year-round educational and cultural activities to build elementary students’ literacy skills and self-confidence. Our Summer Camp is specifically designed to help prevent learning loss – a challenge for low-income students.

Afterschool Theme: Entrepreneurship

AHC’s Afterschool Program provides a consistent and nurturing environment for children from kindergarten through fifth grade. Students work together on projects, build reading and writing skills, develop problem solving abilities and expand their creativity. Because youth grow up in the program, they form close, long-lasting friendships that extend from home to school.

This year’s afterschool theme was Entrepreneurship. Students learned about money and saving, organized craft and bake sales to raise funds for charities and developed their own business ideas.

At Harvey Hall, students got a taste (literally) of some local entrepreneurs’ creations. AHC’s Literacy Specialist Patti Sanner created a program around the theme “How Do You Turn a Family Recipe into a Business?” Combining books about recipes and visits from restaurateurs, Sanner brought the theme to life.

Restaurateurs included Daisy Dumera, the owner of Delhi Dhaba. Daisy came from India as a teenager with the dream of using family recipes to build a business. She started Delhi Dhaba 28 years ago. Co-Founder and CEO of District Taco, Osiris Holl, inspired students with the story of how he started District Taco 10 years ago. He encouraged youth to stay in school, work hard and do what they love. Students also loved touring a local food truck, El Encanto Latino, hearing how the Guillermina family learned how to make tacos as children, and tasting their signature chicken tacos and special salsa.

Summer Camp Theme: Space

Shhhhhh. Please don’t tell our students, but the fun they have at AHC’s Summer Camp programs also helps them learn and thrive.

This year’s Summer Camp was out of this world. Working with a Space theme, students designed their own planets, created solar systems, learned about careers in space, and blasted off with theme-related spelling and sight word games.

Youth also went on multiple science and history field trips and enjoyed a variety of outdoor adventures, including the always popular weekly swimming excursions.

As part of this year’s Entrepreneurship theme, students created their own businesses, including crafts, baked goods and services.

Co-Founder and CEO of District Taco, Osiris Holl, (rear left) inspired students with the story of how he started District Taco 10 years ago and encouraged youth to stay in school, work hard and do what they love.

Summer campers turned planets into sight words as part of this year’s Space theme.
Teen Program
Learning Life Skills

AHC’s middle and high school program keeps teens engaged and helps them maximize their options after high school. The program includes one-on-one tutoring, college visits, standardized test prep, and career exploration and enrichment activities.

AHC’s Teen Program provides a supportive and skills-building format that encourages youth to become the best they can be – not just academically, but also as engaged members of the community.

Students establish individualized academic and enrichment goals in conjunction with their tutors and Resident Services staff. Enrichment goals vary from learning an instrument to volunteering once a week. This year, 50 of 52 (96%) of the participating teens met their goal.

Along with creating a college-going culture as early as sixth grade, we help teens learn about financial literacy and the variety of post-secondary pathways, including job training programs and professional opportunities.

A new strategy includes career fairs where teens talk directly with professionals in different fields.

Technology Career Night

Many of our teens are interested in technology, but don’t have any idea about the range of opportunities. To broaden their horizons, AHC hosted a Technology Career Night this summer.

Nineteen volunteers representing 12 different organizations discussed their education, career path and current job with nearly 60 AHC teens and college students. The evening was organized in a “speed networking” format to give all the youth a chance to visit with each group of professionals.

The evening was a huge success. The students learned a lot and made wonderful connections.

College and Career Readiness Program

100% High School Graduation Rate!

Our College and Career Readiness Program helps high school seniors successfully transition to their next step. The program pairs students with mentors for a full year. Highlights include a college boot camp in the summer, campus visits, career fairs, and practical workshops on life skills.

This year, 24 AHC high school seniors successfully completed the program and graduated from high school. All are the first in their families to go to college in the U.S. Many of the students have grown up in AHC’s education programs.

More than 100 proud mentors, parents and supporters celebrated their achievement at AHC’s annual Graduation Celebration in June. “I find this group so inspiring,” said keynote speaker Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey. “Even though you all want to do different things in college, there is a common theme that you want to find a way to make a difference and be a change maker in the world.”

Graduates from left to right with their college choice and future dreams: Nahom Ayele (Bucknell University, Economist), Sarish Zahid (George Mason University, Doctor), Delina Ogbe (NOVA, Medicine & Nursing), Elif Abdelmutalb (NOVA, Criminal Justice Lawyer), Anudari Oyunboli (NOVA, Music), Rozina Tigussi (Virginia Commonwealth University, Doctor), Allison Hernandez (NOVA, Medicine & Nursing), and Kevin Platero (NOVA, Mechanical Engineering).

Ayele is going to Bucknell through the POSSE Foundation and Esther Garcia is attending James Madison University thanks to the Centennial Scholars Program.

Mentors Are Key to Students’ Success

Each student in the CCR program has a mentor who works one-on-one with them during their senior year of high school. Their consistent dedication makes a world of difference. Some mentors have worked with individual students for several years through AHC’s Teen Tutoring program, and their personal connection has been a huge part of their success.

Many other volunteers, supporters and community organizations have helped our students along their journey, including Project Discovery of Virginia, Arlington County, and the Arlington Public Schools. Together, we are making dreams come true.

Students Earned $600K in Scholarships

AHC’s Class of 2019 earned approximately $600,000 in scholarships and gift aid. Two students received full-tuition scholarships. Nahom

Graduate Roger Mensah-Cooley, a participant in AHC’s education programs since fourth grade, shared how the program and volunteers have helped him overcome challenges over the years.

“Our journey ahead is going to be so awesome, but it may be rough at times. However, you can’t climb to the top of a mountain if the sides are smooth. You need those rough patches to get there. AHC and its programs were like my mountain climbing gear.”

Mentor Josh Kearns (left), who has known Roger Mensah-Cooley since 6th grade, says “It’s been a privilege to mentor Roger and watch him grow. His determination to succeed inspires me every day.” Roger is studying Mechanical Engineering at George Mason University in the fall.

College and Career Readiness Manager Milenka Coronel (left) congratulates Rochelle Andrade, who won the 2019 Arlington Community Foundation Joy Rambert AHC Scholarship. Initiated by long-time AHC supporters Roger Brown and Joanna Miller, the scholarship provides $8,000 to an AHC student over four years. Rochelle is attending Trinity Washington University to study International Relations and Cyber Security.
Volunteers are Changing Lives

We love our volunteers! Each year, hundreds of individuals generously give their time and talents to help our residents. Activities vary from working with students once a week to distributing backpacks to helping prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinners to AHC families.

15 Five-Year Volunteers
This year, as part of National Volunteer Month, AHC honored 15 individuals who have volunteered with our education programs for five years: Karen Bailey, Bruce Clarke, Rachel Cosgray, Jean Falvey, Jamie Garzia, Kathy Killion, Liz Liang, Nancy Limprecht, Nykolas Lotocky, Gail Markulin, Lisa Martin, Laurie McManus, Steven Rentz, Radha Sambasvian and Jamie Usrey.

These amazing volunteers work with students of all ages, but all share the joy of helping a child thrive. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment and the lives they are changing.

The relationship keeps growing. MasterCard’s Data and Services Department has set up several shadowing days at their workplace. After shadowing a manager, one student realized there was a job title that matched his interest in sketching products. The student was thrilled and left with contact information and a new sense of direction.

Paying it Forward
Aisha Farooq grew up in AHC’s education programs and graduated from the University of Richmond in 2017. This year she volunteered to mentor an AHC student because she believes sharing her own experience can help inspire other students. “If you don’t see people like you represented in colleges, it’s hard to picture yourself there.” Her favorite moments of mentoring are “when she explains something, and they had no idea” and it brings them closer to achieving their dreams.

Corporate Commitment
Volunteering is part of the culture in the Data and Services Department of Mastercard in Arlington. Currently eight employees participate in AHC Inc.’s Teen Tutoring Program. Four – Bruce Clarke, Liz Liang, Nyk Lotocky and Radha Sambasvian – have volunteered for five years and have formed lasting connections with the students they tutor.

Learn more about getting involved at www.ahcinc.org or email volunteer@ahcinc.org!
Social Services Team Promotes Housing Stability

Housing plays a fundamental role in the well-being of families. A stable place to live is the first step for success in employment, education, health and social/emotional development.

AHC’s multi-faceted Social Services team provides onsite services and access to local resources to help residents maintain housing stability. Wrap-around services and programming include Financial Capability (including Eviction Prevention), Health & Wellness and Community Building/Engagement.

Eviction Prevention Program

For many low-income families, just one set back can be disastrous. Whether it’s a major challenge like a job loss or a temporary issue like a car breakdown, families who are just making ends meet can find themselves unable to pay their bills. That’s when AHC’s Social Services team can make a difference.

Working with Arlington County and other local organizations, we can help families find the emergency assistance to tide them over. At the same time, we try to stabilize families for the long-term through tools such as financial literacy classes. Facilitated by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the six-week Money Smarts Pay program teaches individuals how to improve budgeting, saving, and financial planning skills.

The intensive one-on-one coaching and residents’ persistence is working. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Social Services staff prevented eviction for 79 families and connected an additional 51 families to housing resources.

Health and Wellness

Studies increasingly show a strong correlation between housing and health. Helping residents develop healthy lifestyles can improve their overall quality of life and long-term success. AHC’s Health & Wellness efforts include nutrition education, exercise classes and aging in place initiatives.

Working with a variety of community partners, we regularly provide health screenings, chronic disease management, cooking demonstrations and workshops on healthy eating and grocery shopping on a budget. We also work with Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and the Capital Area Food Bank to provide food to almost 1,200 children and adults.

Community Building/Engagement

Our Social Services staff members are also working with AHC Management to build community at our properties and help residents feel connected.

Programs include onsite community education events, workshops and health fairs with local partners such as Capital Bike Share and the Arlington County Department of Health and Human Services.

Annual Resident Appreciation and events also bolster community connections.
AHC Greater Baltimore (AHC-GB) has a robust Resident Services program that provides tools to help residents build stronger futures for themselves and their children.

**Financial Capability**
AHC-GB has been offering Financial Capability programming onsite at four of our Baltimore apartment communities for more than 10 years. “Dollars and Sense” builds long-term stability through one-on-one counseling, access to innovative technology practices, and help establishing mainstream banking. Since its inception, residents of all ages have significantly improved their financial situations and built more stable lives.

The program has been deemed a model program by NeighborWorks America, a network of 240 of the nation’s community-based housing organizations. NeighborWorks plans to replicate the program nationally in 2020.

**Building Community**
Building community is a top priority for AHC-GB’s Resident Services.

At Greenspring Overlook, local partnerships have helped the center become a home away from home for both children and adults.

Local nonprofit Catherine’s Family Youth Services hosts a thriving afterschool program for 25 children that includes a nurturing environment, field trips, learning about national events such as Black History Month and special bonding activities like a “glam sleepover.”

At MonteVerde Apartments, which is primarily for senior citizens, Resident Services provides a host of activities, including Art with a Heart creative classes, health visits, holiday gatherings and nutritional food workshops.

**Empowering Women**
AHC-GB’s Women’s Empowerment Conference has established itself as an annual opportunity for women ages 18 to 65 to build their self-confidence and learn about resources. This year’s theme, “The Butterfly Effect: She’s Stronger Than They Believed” is based on the premise that a very small change can create a significantly different outcome.

More than 25 women attended this year’s inspiring event. From line dancing to motivational speakers the conference inspired attendees to connect, create a plan, and build a network for a better life. “We wanted to encourage people to embrace the idea that we have the power to overcome obstacles,” said Tiffany Smith, AHC-GB Resident Services Assistant Director.

Greenspring Overlook students participated in special activities and presentations to celebrate Black History Month.

Social Work Intern Nitara Mickey conducted health and financial capability surveys to give staff a broader perspective on residents’ needs to help shape our programming.
Founded in 1975 in Arlington, VA, AHC Inc. is a nonprofit developer of low- and moderate-income housing.

Today, AHC builds and preserves affordable rental housing in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC.

The organization also offers onsite educational and social services to improve the quality of residents’ lives.

Programs provide access to community resources and year-round educational initiatives, including Afterschool Program, Teen Tutoring, College and Career Readiness, and Summer Camp.

All 24 AHC grads are college bound!

Celebrating 15 five-year volunteers.

Stay connected! Keep up with the latest information on affordable housing and resident services. Follow AHC on Facebook at AHC Affordable Housing, Twitter at AHC Inc and Instagram at AHC_Inc

Send a child to school with a full backpack.
Visit www.ahcinc.org/donate/ to donate today. $21 = 1 backpack.

Summar camp fun.