

Building Community & Partnerships During COVID-19



AHC partnered with community groups, businesses, and local governments to distribute food at 17 AHC properties.

As a nonprofit affordable housing developer, AHC Inc. is on the frontline of helping thousands of struggling individuals, seniors and families stay afloat during the pandemic. Thanks to deep roots in the community, new and long-time partnerships, and a deeply committed Resident Services team, we have helped 3,000 families access relief funds, put food on their tables, and stay connected.

Accessing \$1.2 million in relief funds

Since the pandemic began, our Resident Services team has pivoted to help residents navigate the complicated process of accessing critical resources to pay for essential needs, such as food, medicine, and rent. The one-on-one strategy has paid off. To date, our team has helped residents access \$1.2 million in relief funds.

The aid is helping reduce some of the extraordinary stress our families are experiencing. To also help residents' peace of mind, AHC

Management paused evictions and late fees early in the pandemic.

So far, we've connected about 750 households to emergency relief resources. Each application requires eight to 10 hours of help from our staff. Many residents would be challenged to complete the process without our help. And thanks to generous community partners

like the Arlington Community Foundation and AHC donors, at least 500 more households have received assistance through gift cards.

Providing thousands of meals

As the pandemic took hold, food rapidly became a critical concern for many of our residents, with need increasing 30 percent to 50 percent. Our Resident Services team quickly increased our number of food distribution sites from six to 17.

We distributed food in multiple ways, from fresh Farmers Market produce to packaged restaurant meals and grocery gift cards. We are grateful to the many diverse partners who stepped in to help, including local restaurants, large organizations like Amazon, community groups like Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, and the many volunteers from organizations like Arlington Community Corps who added invaluable helping hands.

Keeping residents connected

A more hidden cost of the pandemic has been the emotional and social toll on our residents – particularly on seniors who are vulnerable to isolation and illness. Our Resident Services team is exploring new methods to stay connected with



Partners like Central Baltimore Partnership are providing laptops, cell phones and tablets to help residents stay connected.

older residents, including virtual art and cooking classes, and a partnership with AARP that connects seniors to smart speakers. "Helping connect people through technology can be life changing," said Haley Mixson, Resident Services Assistant Director.

About AHC Inc.

Founded in 1975 in Arlington, VA, AHC 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.

To learn more about AHC's activities and to keep up with our latest news, please check out the "What's New" section on our website (www.ahcinc.org) and follow us on Twitter @AHCInc., Facebook @AHC Affordable Housing, Instagram @AHC_Inc and Linked In @AHC Inc.

Resident Services

College and Career Readiness Expands to 50 Students

AHC's College and Career Readiness program, which focuses on helping high school juniors and seniors successfully navigate the journey from high school to college, continues to grow. This year's crop of students includes 30 high school seniors and 20 juniors – the biggest class yet. Each student is paired with a mentor who helps with academics, college essays, and financial applications.

This year's seniors are completing college applications. We're excited to announce four of our students are in the running for prestigious POSSE and Questbridge scholarship programs. Both programs offer full college scholarships for high-achieving students. Fingers crossed!

Along with one-on-one mentoring, the CCR program also



CCR's Dream Team Gabriela Segovia, Milenka Coronel, and Intern Brandon Noguera are all first-generation college students who are passionate about helping high school students achieve their dreams.

provides monthly workshops that expose students to a variety of career paths and opportunities. A recent workshop included Capital One's Black Tech Affinity Group. "It was great that all the presenters were people of color. Students said it meant a lot to hear from people who looked like them," said Milenka Coronel, Senior College and Career Readiness Manager.

One-On-One Relationships Keep Volunteers Coming Back

Volunteers are the "secret sauce" to AHC's education programs. Each year, about 400 caring individuals volunteer with our education programs. Many return year after year. "Our volunteers love the

connections they develop with our students," says Laura Jackson, Resident Services Volunteer Coordinator. "And because our youth grow up in our programs, volunteers see first-hand how they are helping students along their education journey."

For more information on volunteering, please contact laura.jackson@ahcinc.org or call 703-486-0626 x 1107.



Volunteers are our "secret sauce" and we are grateful to so many who volunteer year after year.

Education Programs Pivot to Virtual Learning

AHC's education programs are built on the one-on-one relationships staff and volunteers nurture with students. The pandemic has turned our traditional model upside down. In response, AHC's Resident Services team have become experts in virtual teaching and engagement.

Starting in September, volunteers participated in training sessions on how to help with homework virtually, share books, and use Zoom break out rooms to create more meaningful interactions. Staff is also battling "virtual fatigue" by creating more arts and crafts projects and lessons around our empowerment theme along with getting students up and moving through scavenger hunts they can do from home, yoga classes, stretches and deep breathing exercises.



Harvey Hall students pick up supplies and books they earned during Summer Camp reading challenges.

Staff has also realized that maintaining a community – even if it's virtual – is critical. "Many of our students' villages have been dismantled," says Melanie Ficke, Resident Services Assistant Director. "Ensuring children continue to see caring, familiar adults regularly is really helpful and reassuring."

AHC In Action



Board member Wanda Pierce, left, and NPR's Ally Schweitzer

Annual Meeting: Housing and Hope

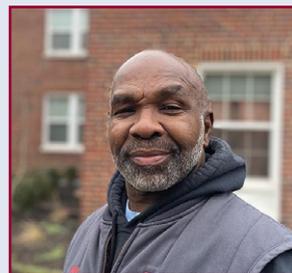
Nearly 200 supporters, volunteers and partners attended AHC's virtual Annual Meeting in mid-October. The meeting highlighted the resiliency of our residents, the outpouring of community support, and the generosity of our neighbors. And, as AHC's Board Chair Justin Oliver said, "The meeting provided an opportunity to spark our collective energy to work together to provide housing and hope in our communities."

One of the highlights of the program was a discussion of local housing trends with NPR's Ally Schweitzer and AHC Board member Wanda Pierce.

To watch the program, visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/AHCMeeting>.

Front-Line Heroes

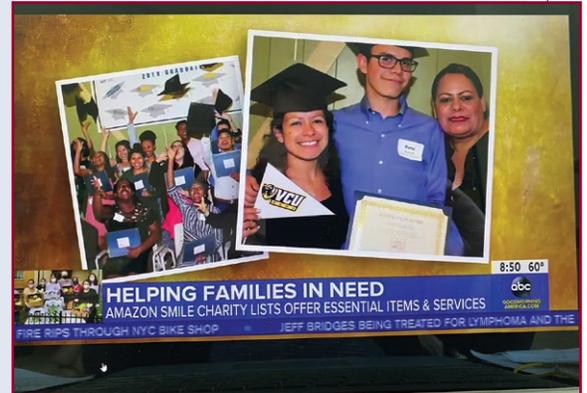
Hats off to our AHC Management staff, who are working diligently to keep our apartment communities running smoothly throughout the pandemic. Our maintenance staff, leasing professionals and community managers are front-line heroes who, while wearing PPE and maintaining social distance, continue to make sure our residents are securely housed. As Keith Thames, Service Manager, who has worked at Colonial Village West in Arlington, VA, for seven years, said, "We are here for you, and we go through this together."



Keith Thames has been a part of the Colonial Village West management team since 2013.

AHC Featured on GMA!

AHC's Resident Services program recently received national recognition on Good Morning America. Monica Burgos-Flores discussed her family's experience as AHC residents. A participant in AHC's education program, Monica recently graduated from The College of William and Mary. Both her siblings are currently AHC students. "Programs like AHC have changed my life and changed my family's life, too," said Monica. During the spot, Amazon surprised us with a generous \$25,000 gift to our program and also fulfilled our education program's Wish List! We are very grateful. Visit <http://bit.ly/AHCGMA> to watch the clip.



AHC Promotes Civic Engagement

This fall, AHC partnered with local governments and non-partisan organizations to encourage residents to participate in the Census and to register to vote. We distributed information to all residents and also placed signage at our properties. Thanks to the local NAACP, more than 100 residents registered to vote at affordable housing properties in Arlington.



When you support AHC families, you help communities thrive. Please give today to neighbors who need us most.

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www.AHCinc.org/donate

MAIL
AHC Inc., 2230 N Fairfax Dr.,
Ste 100, Arlington, VA 22201

TRIBUTE GIFT
Honor the memory of a loved one or celebrate a friend's special day by making a gift in their name.

STOCKS/SECURITIES
Donate stocks or bonds, or transfer a mutual fund or IRA distribution to AHC. Please consult with your financial planner.

Questions?
annie.sweeney@AHCinc.org



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Multifamily Development

AHC Partners with Habitat on New Montgomery County Project

AHC, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, and Interfaith Works are working together to build nearly 200 new affordable homes on a six-acre parcel in Silver Spring. The project won unanimous approval at a Council committee meeting in October.

Located at the corner of Bushey Drive and Randolph Road, the site originally included Montgomery County offices. The development will provide a wide range of living opportunities, including family-size apartments, homes for incomes from 30% AMI to 70% AMI, and homeownership options for low-income families.



AHC, Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith Works are partnering with Montgomery County to create 200 new affordable homes in Silver Spring.

A half-acre park serves as the centerpiece of the development plan and will provide ample opportunities for residents to exercise and socialize outdoors. The team anticipates breaking ground in early 2022.

The Apex - Largest Solar Installation on a Multifamily Residential Building in Northern Virginia

AHC “Flipped the Switch” on 342 solar panels at The Apex, a new 256-unit affordable apartment community on the banks of Four Mile Run in Arlington, VA. The 130 KW installation is the largest solar panel array on a multifamily building in Northern Virginia. The event took place during AHC’s Annual Meeting in October.

The project is a partnership with Arlington County. Along with providing technical assistance, the County allocated up to \$20.6 million in loan funds from the County’s Affordable Housing Investment Fund to help construct the apartment community.

The Apex solar array will generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 11 single-family homes over the course of a year. The electricity generated is used to offset common area energy usage, cutting down on greenhouse emissions. This means the lights, elevators, fitness equipment, and electricity to the apartment community’s leasing office will all be powered by solar energy.

The Apex also includes a variety of other energy efficient features, earning the property an EarthCraft Gold designation. Read more at <http://www.ahcinc.org/flip-the-switch/>.



The Spire and adjacent ECR worship space are taking shape in Alexandria.

The Spire Takes Shape

Despite the pandemic, The Spire continues to take shape in Alexandria, VA. AHC’s construction management team is working closely with Harkins Builders to provide safety protocols to protect workers from COVID-19. The efforts are working – the project is continuing to make progress and will welcome 113 families next Spring.

Some of The Spire’s amenities will include a community room, landscaped terrace for residents, underground parking, Energy Star-certified kitchen appliances, and individually controlled HVAC systems.

Our partner, The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection (ECR), is also excited to see their new church coming to life. The adjacent building includes a soaring and bright worship space.

HomeFront is published by AHC Inc.
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