As we wind down this challenging year, AHC is re-doubling our efforts to not only provide affordable and welcoming homes, but also to partner with our residents to help our community thrive. To do so, we are focusing on ensuring housing stability, boosting resident engagement, and strengthening community partnerships – critical ingredients to providing more housing and hope.

Navigating nearly $10 million in rental assistance

To date, our Resident Services (and property management) teams have worked side-by-side to access $9.8 million in much-needed rental assistance. This was only possible through tremendous diligence and commitment to building trusting relationships with our residents. Together, our team and residents navigated evolving government rules and multi-step processes to secure continued housing. Throughout the process, the resilience of residents and our staff has been nothing short of inspiring.

Amplifying resident voices

We are broadening our commitment to building strong and diverse communities by lifting resident voices. In October, our Board of Directors added six new members, including two residents of AHC apartment communities. A joint CEO/Board Community Engagement initiative is underway to further strengthen our partnerships with residents. This month, we will welcome a dedicated staff member to coordinate community engagement across AHC, ensuring resident and community perspectives will inform strategic decision-making throughout the entire organization, from communications to real estate development and property management.

Strengthening community

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that our community is stronger when we work together. Because AHC provides services where people live, we have a unique opportunity to build deep partnerships with local organizations and trusted relationships with our residents. Throughout the pandemic we have worked with partners and hundreds of volunteers to bring vaccinations, healthy food, and emergency resources right to people’s homes – overcoming obstacles for residents and strengthening our communities.

This fall, we helped nearly 1,500 youth start school fully prepared with stuffed backpacks. Recently, we hosted a Community Cares fair that brought vaccinations, pet exams, food resources, and more to residents’ front yard.

We are continuing to adapt to new and changing needs, from providing housing for Afghan refugees to hosting financial education programs to help residents recover from the pandemic’s repercussions.

About AHC Inc.

Founded in 1975, AHC develops affordable housing and helps communities thrive in the Northern Virginia, Washington DC and Baltimore region. We provide a wide array of educational programs and social services in our community centers to help residents build more stable and successful lives.

Learn more at www.ahcinc.org.
We are delighted to welcome six new Board members to our leadership. Elected at our Annual Meeting this fall, these outstanding individuals bring together diverse voices and lived experiences, including current AHC residents, housing professionals, community leaders, and youth advocates.

The six new members join previously elected leaders David Barsky, Ginger Brown, C.C. Jenkins, Justin Oliver, Wanda Pierce, and Terron Sims, II. Retiring Board members include Bob Bushkoff, Catherine Saadat, and Rachael Schroeder. We deeply appreciate your commitment to AHC and our community. New Board members are:

Katharine Dixon is the President & CEO of Rebuilding Together DC • Alexandria, a mission-driven organization that creates healthy neighborhoods for residents in Washington, DC and Alexandria, Virginia. A graduate of Loyola College, Katharine lives in DC.

Thomas Klanderman is a partner with Venable LLC who practices commercial real estate law. A long-time Northern Virginia resident, he previously served on AHC’s Board for 12 years in the early 2000s and again between 2015 and 2018. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Andargachew Legesse Wolde is self-employed and, with his wife and two children, has lived at an AHC apartment community in Arlington, VA for four years. In Ethiopia, he was a Finance and Accounting Manager. Andargachew graduated from the University of Delhi in Accounting.

Mildred Mack has lived at an AHC apartment community in Silver Spring, MD since 2010. Before retiring, Mildred was a case manager at Covenant House, an international organization providing housing and support services to young people in need. She received a Master’s in Education.

Jessica Majano-Arriaza is the bilingual Youth Development Program Coordinator at Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, which empowers teen girls to achieve their goals. Jessica grew up in Arlington and earned a Master’s in Public Administration from Louisiana State University.

Tedi Osias served as Senior Policy Adviser (for land use and housing issues) to Montgomery County Council members and as the Housing Opportunities Commission’s director of legislative and public affairs. A DC native, Tedi holds a Master’s in Public Administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.
**College and Career Readiness: Making Dreams Come True**

AHC’s College and Career Readiness program, celebrating its five-year anniversary, is helping make dreams come true. Established in 2016, the program helps students navigate the transition from high school to college or career. To date, 100% of the 127 participants have graduated from high school. Nearly all have gone to college as first-generation students.

As the students begin to graduate from college and establish their careers, their hard work and determination is paying off.

**Jasmine Connor** is well on her way to achieving her dream of becoming a preschool teacher. She is completing both her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education (k-3) and a Master’s program in Special Education at George Mason University, while also working on getting licensed as a teacher, likely graduating in 2023. She credits the CCR program for helping her successfully make the transition from high school to college. “I wouldn’t have known how to find scholarships and grants or how to advocate for myself without CCR’s mentors and tutors,” said Jasmine.

**Kevin Platero** is graduating from Northern Virginia Community College this December. His next step: George Mason University to earn a Mechanical Engineering degree. Kevin joined AHC’s Afterschool program in elementary school and says the experience helped him become the first in his family to go to college. “I can’t thank the program enough,” said Kevin. “It’s really helped me grow and guided me in all the right places – not only to continue my education, but also how to overcome challenges like financial barriers.” As he continues his education, Kevin’s next goal is a mechanical engineering internship.

**Michelle Salinas** graduated in May from Liberty University and is already thinking about applying to graduate school for either a Master’s in Public Health or Nursing. This fall, she is beginning an internship with the Virginia Department of Public Health, working with their WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. The first in her family to go to college, Michelle credits the CCR program for helping her develop an interest in helping others. “I want to give back; to help others like I was helped,” she said. She’s already putting her experience to good use by encouraging her younger brother who is a junior in the CCR program.

**Afterschool Program: Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies**

AHC’s Afterschool program is in full swing. This year’s theme is Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies. As students continue to adjust to the impact of the pandemic, we are creating a balance of educational and fun activities to recognize the social emotional needs of our children as well as their academic needs. Programs are focusing on building literacy skills AND enjoying fall events like Halloween.

Students had fun celebrating Halloween together!
Re-imagining Affordable Living Opportunities

Serving residents well means building and maintaining stable roofs overhead. Despite the economic fallout from the pandemic, we are moving forward on innovative and cutting-edge projects around the region – creating homes in places where affordability is most challenging.

Imagination and innovation are hallmarks of our current projects as we work with government and corporate partners to bring affordable housing to life throughout Virginia, Maryland, and DC.

District of Columbia

Waterfront Station, an exciting $170 million, 450-unit, mixed-income, mixed-use new development in Southwest DC, is now underway. Fully one-third of the new homes will be deeply affordable and serve households earning between 30% and 50% of the area median income. The project also includes an onsite daycare, black box theater, and retail. Located next to the Waterfront Metro, the project is a joint venture of AHC Inc., Hoffman, CityPartners, and Paramount.

Montgomery County

Another exciting new mixed-income project on the drawing board is on Randolph Road in Silver Spring. This redevelopment of County-owned land is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith Works. The new community will have nearly 200 affordable homes, including both rental and homeownership, at various incomes. We break ground in early 2022.

Arlington County

In Arlington County, we are also re-imagining an existing AHC property. Now under construction, The Terraces at Arlington View, is transforming an aging AHC apartment building into 77 new homes. This property will welcome residents in 2023 and feature free WiFi and solar panels.

Baltimore

Working with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and the Michaels Organization, we are redeveloping the large Poe Homes public housing site into a mixed-income, pedestrian-friendly community. The project is completely re-imagining a neighborhood and turning 288 apartments in disrepair into a revitalized community with 600 new homes. We expect to break ground in 2023.

The Apex Wins Building Sustainability Award

The Apex was honored to win the Building Sustainability Award for Multifamily New Construction Project of the Year. The award recognizes the region’s leaders in high-performance construction with a focus on initiatives that represent the future of sustainable building. Viridiant, one of the largest regional green building programs in the country, announced the award winners in September.

AHC is very proud to have developed this sustainable EarthCraft Gold property, which includes a variety of energy efficient features, including the largest solar panel installation on any multifamily apartment community in Northern Virginia. The Apex includes 256 affordable apartments in Arlington, VA.