

## AHC Inc. Honors Outstanding 2012 Volunteers

Arlington, VA (October 23, 2012) -- AHC Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing developer, announced its first-ever Volunteer of the Year awards at the organization's Annual Meeting. The awards recognize dedicated volunteers in each of the organization's three educational programs – the After-School program for elementary students, the Teen Tutoring program for middle and high school students, and AHC's Summer Camp, which helps prevent learning loss over the summer for elementary students.



“We truly couldn’t accomplish all we do without our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Each school year nearly 200 people help with our programs. Their energy, one-on-one attention, and commitment make a huge difference to the 170 children we serve on a daily and weekly basis. We stand in awe of all these wonderful people who collectively spend thousands of hours each year helping our children and teens work hard, dream big, and achieve success in school and life,” said Jennifer Endo, AHC’s Resident Services Director.

AHC’s Volunteers of the Year include:

### **Bernard Piper – After-School Program Volunteer of the Year**

Mr. Piper has helped the elementary-aged children in AHC’s daily After-School program at the Gates of Ballston for more than 3 years. He began as a volunteer during homework time, but then noticed there was a specific need with which he could help – some of the kids were struggling with math. He then decided to stay an extra half hour each week to focus on math. He created fun games that helped improve the young people’s math skills and perhaps even more importantly, helped them really enjoy math. He has created a culture that makes math fun for the students, and clearly wants each one of the students to succeed. Mr. Piper is a resident of Arlington and works for the federal government.

### **Stephen Peacock – Teen Tutoring Program Volunteer of the Year**

Mr. Peacock joined AHC’s Teen Tutoring program at The Berkeley last year. He worked closely and made a big difference with a student who joined our tutoring program mid-year and was in need of a lot of academic support and guidance. He was very patient with the student and, with his strong support, helped the teen improve from a first-semester Grade Point Average of 1.83 (a D+) to a final GPA of 3.0 (a B). His reliability, positive attitude and flexibility are inspiring. Mr. Peacock works for ExxonMobil in Fairfax.

### **Maria Garcia – Summer Camp Volunteer of the Year**

Ms. Garcia, an 11th grader who lives in one of AHC’s apartment communities, has been a participant in AHC’s Teen Program since 2007. She started volunteering with AHC’s Summer Camp in 2009 and every year she takes on more and more responsibility. This year she took on a leadership role with other teen volunteers for the first time—modeling how to guide behavior in a gentle way, when to assist staff, and most importantly, how to have fun with the kids and build strong relationships with them.

Photo: AHC’s Volunteers of the Year include Bernard Piper (left), After-School Volunteer, Maria Garcia (center), Summer Camp Volunteer, and Stephen Peacock (right), Teen Tutoring Program.