

## AHC Inc. Celebrates Resident Services 20th Anniversary and Honors Volunteers of the Year

Arlington, VA (October 31, 2013) – AHC Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing developer, celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Resident Services educational program and honored four Volunteers of the Year at its recent Annual Meeting.



“Twenty years ago, we had a simple idea – why not use an empty apartment as a place for children to gather,” explained Walter D. Webdale, AHC’s President & CEO. “Since then, the program has evolved into a

comprehensive, year-round program that benefits hundreds of children each year. We are so proud that 100% of the students in our program graduate from high school and many go on to college.”

The Resident Services program depends a great deal on dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers. “Each school year, nearly 200 people help with the After-School, Teen Tutoring or Summer Camp programs,” says Jennifer Endo, Resident Services Director. “We couldn’t do what we do without our volunteers, and are so grateful for their help. Their energy and commitment make a huge difference to the children.”

This year’s Volunteers of the Year are an inspiring group. Collectively, they have spent 24 years working with the smallest of AHC’s students all the way up to the oldest teens. This year’s honorees are:

### **Joanna Miller and Roger Brown**

Joanna Miller and Roger Brown, long-time Arlington residents, are AHC’s longest-serving tutors and have mentored dozens of teens. In one family, they tutored three siblings in a row who all went to college. Two have already graduated and are working toward medical careers. Roger and Joanna have been so moved by the efforts of our teens to achieve academically despite the financial, cultural and linguistic obstacles they face, that they have just set up an annual college scholarship at the Arlington Community Foundation, restricted to a graduating high school senior from AHC’s Resident Services program.

### **Alison Sheahan**

Alison Sheahan has volunteered with AHC for 10 years and has worked with all ages, from toddlers to teens. For the last five years, Alison has read to youngsters at Fort Henry Gardens every week and also helps with homework. An elementary teacher, Alison loves helping children learn. She also enjoys giving back to the community. “I love being part of the greater Arlington community,” says Alison. “I am happy to

do all I can to strengthen such a vibrant and interesting place by offering some support to my less economically fortunate and no less important neighbors.”

**Michelle Wright**

Michelle Wright is starting her fourth year of volunteering with the teen program and has worked with one student for nearly three years. Last year, she helped him significantly improve his grades and he ended up with a final GPA of 3.0. One of her most rewarding experiences was when he got a good grade on a test they had studied for together and she could see how proud and excited he was about his accomplishment. Ms. Wright works as a dental hygienist at Arlington Dental Center.

**Photo Caption:** AHC Inc.'s Volunteers of the Year are (from left to right): Roger Brown, Joanna Miller, Michelle Wright and Alison Sheahan.