We are a community-based non-profit that provides supplemental groceries to our Arlington neighbors in need.

Our Vision

We are the community leader in providing and promoting dignified access to nutritious food for all Arlingtonians in need. Now over 23 years after its founding, the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) remains dedicated to its simple but critical mission of obtaining and distributing groceries, directly and free of charge, to people living in Arlington who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs.

While hunger might not seem to be an issue in a wealthy county like Arlington, the high cost of living here, combined with our current economic situation, means that many families struggle to make ends meet. Supplemental groceries from AFAC mean that families can remain in their homes, workers can stay on the job, children are ready to learn, and mothers and babies have the nutrition they need. We help relieve the food budgets of our clients, thereby allowing them to make other necessary purchases without sacrificing their health and nutritional needs.

Families need a referral to get food from AFAC. Referrals can come from an Arlington County government agency or one of many local churches, schools or social service agencies.

AFAC serves as an effective partner in Arlington’s comprehensive social service delivery system. If local social workers identify a need for food with their clients, they can easily make a referral to us. This system ensures that our clients are eligible, and that all their needs are being assessed and addressed.

AFAC operates according to the Choice Model. This means that we try to provide as much choice as possible in the foods that a family can take away from AFAC. The Choice Model has been proven to reduce waste, as families are more likely to eat foods they choose to take home. We allow choices between 1% milk and 2% milk. In addition, we are seriously committed to distributing as much nutritious food as possible, including fresh produce whenever it is available. Our shelves are filled with a variety of baked goods, breads, meats, canned goods, and other items from which to choose. We buy meats, milk, eggs and other fresh items, so that families, especially mothers and babies, can get the nutrition they need.
In 2009, the Plot Against Hunger brought more than 268,000 pounds of fresh produce to AFAC. The Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET), the Columbia Pike, Courthouse and Crystal City farmers’ markets, the USDA Experimental Station, and plots at churches, community gardens, schools and individual homes all contributed to this impressive total. With a full schedule of gleaning opportunities during the course of the summer, our poundage from MAGNET was phenomenal. The Plot Against Hunger greatly contributed to our ability to communicate with volunteers and donors and highlighted school participation in gardening.

This past year, the Plot Against Hunger continued to explore ways to obtain fresh produce by expanding our farmers’ market and gleaning initiatives. By adding new farmers’ markets to our produce pick-ups and bringing on a volunteer to schedule and organize gleanings throughout the growing season, we took full advantage of the abundance of fresh produce from these sources.

AFAC also continued to work with schools and community gardens, churches and individuals to increase the number of plots providing fresh produce for our clients.

Other initiatives associated with the Plot Against Hunger included identifying nutritional education opportunities for our clients, offering recipes for using some of the produce we receive and offering tastings of those recipes to clients when they came in to collect their groceries.

Another initiative was the collaborative display garden that was prepared at Arlington’s Central Library located on N. Quincy Street. In late March and April, volunteers removed a thick cover of liriope groundcover and began planting a vegetable garden that featured a dozen crops, including corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, tomatillas, eggplants, potatoes, herbs and flowers to illustrate the potential of growing food in an urban environment. At the library garden, AFAC not only hopes to grow some of its own produce, but to also inspire both old and new local gardeners.

To participate in this fun and rewarding project or to find out more information, visit our web page at www.plotagainsthunger.afac.org or call Puwen Lee at (703) 845-8486.
Greetings from Board of Directors Chair

Dear Supporters,

Since taking the reins as board chair from Sue Covucci, I have been impressed by all the hard work and dedication of the many people that make the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) work. Without the efforts of our tireless staff, amazing volunteers and generous donors, the work that AFAC does in addressing the issue of hunger in Arlington simply could not happen.

In its almost 23-year history, AFAC has not seen the demand for its services that it is now facing during this economic downturn. The number of families referred to AFAC in FY2010 continued to grow. In November 2009, we served the largest number of families ever: 1,524, made up of 4,446 individuals, including 1,702 children under the age of 18 and more than 300 seniors living on a fixed income.

You may have heard of the extraordinary demands placed on food pantries around the nation, with food stocks for the needy at their lowest. Many pantries have stopped serving or have waiting lists for their services. Thankfully AFAC has not had to turn anyone away or stop serving - a record that we take pride in.

That record is due to the continued generosity of all those who collect food from their home pantries; who give to a neighborhood food drive; the businesses that put a food collection bin in their lobby; the congregations that collect food to help the less fortunate, regardless of their denomination; and the many students in Arlington schools who plant gardens for our Plot Against Hunger Program, or collect food from their classmate. A steady outpouring of donations also pay the bills to purchase much-needed eggs, milk and chicken, essentials that are part of the healthy diet we offer our families.

Although the work here at AFAC does not seem to end, our Board of Directors, staff, supporters and volunteers remain committed to our mission of serving the very needy in our community. AFAC must also thank Arlington County for their generous support of our food programs and their commitment to a strong social safety net during these difficult times.

I want to personally thank you for the support that has made AFAC successful in 2010, and for all your help in 2011 as we continue to address the needs of our many families.

Sincerely,

John Murphy
Chair, Board of Directors

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear AFAC Friends,

As the new Executive Director of AFAC, I have been amazed at the generosity of the many individuals, congregations, schools, businesses and organizations that give of their time, their money and their support through food drives. Their generosity is demonstrated here in this Annual Report. I want to add my personal thanks to each and everyone who has supported the work of AFAC in the last year. Without your help, the many, many families who rely on us would have no place to turn for their much needed food staples.

While our client numbers have increased, your generosity has allowed us to keep pace with demand and extend our services to several under-served populations in our community. This is reflected in the budget approved by our Board of Directors when they authorized four new important programs for FY2011. The first is an effort to serve all of the low-income senior living facilities in the County. At the start of the year, we opened two new distribution sites: Clagette House and Hunter’s Park in the Cherrydale neighborhood. If all goes as planned, we will extend our services to the two remaining low-income senior living facilities in the County: Calpepper Garden and Woodland Hills.

The second new program, started with a pilot program at Drew Model School that provides food for homeless children enrolled in the school who do not have sufficient food resources during weekend and long holiday breaks. The food AFAC provides is used to fill backpacks which are given to students on Friday afternoons and returned on Monday, renewing the process over again. Most recently, the program has been extended to include all of the public elementary schools in Arlington.

Under the third new program, AFAC has on staff a nutritionist and is seeking (and, when necessary, purchasing) more nutritious items including low-sodium and low-sugar foods. We are also striving to increase the supply of healthy fresh produce through our Plot Against Hunger program and building better relationships with suppliers who can donate fresh produce.

Finally, AFAC is supporting a number of other non-profits throughout the County that are in need of low cost food supplies. We are now providing microwavable meals for the clients of Arlington Street Peoples Network (A-SPAN) and Shirlington Education & Employment Center (SEEC), who do not have access to kitchens. We are also supporting the Arlington Assembly of God’s evening meal program, which serves over 100 individuals, 5 nights a week, and the Ballston United Methodist Church and their breakfast for the homeless program.

It is through your giving that all of this is possible. Again, thank you for your generosity and your continued support in the coming year. Together… Serving Hope, One Person at a Time.

Sincerely,

Charles Meng
Executive Director
Volunteer Services/Food Drives

AFAC’s many volunteers contributed 25,748 hours of volunteer service to AFAC in FY2010, which is a savings of $500,000 in staffing costs that we can use to feed our Arlington neighbors. Warehouse and distribution volunteers assist clients with checking in and picking out food, help ensure AFAC maintains food safety standards, and bag canned foods, fresh produce, chicken, rice, beans and oatmeal. Office volunteers ensure client families are entered properly into AFAC’s walls, volunteers help communicate with volunteers and donors about how to serve clients when local power was out and streets were covered in snow multiple days in a row. We are grateful for the many businesses, and gleaners pick fresh produce from area farms for our clients. Many volunteers host food drives and fundraisers, like car washes, lemonade stands, and 5K races for AFAC throughout the year. What a joy it was to celebrate the dedication of our volunteers in June 2010 at our Annual Volunteer Picnic. We are especially appreciative of the 86 teens who brought a fun spirit to our warehouse during the summer months, as they sorted fresh produce donations, cheerfully assisted clients, and helped with office tasks.

In 2009, AFAC’s Plot Against Hunger program brought more than 268,000 pounds of fresh produce to AFAC. The Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET), the Columbia Pike, Courthouse and Crystal City Farmers Markets, the USDA Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, and gardeners at community gardens, local schools, churches and individual homes all contributed. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church organized a full schedule of gleaning opportunities for AFAC during the summer and the poundage brought in from MAGNET was substantial. A new website www.plotagainsthunger.afac.org contributed greatly to our ability to communicate with volunteers and donors and highlighted school participation in vegetable gardening for our clients. Church and local business groups have volunteered with AFAC by “sponsoring a load” of sweet potatoes, cabbage, or other produce through MAGNET, from which they purchase fresh produce and helped sort and bag the produce for distribution to our client families.

A collaborative garden at the Arlington Central Library was started in the spring of 2010. Volunteers from AFAC and other organizations transformed a 400-square-foot raised bed of ground cover into a lush and productive vegetable garden. The library garden was formally dedicated on June 30, 2010. Garden talks were held throughout the summer to encourage all Arlington residents to grow vegetables in their own backyards. It will continue to be a demonstration/teaching garden for the community.

“Snowmaggedon 2009-2010” introduced a new challenge to AFAC about how to serve clients when local power was out and streets were covered in snow multiple days in a row. We are grateful for our faithful volunteers who struggled through snowy streets to reach AFAC and to ensure our client families received the food they need, and to those volunteers who came in extra hours to help fill in for others.

As 63.5% of food AFAC distributes is donated, we are grateful for the many schools, churches, businesses, and neighborhoods that hold food drives for AFAC. Parents, teachers, and students at area schools are important supporters of AFAC. Students conduct food drives and volunteer year-round. Schools such as Williamsburg Middle School held a “Have a Heart Food Drive” for Valentine’s Day 2010, which they purchase fresh produce and other produce through MAGNET, from which they donate, we are grateful for the many businesses, and apartment and condo complexes who held Holiday Food Drives for AFAC throughout the winter months. From July 2009-June 2010, volunteers contributed the equivalent of 12 full-time staff hours to AFAC. We are grateful and appreciative of all the ways they ensured AFAC was able to serve our Arlington neighbors who were in need of food assistance.

In May, The Arlington Letter Carriers hosted their annual food drive, in which 19,376 pounds of food were collected, sorted, and brought to AFAC by the Boy Scouts. In April 2010, The American Institute of Architects, the Northern Virginia Chapter, sponsored their annual CANSTRUCTION competition, in which area architectural firms built creative sculptures out of cans (all cans donated to AFAC) at Ballston Common Mall.

We have many community partners who hold food drives for us. In November 2009, Arlington Boy Scouts held one of the largest ever food drives for AFAC. In 2009, 45,236 pounds of food were collected, sorted, and brought to AFAC by the Boy Scouts. In April 2010, The American Institute of Architects, the Northern Virginia Chapter, sponsored their annual CANSTRUCTION competition, in which area architectural firms built creative sculptures out of cans (all cans donated to AFAC) at Ballston Common Mall.

For more information on the volunteer department and food drives, please visit us at www.afac.org or contact volunteer@afac.org.
The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) recognizes this need, and is working harder than ever to address it. During FY2010 (July, 2009 – June, 2010) the demand for food assistance increased by 14% – with 62,836 total visits by clients served compared to 54,004 visits the prior year. We were able to respond to the ever growing need, distributing 2.34 million pounds of food to our clients.

AFAC saw a record 1,524 families visit our food distribution sites during the third week in November 2009, and as we progressed into the colder months the weekly average count was over 1,350 for three of the four weeks in January 2010. This spike is more than average our weekly figure of 1,208. Currently, AFAC is serving about 3,400 individuals – 2,200 adults and 1,300 children – each week.

Children make up 38% of individuals served at AFAC. In an effort to meet the nutritional needs of children during non-school hours, AFAC plans to launch a pilot Back Pack Program with Drew Model School later next year. Through this program, eight children are given backpacks filled with non-perishable food that can be used to meet their weekend nutritional needs. We plan to expand the program to include other Arlington County schools ensuring that children, our most vulnerable and in need clients, have a place at the table.

As our client numbers continue to rise, AFAC remains dedicated to fighting the food insecurity faced by so many Arlingtonians. Working closely with public schools, elderly housing facilities, churches, and other agencies in Arlington’s social service network, we continue to serve our clients in a manner and setting most attuned to their needs.

Over the next year, we will focus on expanding client services in four core areas:

- Providing more nutritious options for clients;
- Reaching more of Arlington’s elderly population;
- Supplying more fresh produce year-round;
- Providing more food for large families.

After all…it’s FOOD, humanity’s most basic need.

Food Donors

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<td>Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School</td>
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“You do a simply fantastic, marvelous job of helping always.”

Donor Listing

GIFTS OF $150,000 OR MORE
Arlington County Department of Management and Finance
United Way of the National Capital Area

GIFTS OF $25,000 OR MORE
Anonymous
Clark-Winchee Foundation
Philip L. Graham Fund
Washington Forrest Foundation

GIFTS OF $20,000 OR MORE
Arlington Community Foundation
David & Ann Broder

GIFTS OF $15,000 OR MORE
Anonymous
George & Sue Covucci
Anonymous
The Community Foundation for The National Capital Region

GIFTS OF $10,000 OR MORE
Ada and Albert Wibel Foundation
Arlington Forest United Methodist Church
Church World Services, Inc.

GIFTS OF $5,000 OR MORE
Arlington Church of the Brethren
Barbara D. & Mark Allen Davis
Bart & Associates, Inc.
Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
Cassandra Hanley
Christ Church of Arlington
Delany, Siegel, Zorn and Associates, Inc.
Douglas & Daisy Layman
Gary & Janice Long
Glen & Geraldine Ferguson
Grant Aldonas & Pamela Olson
Jan Montgomery & Christopher Jennings
Jennifer & Miguel Monteverde, Jr.
Kathleen A. Daley
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
McCarthy Associates
Meals on Wheels of Northern Virginia, Inc.
Melanie Nathanson & Jack Jackman
Merle C. & Frederick H. Schneider
Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
Northern Virginia Community Foundation
Paul & Marissa Robinson
Robert Griffin
Seekers Church
Ted & Lynn Leonis
The Hal & Ruth Launders Charitable Trust
Thomas & Sherry Mahoney
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
Whole Foods

GIFTS OF $2,500 OR MORE
Arlington County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Arlington Young Democrats
Bill & Carol King
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Boston Foundation
Cherrydale United Methodist Church
Church of the Covenant Presbyterian Church
Claude & Nancy Kerner
Federated Department Stores Foundation
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Janet M. Storilla M.D. & Andrew T. Karron
John & Patricia Hall
Maria Monteverde & Jonathan B. Jackson
Mark & Joan Parris
Mark D. Sobel
Meltzer Carroll Life Group
Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning
Paul & Diane Begala
Paul & Storm, LLC
Paul F. Gallant
Ruth R. Boysworth
Samuel & Jessie Napolitano
Schwab Charitable Fund
Stephen & Lynnette Hughes
Stephanie & Rachel Schroeder
Suzanne Simon
The Geary-O’Hara Family Foundation
The Kiwanis Foundation of Arlington, Inc.
Thomas & Cynthia Riesenber
Virginia Geoffroy & John Andelin
Washington Workplatz
William R. Loichon

GIFTS OF $1,000 OR MORE
Alan & Kim Deutsch
Alison A. & Loren L. Denton
America’s Charities
Amerigroup Charitable Foundation
Amy B. Connelly
Amy Hansen & Walter Schmidt
Andrew Singer
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anthony Finocchiaro
Anthony Vejarano Dresden
Arlington Host Lions Charities, Inc.
Arlington Lodge # 58
Arlington Presbyterian Church
Arthur & Kristina Santy
Bean, Kinney & Korman
Bernard & Helen Hengen
Beth Burrous & Kevin Barr
Bradford & Diane Smith, Jr.
Branch Banking & Trust Company (BB&T)
Braun & Sheila Svoboda
Brian Langdon
Bridget Meyer
Bryan & Marguerite Tomasek
Calloway United Methodist Church
Calvert Social Investment Foundation

Thank you!
FISCAL YEAR 2010 EXPENSES:
$3,810,446

Program Services (Food Distribution) 92%
Fundraising 5%
Management & General 3%

FISCAL YEAR 2010 REVENUES:
$4,326,639

Interest & Dividends 0.2%
Rental Income 1%
Gifts in Kind 0.1%
Food Donations 52%

Annual Fund Donations 28%
Permanent Home Campaign 7%
Private Grants 4%
County Grants 8%

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Client Feedback

Our distribution volunteers often share feedback they hear from clients regarding food choices and also observations of what clients take or leave behind. During late fall/early winter 2009, we noticed clients often returning canned goods. In order to systematically gather feedback from our clients, AFAC conducted two client surveys in FY2010 (January and May). The January survey was focused on finding out what clients’ needs and wants were and how better to serve them. The May 2010 survey was focused on gathering information to inform AFAC’s expansion of services.

The January 2010 survey results showed that clients were most interested in receiving fresh fruits and vegetables and often left canned goods behind because they personally did not like certain items or were looking for more variety. Many clients noted the need for more low-sodium, low-fat items, especially those with diabetes and high-blood pressure. Since that time, AFAC has partnered with more farmers markets and area farms for gleaning and donations of fresh produce, has purchased more variety in canned goods, and has encouraged low-sodium, low-fat items in food drives. One of AFAC’s clients stated that, “This program is an excellent help and a necessity. God thanks you for these products.”

We were also hearing that clients often wanted to take hot dogs instead of chicken because they said a package of eight hot dogs could feed more people in their family than one pound of chicken. “Hot dogs go a longer way and can stretch out more for a family rather than chicken.” It is actually more cost-effective for AFAC to purchase more chicken than hot dogs and chicken is a healthier source of protein, without excess sodium and preservatives. Therefore, AFAC has funneled dollars into purchasing more chicken and increased the amount of chicken by 2-4 pieces per client, depending on family size.

As 65% of food distributed is donated to us, there is often great variety on our shelves, which offers our clients greater choices. At the same time, many clients often do not recognize items, nor do they know how to use them. One client said: "It would be good to have recipes next to things that (they) don’t know how to cook." In 2010, AFAC volunteers started a pilot “cooking demonstration” program, in which volunteers chose produce from the warehouse (i.e., sweet potatoes) and prepared simple recipes for clients to taste in the waiting room during distribution. This program has been a great success and has continued through a grant from the Universalist Unitarian Church of Arlington.

AFAC conducted another survey in May 2010, primarily to determine whether AFAC should expand services, and if so, what time, date and area of Arlington was best for our clients. The survey results showed that 54% of our clients reside in the 22204 zip code, and approximately 70% of clients prefer picking up their food at AFAC’S Nelson Street location (headquarters) in the morning hours. The majority of clients either drive or take the bus to pick up their food, and 55% of clients noted they would like a new location for food pick-up that was less crowded. “Should open another place because sometimes it is too crowded.” Clients specifically noted areas of Arlington they would like to see AFAC (i.e., neighborhoods, intersections, buildings, etc.). Their information helped direct our attention to areas of town and groups we could partner with in expanding services. Since this survey, AFAC has been able to expand services to clients who live in low-income senior residences, partnered with Trinity Episcopal Church, and made changes at current sites to improve the flow of services.

Overall, clients are very appreciative of AFAC services: "I appreciate being able to get some assistance from AFAC. "Everyone is nice and respectful here. Thank you!" “Very satisfied; AFAC is doing good things for the community.” “Big help, especially for elderly. Very grateful.”

Both surveys were voluntary and AFAC will continue to conduct such surveys to help improve client services.

How You Can Help Address Hunger Here In Arlington

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is the largest food pantry in Arlington County. The Center provides supplemental groceries to Arlingtonians who cannot afford to purchase all the food they need. For some, it’s easy to think that hunger is not a problem in Arlington, but our high cost of living, coupled with current economic conditions, mean that many families struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis.

Supplemental groceries from AFAC allow families to remain in their homes, workers to stay on the job, children to have the nutrition necessary to be ready to learn, and mothers and babies to receive the nutrition that they need. There are many ways that you can help AFAC help feed our neighbors in need. It is our pledge and commitment to you that we will respectfully use your gift for the purpose for which it was given.

Because AFAC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, most gifts qualify for a tax deduction. With your support, we can address the issues of hunger here in Arlington.

MAIL your check, payable to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, to the following address:
Arlington Food Assistance Center • P.O. Box 6261 • Arlington, VA 22206-0261

BY PHONE using your VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, or DISCOVER, to (703) 845-8486.

ONLINE visit our secure website at www.afac.org or www.helpfillinthegap.org and charge your gift using your credit card.

MONTHLY AUTO-DEDUCTIONS authorize the Arlington Food Assistance Center to debit your bank account or charge your credit card each month for a specified amount. You can stop at any time.

GIFTS OF FINANCIAL SECURITIES AND REAL ESTATE donate stocks, bonds, or real property. When you give a gift of real property, stocks or bonds, you may claim an income tax charitable deduction based on full market value of the gift, avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated value, and eliminate certain costs associated with the transfer of real property.

PLANNED GIVING is an important way for you to financially plan today to make a substantial gift to AFAC, either now or in the future. Typical planned gifts include bequests, trusts, and gifts of life insurance. You may designate AFAC as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your estate.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS matching gifts from your employer can expand the impact of your contribution. To find out if your company or your spouse’s company offers a matching gift program, contact your company’s human resources department for the necessary forms. After you complete the required information, please return the form to our Development Department, or send it with your contribution.

TRIBUTE/MEMORIAL GIFTS you can make a donation in honor or in memory of a family member, friend, an individual, or in recognition of a special occasion. A memorial gift express what words alone cannot and provides important support for AFAC. AFAC will notify the person or family being acknowledged without mention of the gift amount.

AFAC is approved for participation in the COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN. Federal, military, and postal employees may designate their payroll deduction contribution by marking 19265 on their CFC pledge card.

Designate: Arlington Food Assistance Center
CFC# 19265
United Way # 8354

Besides your financial support, your individual talents and professional associations can be enormously useful to AFAC. Whether you are interested in assuming a leadership role in your community or helping out at our offices/warehouse, your support is welcomed!

For more information on the programs above, contact our Director of Development, Donald Coates at (703) 845-8486 or via e-mail at donald.coates@afac.org.

Your gift in any form is greatly appreciated!
AFAC’s Permanent Home Campaign

AFAC’s Permanent Home Campaign (PHC) continues to make steady progress towards its goal of $1 million. In hand are generous gifts and pledges of $723,000. George Covucci, chair of the Campaign, noted, “With a successful Benefit Reception in June 2010 for the Permanent Home Campaign ($95,000 net) and the Annual Fundraiser hosted by Keller Williams in November 2009 ($39,000), as well as many of AFAC’s new and old friends who have stepped up to help with the Permanent Home Campaign, we feel we are in the home stretch for our Permanent Home. We all care deeply about alleviating hunger in our Community, and reaching our $1 million goal will mean additional resources for the expansion of AFAC’s services to the hungry in our community.”