



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Newsletter from Community Lodgings: February 2009

GREETINGS FROM COMMUNITY LODGINGS

We are pleased to welcome **Gwathmey Memorial Trust** and the **Boeing Employees Community Fund** as the newest supporters of Community Lodgings! We are sincerely grateful for all of our supporters. It is through your help that we are able to do such amazing work.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

George Washington Middle School's 7th grade Patriots team held its second quarter awards program on February 17th. Among the 20 students honored were **four children enrolled in Community Lodgings Youth Education Program**. Congratulations to Gerson Pena, Carlisha Green, Wylmer Diaz and Kevin Cruz for such a wonderful accomplishment!

On February 18th, George Mason Elementary School held The Winter Music Concert Night. **Nine children from our after-school program attended the concert with their families** to watch peers from the program perform in both the orchestra and the band. The kids performed in front of a packed house of parents, teachers and Family Learning Center staff. A special thanks to our Family Learning Center Assistant Director Ana Rodriguez for taking these youth and their families to the awards ceremony and to the concert!

Along with Ana, our **Learning Center staff members Katrina Kernodle-Walsh and Yasmin Ventura accompanied all parents of our youth program participants to parent-teacher conferences**. Not only did our staff interpret for parents and teachers, but they were able to learn more about our children's performance in school. By creating a dialogue between parents and teachers, our staff teaches our parents how to advocate for the children.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Since November 2008, **four families have been saved from foreclosure** by our bilingual certified housing counselor Karina Wiggs. Karina contacted the mortgage lender and renegotiated loan structures to interest levels that made their payments manageable. Each of these families is now able to stay in their house.



This year's Wine Tasting was a resounding success. Supporters such as members of the DC-based women's organization The Madison made the event truly special. Here, they take a moment to pose for a picture with Community Lodgings' Board of Directors.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM UPDATE

Last week, we welcomed Kristen Green as our new Transitional Housing Program case manager. She and Mark Sossa have been hard at work to help our clients achieve the following:

- All THP clients have begun the "Understanding Money and Credit" financial curriculum and are making progress in their monthly budget management and payments on outstanding debt
- Three clients enrolled either in full-time or part-time undergraduate degree programs
- Two Transitional Housing clients acquired full-time jobs in their career fields with Mark's assistance
- Two clients successfully completed the program and are renting apartments independently

SUPPORT COMMUNITY LODGINGS AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 17 2009

*Fundraiser at Los Tios sponsored by
Alexandria Women's Giving Circle*

Sunday, March 22 2009

*Designer Sounds concert at Trinity UMC
Free-will offerings to benefit CLI*

Friday, April 24 2009

*The 4th Annual Spring Forward Gala
Hosted by LORIEN hotel & spa*