



## Community Lodgings, Inc.

*"Opening Doors to Independence Since 1987"*

### **Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation Awards Community Lodgings \$7,500 to Support Homeless and Low-Income Children**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Dempsey  
Direct: (703) 549-4407  
jdempsey@communitylodgings.org

ALEXANDRIA, VA / October 23, 2009 – Community Lodgings has received \$7,500 from The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation to fund our afterschool and summer Youth Education Programs (YEP) for at-risk children. Since 2006, Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation – formerly Wachovia Foundation – has been an indispensable supporter of our children, donating \$35,000 to support our programs. All youth programs are held at the Fifer Family Learning Center, our community-based education facility and they serve 78 children per day. Each child receives an average of 400 hours a year of individualized educational and social-emotional support. It is this commitment that helps our children succeed; in fact, 97% of our kids passed all four core academic subjects in the past academic year.

To further achieve Community Lodgings' mission to lift families from homelessness and instability, we reach out to the next generation through youth programs designed to increase academic achievement and decrease at-risk behavior. Though the Family Learning Center focuses first on the 14 homeless families enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program, we also enroll disadvantaged children from throughout the Arlandria community. Most participants are from low-income, predominately Latino families with an average size of 4.3 and average income of \$19,700 – 25% of Alexandria's median household income according to Forbes Magazine.<sup>1</sup> The afterschool and summer programs benefit our young people by keeping them off the street and away from the heavy gang influence in the neighborhood. In addition, their parents rely on staff as a ready resource for school and parenting issues and participate in the monthly parenting information classes we provide. Our bilingual staff works extensively with parents in the community, teaching them how to advocate for their kids; this is important in an area where most parents do not speak English.

#### **About Community Lodgings:**

In 1987, Community Lodgings was founded by eight Alexandria churches with a mission to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency. We serve the Arlandria community through our Transitional Housing Program and Youth Education Programs held at the Fifer Family Learning Center. Over 250 lives are touched per week by Community Lodgings' services which include – but are not limited to – subsidized housing, intensive counseling, education workshops, and emergency support. For more information please visit [www.communitylodgings.org](http://www.communitylodgings.org)

###

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.forbes.com/2008/01/31/housing-pricey-suburbs-forbeslife-cx\\_mw\\_0131realestate\\_slide\\_9.html?thisSpeed=15000](http://www.forbes.com/2008/01/31/housing-pricey-suburbs-forbeslife-cx_mw_0131realestate_slide_9.html?thisSpeed=15000)