



WHDC staff members set out for a Help the Homeless mini-walk at Lake Accotink Park. Vinny Pham and Cheryl Phipps of WHDC sport Help the Homeless T-shirts.

gloves, and socks for students of Plummer Elementary School in Washington, D.C. Special thanks to St. Matthew's United Methodist Church (UMC), Grace UMC, Vale UMC, and Community of Faith UMC for sponsoring mini-walks to support WHDC's mission. Rev. Joanne Maughlin, WHDC's Faith Community Liaison, helped organize two Camp Givehope programs — overnight family homelessness education events. Community Partnerships Intern, Amanda House, organized a delegation of University of Delaware students to walk on WHDC's behalf in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on the National Mall on November 18. They joined kids from

WHDC's Community Resource Centers.

As a beneficiary of the Fannie Mae Foundation's Annual Help the Homeless Walkathon, WHDC organizes community mini-walks, presents educational events, and gathers financial and in-kind donations to support families in need. This fall, WHDC staff, supporters, and volunteers held five mini-walks, five housing and budgeting presentations, and gathered dozens of coats,



(Above) Students at Plummer Elementary School talk about living expenses during a "Money for the Month" budgeting exercise. (Left) Affordable housing presentation at Camp Givehope.



New this year: More than 20 WHDC employees participated in a mini-walk and potluck lunch at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield on October 18.

## WHDC's Work Honored Receives Four Awards

By Al Smuzynski

This year has been one of accolades for Wesley Housing. Four organizations recognized our work on several fronts — from development to property management. WHDC's founder, Virginia S. Peters, would be pleased to know that the double bottom line of 'doing good and doing well' remains our guiding principle.

WHDC was named 2006 Developer of the Year by the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND), a regional consortium of developers, banks,



Al Smuzynski, WHDC President/CEO, (third from left) accepts the Regional Leadership Award at Leadership Fairfax, Inc.'s gala on November 3.

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## Grand Opening of Wesley Housing at Coppermine Place I & II



Coppermine Place II  
Herndon

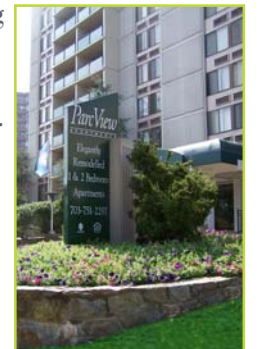
Over 125 people gathered on September 27 for the grand opening of Wesley Housing at Coppermine Place I & II in Herndon. The innovative campus community provides 88 apartments for low-income seniors and individuals with severe mobility impairments. Guest speakers at the event included Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District, and Grace Starbird, Director of Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. Master of Ceremonies, Al Smuzynski, named the main community room at Coppermine Place I the Barbara Gilley Room, a tribute to the late accessible housing advocate's efforts to get the community built. The endeavor took seven years to complete. The speakers joined Coppermine Place residents for a ribbon cutting.

Mr. Smuzynski and Rosana Montequin, WHDC Director of Real Estate Operations, recognized the partners who made Coppermine Place a reality:

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## ParcView: New Alexandria Purchase

In November, WHDC purchased 159-unit ParcView Apartments, a 14-story building in the Landmark area of Alexandria. Planned renovations include combining some one-bedroom units into two-bedroom units, updating the windows, roof, HVAC, and appliances, and making some units handicap-accessible. Hamel Builders will complete the renovations; Zemaitis & Associates is the architect. Eighty percent of the units will be set aside as affordable apartments for households earning 60% of Area Median Income. The property will access equity through the low-income housing tax credit program via Enterprise Community Partners. ParcView, WHDC's third community in the City of Alexandria, received a \$9 million loan from the City's Affordable Housing Initiatives fund. Virginia Housing Development Authority also provided financing. Longtime property manager, Edgewood Management, will continue in its role.



ParcView Apartments, Alexandria

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## Francis "Kit" Callahan's Story

As told to Ellen Walker, RN



Kit Callahan

At 9:12 a.m. on October 23, 1993, I was found unconscious in a stairwell in Chicago. When the paramedics arrived, I had a Glasgow Coma Score of 3 (the lowest measure of consciousness). In Burke, Virginia, my mother, Katherine "Kim" Callahan, received a call that is every parent's nightmare. I was in critical condition with a head injury — another statistic of a violent crime. I had just graduated from Virginia Tech and was working as a 'runner' at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. I took the orders my company received and delivered them to the trading pits. I loved the fast pace. Then my life took a drastic turn; my family didn't know if I'd live.

Recovery was a long, painful road. Following a year and a half of rehabilitation, I returned to live with my parents. I started an internship, but I needed more office experience, and so I spent 18 months in job training. A Kappa Sigma fraternity brother helped me get a job at Logicon, part of Northrop Grumman. The job was stressful and the

commute by bus was difficult. I ultimately found a job as a courtesy clerk at Safeway, where I enjoy working today.

My biggest goal has been to live on my own. Thanks to hard work and a loving family, I moved into an apartment at Coppermine Place I in August

*I don't remember much from the time of my accident. Ellen Walker, RN, helped me tell my story. She never took care of me, but she saw the nurses' smiles when they received my story in a Christmas card, and she said, "This is why we entered the nursing profession!"*

— Kit Callahan

2006. I've made friends here, and the staff members are great mentors. My days are more leisurely than before my accident. This is not by choice — it just takes me longer to prepare for the day. When I'm not working, I'll send e-mails, play chess, or see a movie. At Coppermine, I can do these things independently. As a Brain Injury Services Speakers' Bureau volunteer, I describe how being a survivor changes your dreams. But I'm proof that you can live your life well, even after surviving a brain injury. My motto: Always remember that you can change the world.

## Vive La WHDC Spring Dinner!



(L) Board Chairman, George Kostel, and his wife Claudia enjoy WHDC's Annual Spring Dinner — Vive La Cuisine Française! — at La Bergerie in Old Town Alexandria. The Kostels generously opened their home for pre-dinner appetizers and socializing. Guests then walked to La Bergerie. (R) Gay Baker was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Seated to her right is Konovia Mikeal, WHDC Director of Family Programs.

## Working Together Weekend

WHDC participated in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington's annual Working Together Week this fall. Church volunteers helped organize three WHDC service projects on Saturday, October 21. A Mom's Day Out was held at Agape House. Bowl America Fairfax donated an afternoon of bowling for the moms, while volunteers held an activity-filled Halloween party for the kids. At Springdale House, volunteers arranged a While You Were Out: Backyard Edition



Pumpkin painting fun at Agape House.

landscaping project and barbecue. Kids at the Lincolnia Community Resource Center baked cookies for the volunteers and Springdale residents. Volunteers also accompanied kids from Whitefield Commons Community Resource Center to Cox Farm in Centreville. Many thanks to the volunteers and WHDC staff who helped make the day so special!

## WHDC Honored

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government agencies, and housing advocates. The Coalition for Housing Opportunities in the Community for Everyone (CHOICE) gave its first Accessible Design Award to Wesley Housing at Coppermine Place I. Residents of the fully accessible community submitted the application on WHDC's behalf. Leadership Fairfax, Inc. presented us with the Regional Leadership Award for our successful efforts to solve Northern Virginia's housing crisis. And Arlington County's Department of Human Services recognized us as An Outstanding Landlord in the permanent supportive housing program. The County also commended WHDC Site Managers Michelle Carey and Lisa Windsor.

## Grand Opening

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James and Patricia Gail Whritenour of Coppermine Place I and Edith Barbee and Dotty Hyland of Coppermine Place II joined Chairman Gerry Connolly and Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins for a ribbon cutting. (Inset) Chairman Connolly at the grand opening.

Accessible Space, Inc.; City of Falls Church; Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development; Fairfax County

Redevelopment and Housing Authority; SunAmerica Affordable Housing Partners, Inc.; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Virginia Housing Development Authority; Wachovia Bank, N.A.; Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc.; Hamel Builders, Inc.; Virginia Capital Advisors; Williams Mullen; and Zemaitis & Associates Architects.

"Coppermine will serve as a blueprint to which others will aspire when building similar projects," said George Kostel, Chairman of WHDC's Board of Directors.

Minnesota-based nonprofit Accessible Space, Inc. co-sponsored the development of Coppermine Place I. The community's 22 fully accessible apartments include roll-in showers and lower countertops. "Coppermine has opened doors to new housing opportunities for people with disabilities and enabled residents to have not only a home, but a life," said CHOICE President, Jeannie Cummins. WHDC received CHOICE's first Accessible Design Award for the community. (See "Honored" page one.)

Next door is Coppermine Place II, featuring 66 apartments for seniors. The building has a beauty salon/barber shop and a wellness room for routine health screenings. The one- and two-bedroom apartments in both buildings have emergency call buttons. Each building has a computer lab, library, and activity room. The on-site Social Services Coordinator, Julie Riddle, and Resident Programs Coordinator, Ann Farris, organize recreational and educational activities. Call Site Manager, Flor Mendez, at (703) 793-0336 for leasing information.

## YES, I want to support WHDC's mission!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **WESLEY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
5515 Cherokee Avenue • Suite 200 • Alexandria, Virginia 22312  
Phone: (703) 642-3830 • www.wesleyhousing.org



Visit our website for additional ways to help!



## WHDC Intern

Amanda House served as Wesley Housing's Community Partnerships Intern this summer. Her main responsibilities included writing grants to support WHDC's housing mission and its Community Resource Centers. Amanda also helped organize activities for the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless Walkathon. A public administration graduate student at the University of Delaware, Amanda recruited over 30 students to participate in the Walkathon. She also designed a budgeting presentation to teach college students about the realities of housing costs.



Amanda organized UD students to help the homeless.

## Recent Grants

WHDC thanks the following partners for helping us narrow the affordable housing gap: The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Capital One; Citigroup Foundation; Dominion; Reed Smith, LLP; Prosperity Bank & Trust; and The Washington Post.

## Bike Rodeo Fun!

Seventeen kids attended a Bike Rodeo at the Lincolnia Community Resource Center on Saturday, November 11. Trips for Kids Metro DC (TFK Metro DC), a nonprofit organization, sponsored the event. TFK Metro DC provides the opportunity to educate children about issues such as self-worth and responsibility, nutrition, the environment, and careers through educational mountain bike excursions into Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. parks and nature areas. Kids leave their adventure with a sense of accomplishment and knowledge about themselves and their world.



Fahad Abdulkadir enjoys a spin during the Bike Rodeo.