



## Community Lodgings

“Opening Doors to Independence Since 1987”

### LOCAL SUPPORTER PUTS THE “TEA” IN COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALEXANDRIA, VA / December 19, 2011 – In spring 2011, Arlington resident Mary Hellem approached Community Lodgings’ Executive Director Bonnie Baxley with a novel idea. She wanted to start a tea business but give the proceeds to charity. Mary had already settled on Community Lodgings as her beneficiary. Since her first meeting with our staff, she has worked hard to create a quality product, coordinate marketing efforts with our organization and navigate bureaucracy to obtain a 501(c)(3) designation. She has proudly, and appropriately, named her product *CommuniTEA Calling*.



*CommuniTEA Calling* now lines the shelves of local stores such as “Reunions” in Fairlington. Soon it will be stocked at Alexandria’s MOM’s Organic Market as well. The teas are delicious and the sales support a more-than-worthy cause. Recently, Mary dropped by Community Lodgings’ office to present a check after selling several cases of tea (*see above*). “I am so impressed with Mary Hellem, who took her love of tea and created a way to give back to our community,” said Executive Director Bonnie Baxley. “Mary tasted each tea and specially selected the best. And to the merchants, like Reunions, we are grateful for making it all happen! Community Lodgings is very fortunate to be part of this mission.”

#### **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 provide housing and social services for over 20 homeless families per year, helping them to reach the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. We also work with nearly 100 at-risk children and their parents each day at our Family Learning Center, ensuring that they increase academic achievement and decrease at-risk behavior. Through our programs, we serve 350 disadvantaged people per year. For more information please visit [www.communitylodgings.org](http://www.communitylodgings.org).

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