

So much is going on with us! Read on to find out...



COMMUNITY LODGINGS

Opening Doors to Independence

Community Connections

Your monthly update on what we do and how you can help

Yes, it was **EPIC!**



I hope you attended our Spring Forward 2016 event on April 10 at the [Union Street Public House](#). We are speechless (a first for us)! The music, the food, the auctions ... outstanding! Just outstanding. We are sooo grateful to our sponsors, our performers, our attendees and most of all, to our events committee and everyone who helped make this event so spectacular! All proceeds help our kids and families lift themselves out of poverty through our transitional and affordable housing and youth education programs.

Next Up: **Spring2ACTion**



As much as we would love to rest on our laurels, [Spring2ACTion](#) is less than a week away! On Wednesday, April 20, we and 149 of our favorite Alexandria nonprofits start an online 24 hour fundraiser - and we are PSYCHED! Why? Because the Mason Hirst Foundation has offered us a **\$7500 matching grant**, and we have **2 other \$500 anonymous grants!** Your donation will help send our kids to our summer enrichment program and provide a therapist for our families in transitional housing. And if you're too excited to wait until next Wednesday, [you can click here to donate now!](#)



Did you See Us in the News?



David Culver of NBC Washington, Channel 4, visited Community Lodgings on April 5 to tape a segment about our work. Our first feature, at 5:45 p.m. that evening, highlighted our transitional housing program. Our executive director, Lynn Thomas spoke on camera (you can see Culver helping her get her mic attached in the photo while Charlyne Braxton, our transitional housing manager, looks on) as did "Denise", a former client and domestic violence survivor. They aired another segment at our Fifer Learning Center on the 6 p.m. news. Didn't see it? [Click here!](#) The stories repeated on Sunday morning - just in time to promote Spring Forward!

An Egg-cellent Event!



Community Lodgings was part of the National Community Church's "Eggstravaganza" which was a huge success! Many community members enjoying the festivities on a gorgeous spring day and our kids left with lots of Easter goodies.

Summer is Coming - We Need You!

Though it's been cold outside, our Family Learning Center team members are gearing up for summer programming for our kids - scholastic learning, enrichment activities, tutoring, innovative projects, field trips, swimming and Fitness Fridays. We need volunteers from **July 5-August 12**, Monday-Friday between 9:00 and 5:00 pm at all three sites. Please [click here for an application form](#).



(Garden) Hats off to...

Hunting Creek Garden Club for funding our Fifer Learning Center garden. They generously purchased soil, seeds and garden equipment equipment for us, and we love having this green space in our community. Our kids will pretty up our garden for Earth Day on April 22.

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