



**Arlington Food Assistance Center  
Benefit Reception and Silent Auction  
Washington Golf and Country Club, March 14, 2012  
Supporting Our Annual Fund Campaign**



**“Serving Hope, One Person at a Time”**

**AFAC Mission:** AFAC is the only organization in Arlington devoted solely to providing Arlington residents dignified access to nutritious, supplemental groceries--free of charge. In doing so, AFAC makes it possible for vulnerable families in our community to devote their limited resources to financial obligations such as housing, utilities, and other basic needs.

**Why Support the Arlington Food Assistance Center?** In the last year, AFAC has faced an unexpected and unprecedented twenty-two percent rise in demand for our services. A twenty-two percent rise in the number of families in our care required us to increase food drives, volunteer hours, cash donations, and staff time. We ask for your help so we can continue to meet the increasing need for our food assistance services.

**Need:** From modest beginnings serving less than 300 families per week, AFAC now serves an average of nearly 1,600 families per week. And our service numbers keep increasing. Most of our families are the working poor who struggle to make ends meet in this tough economy. Special populations served by AFAC include the unemployed, the under-employed, children, and the elderly. In fact, over one-third of AFAC's clients, 36.5%, are children.

**Choice Model:** In an effort to best leverage our donated food resources, AFAC operates under the Client Choice model. AFAC provides different kinds of meats, breads, and canned goods. We enable choice between 1% milk and 2% milk. We offer a variety of baked goods for families. And families are often able to choose between 2 or 3 different types of produce. The Choice Model has been proven to reduce waste and save expenses, enabling AFAC to serve our community to our capacity.

**About AFAC:** To meet Arlington County's ongoing and growing need for food assistance, AFAC has an annual budget in FY 2012 of slightly over \$4.5 million. This is made up of a cash budget of \$2.1 million in private funding, and over 1.2 million pounds of food (valued at nearly \$2 million) donated to us by individuals and through food drives held by schools, congregations, businesses, service organizations, and governmental entities. And through our dedicated volunteers we receive over 26,000 hours of volunteer time each year (valued at over \$500,000).

For more information about how you can sponsor our Benefit Reception or to support AFAC's other programs, please contact Don Coates at (703) 845-8486 or [donald.coates@afac.org](mailto:donald.coates@afac.org).