



## About the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)

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### **Mission:**

- We are the only organization in Arlington solely devoted 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.

### **Need:**

- Serving less than 300 families per week in 1988, AFAC now serves more than 2,200 families each week.
  - All families are required to have a referral to be eligible for our services (Referrals can come from an Arlington County government agency, or one of the many local churches, schools, or social services agencies.)
- A great number of the individuals we serve are disabled, the elderly, or young children.
- According to a recent study conducted by Virginia Tech, more than 31,500 Arlingtonians describe themselves as food insecure (having limited or uncertain access to food, reduced food intake, and disrupted eating patterns). 7,000 of these individuals are currently being served by AFAC.
- We distributed over 4.3 million pounds of food to families in need our last fiscal year (FY15).
- We have 18 distributions sites around Arlington County.

### **Choice Model:**

- Instead of pre-packaging our food distribution parcels, we encourage our families to select food from our shelves so that they can take home food that they know their families will enjoy.
- This Choice Model has been proven to reduce waste and save expenses, permitting AFAC to serve our community to our capacity, while providing as many healthy options as possible.
- The food we provide generally includes fresh chicken, fish, milk, eggs, bread, canned goods, and produce.

### **Budget:**

- AFAC has an annual budget of nearly \$6.4 million for FY16.
- This is made up of a cash budget of \$2.9 million, and a donated food value of almost \$2.6 million
- Through our dedicated volunteers, we receive over 35,000 hours of volunteer time, valued at \$875,000
- Nearly 90% of AFAC's funding come from private donations—cash and supplies donated from individuals, foundations, faith congregations, local businesses, and peer organizations.
- Around 45% of food we provide is donated to us through partnerships with local grocery chains, gleaning networks, farmers markets, and food drives.
- To ensure that we provide nutritionally balanced food, AFAC purchases a portion of its food needs at a discounted cost from both large national distributors and reputable, local, civic-minded suppliers.
- Our FY16 food purchase budget is \$1 million.

For more information, visit us on the web at [www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org)

Arlington Food Assistance Center  
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