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## What's Happening on G Street?



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

# Transitional Housing for Homeless Families

The buzz of workers beautifying and renovating the former Natchez apartments at 1423 G Street will end soon.

The completion of extensive renovations and upgrades will culminate in a grand opening celebration of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington's Transitional Housing program on Wednesday, March 4.

The official name of the program will be announced during the grand opening ceremony of what will be Prince William County's first Catholic Charities' program.

Catholic Charities' Transitional Housing Program will provide intensive case management and support services for women and children of all faiths as they exit emergency homeless shelters and prepare for self sufficiency.

The overall mission of the program is to provide an environment to strengthen and assist families in acquiring the skills needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing, and to provide a safe and secure home in which to raise their children.

Children will have access to staff to advocate on their behalf, a newly fenced playground, tutoring services, and recreational activities.

Residents will successfully complete the program by transitioning to self sufficiency after two years of their residence and participation in support services.

# Transitional Housing is not a “Traditional” Shelter



Upon returning to Catholic Charities to serve as Transitional Housing Program Director, I've come to realize that many mistakenly perceive *all* housing for the homeless to be traditional emergency shelters. Transitional housing, however, is just one of the many stepping stones on the path to long term security.

When homelessness came to the forefront of national consciousness in the early 1980s, the option of Transitional Housing did not exist. In fact, most emergency shelters were isolated to undesirable areas of large cities and served primarily single men despite the growing number of homeless families.

It became apparent that traditional emergency shelters offering temporary relief from crisis did not adequately prepare individuals or families to move out of a cycle of homelessness.

Today, transitional housing is an option for families ready to leave the shelters they entered at a time of crisis, but not yet prepared to independently obtain permanent housing .

Catholic Charities' Transitional Housing program

will offer supervised living, financial literacy education, personalized case management and other resources to families recommended by local shelters move into self-sufficiency. These families will agree to abide by lifestyle policies including the prohibition of drugs, alcohol and illicit activities and the requirement of full time employment or vocational training.

As transitional housing does not offer services to the homeless on a “walk in” or “crisis” basis special permits are not required to operate transitional facilities. The impacts of this program on the local community will be positive. Unlike commercial leasing, residents will be screened, supervised and supported by onsite staff. Neighbors serving on the Neighborhood Advisory Council will also have the opportunity to voice their opinions and suggestions regarding the program. To learn more about the Neighborhood Advisory Council or the Transitional Housing program please contact me at (703) 841-3838 or by email at [cneijstrom@ccda.net](mailto:cneijstrom@ccda.net).

Sincerely,

Christine Neijstrom, Program Director  
[cneijstrom@ccda.net](mailto:cneijstrom@ccda.net)



## Meet Piquette

I went to five grade schools, two high schools , and five different college campuses before I became a military nurse and spent another 25 years moving around; so I know how important

it is to have a place to call home. Retirement has allowed me the time to give back to the community. Working with Catholic Charities on this transitional housing project will be a challenge, but I hope to impart to our residents that working toward the goal of a “home of their own” is worth the struggle, and that temporary short term delays will bring long term satisfaction and happiness for them and their families.



## Meet John

I am excited about this opportunity to help the homeless on their path to self sufficiency. I have been working with the homeless for the past three years with

the Fairfax County Hyperthermia Prevention Program. I also worked with Catholic Charities' Hogar Hispano ESL program. Finally, I do outreach activities on behalf of the poor through advocacy groups including SALT and VOICE. I am looking forward to continuing to serve and volunteer with Catholic Charities' new Transitional Housing Program.

**80,681 Virginians asked for shelter in 2007.**  
**51,315 were turned away.**  
*14 new doors are about to open. Be part of a new beginning.*  
**703-841-3838**



## Greetings from the Executive Director of Catholic Charities



Stephen Luteran, Executive Director

It's often said that it takes a village to raise a child. Here at Catholic Charities we realize it takes a village to accomplish the many tasks we take on to improve the lives of those we serve.

The new Transitional Housing Program on G Street will be relying on the our neighboring villagers to make our efforts to help the homeless in our community a success!

We truly could not reach out to serve the many who need our help without the support, counsel

and hospitality of the neighbors that surround our programs throughout Northern Virginia.

The Transitional Housing program on G Street will provide families living in shelters with a more stable home and the supportive services they need to move from homelessness to self sufficiency.

We invite you to know us better and allow us to meet you by joining the Transitional Housing Neighborhood

**"The Neighborhood Advisory Council will be an open forum for discussion regarding the Transitional Housing Program."**

Advisory Council.

As a council member you can serve your neighbors by working with Transitional Housing staff to ensure that

Catholic Charities programming is not simply present in your neighborhood, but a positive presence enhancing the Village community.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council will be an open forum for discussion regarding the Transitional Housing program. I welcome you to voice your questions, concerns and suggestions regarding this exciting new program.

I also invite you to join in our Grand Opening celebration anticipated to be held March 4th.

Thank you for opening your hearts to us so we can open doors to greater hope and opportunities for others.

Sincerely,

Stephen Luteran, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington

**Join the Neighborhood Advisory Council of the Transitional Housing Program.**

*Questions? Concerns? Call Christine Neijstrom  
703-841-3838 or send an email to [cneijstrom@ccda.net](mailto:cneijstrom@ccda.net)*



# Catholic Charities

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## Our Mission

The mission of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the official teachings of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Gospel proclaims and the Church teaches respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life, from the moment of conception through natural death, and the duty to serve the most vulnerable of God's people.

Therefore, Catholic Charities seeks to implement the Church's mission of social justice in the Diocese of Arlington in ways that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

Catholic Charities extends its services and resources to all in need; convenes the Catholic community to fulfill the Church's mission of social justice; and advocates for social justice and seeks to empower others to do the same.

*Approved by Bishop Paul S. Loverde  
December 5, 2000*

## Transitional Housing provides a supportive stepping stone on the path to independence



### EMERGENCY SHELTERS

are designed to provide short term shelter during a time of crisis resulting in homelessness. Homelessness is usually related to multiple events causing many

of the "threads" of an individual's social, personal and financial "safety net" to break due to at least one or more of the simultaneous crises including: financial hardship, job loss, isolation from friends and family, unexpected medical costs or problems, foreclosure or eviction, debt, addiction or mental illness. Many start to resolve their crisis and begin to move towards independence but are still not poised for success as they may lack savings or wages that allow them to secure adequate housing, food or clothing.

### TRANSITIONAL LIVING

provides individuals and families exiting emergency shelters with the time and long term support they need to move towards independently securing their basic needs. Residents of transitional living programs pay an affordable rent based on their income and enjoy the security and dignity of more private housing. Case managers provide one on one and group



counseling regarding budgeting, interpersonal relations, parenting, employment skills, nutrition, and available social programs and services. Transitional living provides a link that many families find missing when attempting to establish or re-establish self sufficiency after a period of homelessness.



**Designate your contribution to:**

United Way #8055 or  
CFC #24770 or  
CVC #8063



**“I want you to be concerned about your neighbor. Do you know your next door neighbor?”**

**-Mother Theresa**

*We want to know you, our new neighbor.*

**703-841-3838**