

Friends of Give Back Alexandria,

Spring is here...that means it is time to get outside and get involved! Join Give Back Alexandria as we participate in **Spring for Alexandria 2009** and mark your calendars for our **2nd Annual Bubbles & Bluegrass on June 4th** – see below for more details.

Special thanks to everyone who attended our book reading and discussion with author David Lozell Martin. Mr. Martin read from his memoir, Losing Everything, and spoke candidly about his experiences with mental illness. The attendees kept the discussion lively with great questions and comments. Thank you to Grape + Bean for hosting us and to David Martin for taking his time to speak to us and donating 100% of the sales of the book that evening to Give Back Alexandria to benefit our grantee partners, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center and The Reading Connection. We raised \$165 which will be matched by ACT!

Allison Erdle & Kathy Martin
Co-Chairs, Give Back Alexandria

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2nd Annual BUBBLES & BLUEGRASS – Thursday, June 4th, 6:30pm-9pm. Join us for live music, food, and drinks and help us raise money for our grantee partners, Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center and The Reading Connection. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Invitation coming soon. If you would like to get involved with the planning committee, if you have silent auction items to donate, or if your business is interested in sponsoring this event, please email: brandi@givebackalexandria.org.

Spring for Alexandria 2009 – April 30th – May 2nd - Spring for Alexandria is a three-day community wide event focusing on giving and service. See below for details on ways to get involved or visit www.springforalexandria.org for more information.

Generations of Giving Gala – Thursday, April 30th, 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Give Back is putting together a table for ACT's Generations of Giving Gala at the Birchmere. The theme is summer camp and there will be "food to write home about," bug juice, dancing and much more. Join us for an evening of fun and games as we relive the carefree days of summer camp and support Alexandria's community foundation. Tickets are \$175 each. Discount rate is available for nonprofit staff. Call 703-739-7778 for details or visit www.actforalexandria.org

Community Service Day – Friday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Give Back is putting together a team of volunteers to help a local nonprofit. Sign up to participate at www.springforalexandria.org and click on the Give Back Alexandria team name.

Lemonaide Day, Saturday – May 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Give Back is one of the sponsors for this event and we are encouraging anyone with kids to set up a lemonade stand in your neighborhood or participate in the one on Commonwealth Ave & West Cedar Street*. This is a fun and interactive way to get kids involved in philanthropy. The funds raised will be donated to Coats for Kids and ALIVE!'s Child Development Center. There is no charge to participate - all supplies are provided by Kids Helping Kids. Visit www.lemonaidealexandria.org for general details. *Email Allison@givebackalexandria.org to learn more.

UPDATES FROM OUR GRANTEE PARTNERS*

FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDRIA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center has been responding to an upsurge in requests for assistance from the clients of the City's mental health center. A comparison of the number of requests received between January and March of this year and last has revealed a 38% increase.

Thanks to the support of Give Back, some of the requests that have been filled include:

- Help with a costly electric bill for life support equipment in a CSB client's home
- Payment for a security deposit to a person who was threatened at her former address
- Payment for GED classes for one client and the renewal of a cosmetology license for another individual
- Purchase of emergency medication for two CSB clients who lost insurance benefits
- Help with rent for a client whose husband lost his job
- Help with a payment for dentures for a client who needed extensive dental work
- Providing fees for two TC Williams High School students to participate in band and softball at school
- The purchase of bus tokens to encourage teens to attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings

THE READING CONNECTION

The Reading Connection (TRC) celebrated their 20th anniversary with their fundraiser, Of Wine and Words. With the help of sponsors and attendees, they raised more than \$17,000, which will go a long way towards advancing their mission of creating environments that encourage reading for at-risk families and their children.

TRC is also thrilled to partner with The Washington Redskins Foundation next fiscal year.

***ABOUT GIVE BACK'S GIVE BACK'S GRANTEE PARTNERS**

FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDRIA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

[Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center \(FRIENDS\)](#) provides a safety net for families and individuals with mental illness, mental retardation or substance dependency who have limited resources and no family or friends to help them when emergency needs arise. Emergency needs include rent support, minor medical expenses, transportation, food, clothing, assistance with utility bills, and other quality of life activities.

THE READING CONNECTION

[The Reading Connection](#) (TRC) is dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk children and families by helping them create and sustain literacy-rich environments and motivation for reading. TRC conducts literacy programs in Alexandria-based shelters and nonprofits and provides reading activities and books to children and parents.

Give Back Alexandria, an initiative of ACT for Alexandria (ACT), is designed to educate, engage and empower the next generation of leaders and philanthropists to give back to those in need in Alexandria. Launched in 2004, ACT is a community foundation serving as a catalyst for increasing charitable investment and involvement in Alexandria. For more information about ACT, please contact 703-739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please send an email with the title "unsubscribe" to unsubscribe@givebackalexandria.org.