

DOORWAYS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES WORKS TO REDUCE ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT WHILE SERVING FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND ABUSE

Award-Winning Nonprofit Renews Commitment to Environmental Conservation and Awareness

Arlington, VA (April 22, 2009)--[Doorways for Women and Families](#), a nonprofit organization in Arlington that offers safe shelter to families' experiencing homelessness or abuse, is celebrating Earth Day by renewing its commitment to environmental conservation and awareness.

"We may be a small, local nonprofit, but we still have a big role to play in preserving our community and natural resources. All the work we do to help heal homeless families and survivors of domestic violence is meaningless if our bigger home is in disrepair," said Linda Dunphy, president, Doorways. "That's why we are actively engaged in making our work and working environments earth friendly."

Specifically, the recently constructed [Family Home](#), a two-story, three-level building that can provide sanctuary for up to six families, was built with green products and materials inside and out. Home builders took great care to reduce landfill waste when constructing the home. The home's HVAC mechanical systems meet energy efficient standards and complement the building's energy efficient windows and extensive insulation.

The home also features appliances with the [Energy Star](#) rating from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as plumbing fixtures with water-saving features. Finally, paints with a low environmental impact were used on the interior and exterior and the beautiful landscaping surrounding the house utilizes low-maintenance native grasses and plants to reduce the need for extensive fertilizers and chemicals.

Doorways' commitment to the environment does not end with The Family Home. The organization participates in a cell phone recycling program, partnering with Shelter Alliance, where cash donations are given to Doorways for every phone they receive from generous donors. In addition, Doorways encourages its volunteers to donate environmentally friendly household products through its Amazon.com wish list registry. Doorways also offers its volunteers and donors a re-usable grocery bag made out of recycled materials to reduce waste when donating products to the organization.

Dunphy added: "Our clients are also learning more about how to respect and protect the environment. These are skills and habits that they take with them after they leave our shelter."

For more information about Doorways, please visit <http://www.doorwaysva.org/30years>.

ABOUT DOORWAYS FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

For 30 years, Doorways for Women and Families, (formerly The Arlington Temporary Shelter or TACTS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers women and families who are abused, homeless or at-risk to live safe, secure and self-sufficient lives, has provided shelter and services and educated the larger community about violence and homelessness. Doorways is the 2006 recipient of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Best Business Award (ABBIE) in the nonprofit category. Doorways was selected as a featured charity in the 2005 issue of The Catalogue of Philanthropy, and is the winner of the 2006 Arlington County Community Hero Award for Volunteers. Doorways is also the 2006 recipient of the James B. Hunter Community Hero Award and the 2005 James B. Hunter Human Rights Award. Doorways was the 2006-2008 nonprofit pro-bono client for Washington Women in PR (WWPR).

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