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## **2017 Ellen M. Bozman Award Recipients and Celebration:** **PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION**

The Board of Directors of the Alliance for Housing Solutions is very pleased to honor

### **Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, A-SPAN, and the Westover Village Civic Association**

at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ellen M. Bozman Affordable Housing Award Celebration to be held on Sunday December 3, 2017, at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. The event is the annual fundraiser for the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) and draws well over 100 community leaders, affordable housing supporters, and elected officials. Former County Board member and Virginia State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, President of the AHS Board of Directors, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

This year's Bozman award recipients are being honored for their collaboration toward preserving housing affordability in the historic Westover neighborhood. In 2016, the Westover community was stunned by the demolition of several historic garden apartment buildings that had provided a rare pocket of affordability. These market-rate affordable buildings offered some of the most accessible rents in the rapidly escalating North Arlington housing market. It quickly became clear that more buildings were at risk of being replaced by luxury townhome development.

Within months, the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) had scouted the Westover community for opportunities to purchase other market-rate affordable buildings before they could be put at risk of demolition. Partnering with A-SPAN, they put together a proposal to purchase, renovate and preserve 68 apartments, which together will be known as Fisher House II. The long-term affordability protections put in place will ensure that the apartments will remain affordable for years to come. In addition, eight of the units will be reserved for supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals, with services such as financial literacy training, assistance with budgeting, and other support provided by A-SPAN.

After recognizing concern among neighborhood residents, the Westover Village Civic Association stepped in to provide clear and accurate information about the situation and assess the level of

community support for preserving affordability in the neighborhood. The Association provided valuable backing needed to secure approval of a loan from the County's Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) to help finance APAH's purchase of the properties.

There is much more work to be done in Westover and other areas of Arlington and nearby communities, and the process of preserving affordable rents with today's tools is far from ideal. Even so, the level of community support and collaboration that took place to preserve critically important affordable housing options in Westover is something AHS is proud to honor and encourage through the Ellen M. Bozman Affordable Housing Awards.

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Potential sponsors, media, and others can contact **AHS Executive Director Michelle Winters** for additional information at [michelle@allianceforhousingolutions.org](mailto:michelle@allianceforhousingolutions.org) or 703-859-0452.

### **About the Ellen M. Bozman Affordable Housing Award**

The Ellen M. Bozman Affordable Housing Award is given annually to individuals or organizations who have significantly advanced efforts to increase the supply of and/or to improve the quality of affordable housing in Arlington through leadership, innovation, and effectiveness over time. The award honors the late Ellen M. Bozman, long-time Arlington County Board member and leader on affordable housing issues. She was a co-founder of the Alliance for Housing Solutions and a member of its Board of Directors. Visit our website for [a video with highlights](#) of her life of public service.

### **About AHS**

The Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to increase the supply of affordable housing in Arlington County and Northern Virginia through public education, facilitation, and action. AHS was created in 2003 by civic leaders motivated by the belief that Arlington was rapidly becoming a community in which only affluent families could afford to live. Since then, housing costs in our area have continued to escalate for both renters and owners, and the stock of housing affordable to low- and middle-income households has continued to decline. Our work is more important than ever. AHS helps to build greater public understanding of housing challenges and works toward the adoption of public policies that can help reverse the loss of affordable housing in our community. Visit [www.allianceforhousingolutions.org](http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org) for more information, and see our [Market Rate Affordable Housing](#) page to learn more about efforts to preserve housing affordability in Arlington.

### **About APAH**

The mission of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) is to develop, preserve, own, and advocate for quality affordable housing in Arlington, and to promote opportunity for its residents through partnerships and programs. APAH was founded in 1989 and has grown into a successful real estate developer and owner, with a portfolio of 15 multifamily rental properties offering 1,361 units and valued at \$300 million. In 2011, APAH was awarded Developer of the Year by the Housing Association of Non-Profit Developers and awarded the Arlington Community Foundation's first-ever Prize for Impact and Innovation. Visit [www.apah.org](http://www.apah.org) for more information.

### **About A-SPAN**

A-SPAN's mission is to secure permanent housing and provide life-sustaining services for Arlington's most vulnerable individuals through outreach and relationships built on trust and respect. A-SPAN's range of supportive services work together towards one goal: ending homelessness in Arlington through housing. All of the housing programs are "Housing- First," meaning A-SPAN quickly and successfully helps individuals and veterans get into permanent housing without any preconditions or barriers. Their case managers then provide ongoing support, help link clients to resources in the community, rebuild their lives, retain housing, and prevent a return to the streets. A-SPAN and its partner organizations in Arlington's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness helped Arlington become one of the first counties nationally to end veteran homelessness, reducing chronic homelessness by 64% since 2013. Visit [www.a-span.org](http://www.a-span.org) for more information.

### **About the Westover Village Civic Association**

The Westover Village Civic Association serves the historic Westover neighborhood, located along Washington Boulevard between Ballston and East Falls Church. The neighborhood, which was originally a mix of single-family homes, duplexes, garden apartments, schools and commercial shopping center, was original built between the 1930s and 1950s and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. The neighborhood continues to lose individual garden apartment buildings to redevelopment, replaced by luxury townhomes. Visit [www.westovervillage.org](http://www.westovervillage.org) for more information.