



Volunteers & Partners: *Making a Difference for APS!*

November 2016

Both the **Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)** and **Communities in Schools of NOVA (CIS)** have been longtime partners with APS to support students and their families. Throughout the years, these nonprofit organizations have given freely of their time by assisting with food drives at schools and offering job shadowing opportunities to students. They also have been instrumental in providing volunteers to support our mentoring and tutoring programs.

AFAC and CIS serve in one of their most important capacities by providing weekly supplemental groceries to students in need at Arlington Community High School. The groceries are supplied by AFAC and managed by CIS NOVA volunteers and staff. The weekly distribution serves an average of 65 students.

Food insecurity is a major obstacle to student academic achievement and day to day livelihood, especially during the holiday season. On Wed, Nov. 17, over 80 students turned out for the annual turkey distribution ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. APS, AFAC and CIS NOVA form an essential partnership to address the basic needs of our most vulnerable students.

AFAC is the community leader in providing and promoting dignified access to nutritious food for all Arlingtonians in need. In addition to serving students at the Career Center, AFAC provides supplemental grocery assistance to 2,200 families on a weekly basis.

Thank you to Arlington Food Assistance Center and Communities in Schools of NOVA for another successful event. We are fortunate to have partners who contribute their time, talents, and resources to support the needs of our students.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month celebrates the actions and commitment of volunteers who work hard to enrich our students' academic experiences.

Ms. Stephanie Selice is an exceptional volunteer at Key School. This is her fifth year working as a volunteer with Key students. She provides our students with helpful insight and structure to improve their oral English and writing skills. Ms. Selice genuinely cares about each child she works with and demonstrates through her words and actions that their emotional well-being is important to her. Key students always look forward to the days that she spends with them and are grateful for her investment in their learning, and their lives.

Congratulations Ms. Selice! Arlington Public Schools appreciates your time, commitment, financial donations and service to our students.



CIS NOVA Executive Director, Patrick Brennan, APS Communications Coordinator, Dawn Smith, and AFAC Executive Director, Charlie Meng at Arlington Community H.S.



Ms. Stephanie Selice, Volunteer of the Month



New Partners/Partner Spotlight

The number of businesses and community organizations who provide support to our schools and students in a variety of ways has reached an all time high! Presently we have over 600 partners that provide services and resources to our students and programs. A special shout-out goes to two partners who have recently joined us :

- *Congratulations to Gunston Middle School for signing a partnership agreement with The U.S. Department of Justice , Drug Enforcement Administration. The partnership allows employees from DEA to come mentor students on a weekly basis to assist in subject areas that need strengthening.*
- *Congratulations to Hoffman –Boston for signing a partnership agreement with Crystal City Ward LDS Church . The partnership began with volunteers helping with gardening and has grown to include generous donations of school supplies, speakers for Career Day and now free English classes for our parents.*

Volunteer & Partners — Social Media Update

This month we introduced new hashtags to the Volunteer and Partnership Liaisons — #VolunteerHere & #PerfectPartners. For those on social media, please be sure to follow @VPLiaisons for up-to-date information to see what our partners and volunteers are doing in the schools. See pictures below from V&P Liaison tweets.



DEA staff with Gunston Minority Achievement Coordinator, Monica Lozano Caldera



Volunteers from Crystal City Ward LDS Church and Hoffman-Boston parents at English conversation class



Latinas Leading Tomorrow Chair, Dania Matos, visited with a few young ladies at Yorktown High School

