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Dear Supporter,

You are generous. I look back and see proof of this so clearly. This past year, new and dedicated donors gave generous end-of-year gifts that will help sustain our operations in the new year. Our Holiday Adoption Program volunteers provided presents and holiday cheer to 100 people including 40 shelter residents, 18 shelter graduates, 25 David's Place day shelter visitors, and 19 families with 32 children. Of course there was gift wrap, bows, and merriment, but mainly there was care and concern for neighbors in need.

Although I was reluctant to move on from such a special time of year, I look forward to the coming spring with excitement. Like so many in this community, Carpenter's Cook-Off has a special place in my heart--and my stomach! I always enjoy watching Carpenter's Shelter supporters of all ages delight in a small-scale culinary tour of our amazing city. Moreover, I'm invariably moved by the commitment of our sponsors and Host Committee members, restaurants, event volunteers, and auction participants. During Carpenter's Cook-Off, I spend an afternoon with 500 friends of the shelter and I couldn't be more grateful.

Wherever I go and during every time of year, I can't help but notice your support. After years at the helm of Carpenter's Shelter, it's clear to me that seasons change but your dedication to our mission remains constant. I sincerely hope that you and your family join us for Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019. Your support means the world to me and to all of those we serve experiencing homelessness.

Warmest regards,  
Shannon Steene, Executive Director



Carpenter's Shelter  
5701-D Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304



## carpenter's corner

Spring 2019

### Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019

It's hard to believe but the biggest food fight of the year is just around the corner! This year, **Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019** will take place on **Sunday, April 28th** from 12 noon to 3 pm at The Birchmere.



Every year, 500 attendees attend this signature fundraising event to support Carpenter's Shelter's efforts to prevent and end homelessness. During the event, 20 top-rated local restaurants serve samples of their best dishes to guests and compete to win awards. A panel of celebrity judges grants the Best Savory and Best Sweet Awards while attendees of all ages determine the People's and Kids' Choice Awards. In addition to sampling dishes, guests can bid on hot ticket items during the live and silent auctions, try their luck at raffles, and listen to live music by our perennial favorite, the Alpha Dog Blues Band.

So, are you hungry yet? Prices are \$100 for VIPs, \$50 for adults, and \$20 for children ages 12 and under and tickets are available for purchase at [www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off](http://www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off). We can't wait to see you next month!



*Ann McMurray*

### Val Hawkins Award Winner Announced

Carpenter's Shelter is thrilled to announce that the second annual Val Hawkins Award winner is Ann McMurray! A longtime Alexandria resident, community volunteer, and Christ Church parishioner, Ann first started volunteering for Carpenter's Shelter nearly 30 years ago.

Ann has logged countless volunteer hours as a gatekeeper at the front desk, a Friday evening meal provider, and a member of the Development and Carpenter's Cook-Off Committees. She is quick to say that Carpenter's Shelter is very dear to her heart and she is proud to be a part of the 1,200 volunteers who power the shelter every year.

In the spring of 2018, Carpenter's Shelter debuted the Val Hawkins Award to complement our Bob Douglas and Wall of Honor Awards. This award honors Val Hawkins's 20 years of compassion and caring for Carpenter's Shelter and the people it serves. The Carpenter's Shelter Board of Directors bestows the Val Hawkins Award to a person who has demonstrated sustained commitment to the Shelter through extensive volunteerism, financial support, and advocacy.

Last year, Carpenter's Shelter granted the inaugural Val Hawkins Award to Kerry Donley, former Mayor of Alexandria and longtime member of Carpenter's Shelter's Board of Directors. On April 28th, Carpenter's Shelter will recognize Ann's dedication to our mission during Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019.



*Val Hawkins*



## The Support Report

After 16 years of success, Carpenter's Cook-Off has become a community institution. Much beloved and highly attended, our signature fundraising event inspires a special dedication among our supporters. If you love Carpenter's Shelter and want to support this event above and beyond the purchase of tickets, consider one of the following opportunities:

**Join Host Committee!** Host Committee is a passionate circle of individuals who financially support Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019, invite friends and family to attend, and generate interest in the event throughout the community. The purchase of a Host Committee sponsorship--at any level!--includes VIP tickets and access to a special reception at the Motley Fool! Go to [www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off](http://www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off) to give!

**Become a Sponsor!** Carpenter's Cook-Off would not be possible without the generous support of the local business community. If you are business owner, your company's sponsorship will prove essential in our efforts to reach our fundraising goal for this event. Visit us online at [www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off](http://www.CarpentersShelter.org/Cook-Off) to learn more and join the following organizations who have already committed their sponsorships!



## Restaurant Participants

Carpenter's Cook-Off 2019 attendees should be prepared to have top-rated local restaurants--as well as our very own meal providers at Carpenter's Cafe--dazzle their tastebuds! Guests of all ages will taste dishes and cast votes for People's Choice and Kids' Choice Awards. Who will earn your vote?



## Introducing Our Celebrity Judges

During Carpenter's Cook-Off, a panel of local culinary experts sample the restaurants' offerings and determine the winners of the coveted Savory and Sweet Awards. This year, we're thrilled to welcome the following chefs:



**Chef Duane Keller** (left) is the Executive Chef at the Belle Haven Country Club. Among his many honors are receiving the James Beard Certificate in 2001 and helping Julia Child celebrate a delicious birthday in 2002. *Washingtonian Magazine* has frequently included Chef Duane in lists of top local chefs and *Gourmet Magazine* featured him during his tenure as head chef at the Ashby Inn in Paris, Virginia.



**Chef Vikram Sunderam** (right) is the Executive Chef at Rasika and Rasika West End located in Washington, D.C. In 2014, he won the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic and had the honor of hosting President Barack Obama at Rasika for two birthday dinners. In 2016, Chef Vikram opened his new restaurant, Bindaas, which focuses on Indian street food. He has also published a celebrated cookbook, *Rasika: Flavors of India*.



Beautiful food is a way of life for **Chef Danielle Turner** (left). As a personal chef, cooking instructor, food writer, and food stylist, she brings food to life in the kitchen, classroom, online, and in print. Chef Danielle has taught cooking classes throughout the D.C. area and is currently the culinary instructor at Tastemakers. Her articles have appeared in *The Food Network* magazine and she has styled live cooking events, commercials, television shows, and cook-books. Chef Danielle is a proud graduate of L'academie de Cuisine.



## New Heights Update

As December 2018 came to a close, Carpenter's Shelter took a major step toward New Heights! After years of planning and preparation, demolition began at our longtime location on 930 North Henry Street.

Now, the rubble has been hauled away and cleared for the next step: digging. Soon we'll see the creation of a large hole that will accommodate our underground parking garage. Then we'll build a modern, multistory building with a purpose-built, 60-bed homeless shelter, 87 affordable apartments, and 10 permanent supportive housing units. To learn more about this ambitious property redevelopment project, visit [www.CarpentersShelter.org/New-Heights](http://www.CarpentersShelter.org/New-Heights).

## Mark Your Calendars

This year, Carpenter's Shelter will join **Spring2ACTion** on **Wednesday, April 10th** and we hope you will too!

Hosted by ACT for Alexandria, Spring2ACTion is an online giving day created to support nonprofits doing incredible, life-changing work in our community. Carpenter's Shelter's fundraising during Spring2ACTion focuses on David's Place, our drop-in day shelter for chronically homeless adults. David's Place is the only day shelter in the City of Alexandria and its only dedicated funding stream is Spring2ACTion.

When you give to David's Place next month, you'll help preserve a critical resource. You'll ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors continue to take warm showers, do laundry, access internet and telephone services, and receive housing referrals. Please mark your calendars and help us reach our goal of \$40,000!

