The first Faculty Association service event occurred on October 27\textsuperscript{th} at Carpenter’s Shelter in Alexandria. Nick Stone and I (Angela Huebner) arrived at the Shelter at 9:00 am on that rainy Saturday morning. Carpenter’s Shelter was already hopping with activity!! Several programs were already underway.

We started the morning by meeting with the volunteer coordinator, Jasmine. Jasmine gave us a tour of the facility and an overview of the services they provide. I must say that both Nick and I were amazed by the quality and quantity of services they offer. Carpenter’s Shelter is the largest provider of homelessness services for men, women and children in the Northern Virginia area. Their mission is to provide services to the homeless that promote lifelong self-reliance. We learned about four of their onsite programs:

1) \textit{David’s Place Day Shelter:} offers a safe environment off of the streets, where the unsheltered homeless can attend to their basic needs such as laundry, showers, storage and more. This program serves almost 400 women and men annually.

2) \textit{Winter Shelter:} Carpenter’s coordinates the winter shelter for the entire City of Alexandria with help from several local churches. This program serves more than 350 families and individuals annually.

3) \textit{80-bed Residential Shelter:} The residential shelter, offers a comprehensive and structured case management program that is goal-oriented toward self-reliance. This program provides assistance with substance abuse and mental health disorders, life-skills and job readiness training, access and referrals to social services agencies and other partners and assistance with the housing search. Most residents are required to have or be seeking full-time employment and all save 70\% of their income. The residential shelter serves more than 100 children annually and more than 400 people total.

4) \textit{Aftercare:} The Aftercare Program continues case management and coordination of services for shelter graduates. The goal of the program is to provide a "safety net" for shelter graduates so they can continue progress made while at our residential shelter.

After our introduction and tour, Nick and I were put to work. For the first hour, we were tasked to organize a huge closet of toiletry supplies. Carpenter’s Shelter takes donations of everything from soap and shampoo, to diapers and \textit{Chapstick}. We spent the bulk of our time organizing a massive pile of diapers (yes, they were clean). By the time we were finished, every size was organized down to Dewey Decimal precision. In addition to fulfilling a need, this task gave Nick and me a great opportunity to get to know each other better.

We spent the next two hours helping with the Aftercare program (#4) above. Specifically, we were asked to help provide childcare for the parents who were participating in that morning’s program. Working with one other volunteer and a staff person, Nick and I ended up entertaining about thirty children, ranging from 3 to 17 years old, for two hours. What a riot! It turns out that Nick is quite skilled at organizing sticker art projects. He was very popular with the under ten set (I think he was afraid he had lost his touch!). I had the opportunity to pass on my paper airplane making skills to the next generation.

At 12:00, the kids were reunited with their parents and given pizza. We were thanked profusely and sent on our way too. What a nice way to spend a rainy day. \textit{Ut Prosim}.

\textit{http://www.carpentersshelter.org/}