

## **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

*Arlington County Civic Federation*

*Arlington, Virginia*

*95th Year*

*The Civic Voice of Arlington*

### **Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance**

**April 8, 2011**

Thirty years ago, people gathered (secretly) and started a safe group for gays that eventually included lesbians.

Then ten years later, with the guidance of Ellen Bozman, the Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance (AGLA) expanded its focus. She shared the power of community involvement, and AGLA members volunteered with straight Arlingtonians to clean invasive plants from waterways, donate food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, and staff a game table for children at an Arlington Free Clinic picnic. AGLA volunteers have helped shelters for abused women and children, as well as homeless people. AGLA members helped design, build and maintain the Healing Garden at northern Virginia's Whitman-Walker Clinic, and they preserved elements of the garden when the clinic closed, with hopes of someday reestablishing a Healing Garden elsewhere in Arlington.

Ten years ago, AGLA also began a scholarship program for college-bound seniors, graduating from public high schools, which is managed by the Arlington Community Foundation. This spring, AGLA will sponsor a fun fundraiser to expand the scope of the scholarship program.

AGLA will again support the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and offer nonpartisan political awareness (and safe social events, of course) to give lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people – and their family and friends – ways to actively make Arlington an inclusive, safe and welcoming place.

In recognition of AGLA's 30th anniversary, the Arlington County Civic Federation presents this Certification to the Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance.