

THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

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State group helps local corporation

By Jennifer Mann

STAFF WRITER

The Housing Corporation of Arlington works to provide affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents through a variety of means — whether it is homebuyer counseling and financing, housing development support and planning or rental assistance and advocacy and outreach.

A community development corporation since 1986, the Housing Corporation has about 100 members from the community, its congregations and businesses. Members help with events such as the Walk for Affordable Housing, with advocacy and fund raising, and on

various home maintenance projects.

Just recently, the Housing Corporation was able to buy and renovate six two-family homes — turning them into 12 affordable housing rental apartments — with the help of financing from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership.

This \$3.9 million assistance comes at a time when two-family home prices are constantly on the rise, said Executive Director of the Housing Corporation David Levy.

“It’s getting so you need to make over \$100,000 just to live (in Arlington),” he said.

The Housing Corporation also in the past received \$1 mil-

lion from the town through the Community Development Block Grant program, and \$932,000 in federal HOME funds through the North Suburban Consortium. Cambridge Savings Bank has also been a supporter.

The Housing Corporation has been buying and renovating two-family properties since 1991 and now owns 14 two-family homes and rents 28 apartments to families.

The Walk for Affordable Housing benefiting the Housing Corporation of Arlington will be held on Sunday, April 10 and is free and open to the public. Registration begins at 1 p.m., and the walk will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. from the Jason Russell House. For additional information, contact David Levy, executive director for the Housing Corporation of Arlington, at 781-316-3429.