



The Power of Together: *People, Resources, Results*

2025 IMPACT REPORT

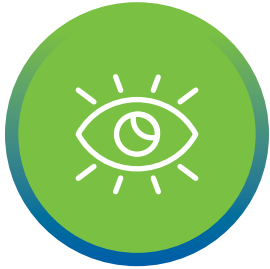






Our Mission

To amplify the work of our community by bringing people and resources together.



Our Vision

Alexandria is a just, vibrant, equitable place where all who live and work here thrive and feel like they belong.



The Partner Alexandria Counts On

ACT is Alexandria's most trusted philanthropic partner, and that trust is the foundation of everything we do. It is what allows us to convene nonprofits, local government, and community leaders around shared challenges. It enables us to bring resources together and reflect the priorities of the whole community, not just a few voices. And it is what drives our commitment to investing in solutions that strengthen Alexandria's economic well-being for all who live and work here.



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Thank You for Celebrating 20 Years With Us!



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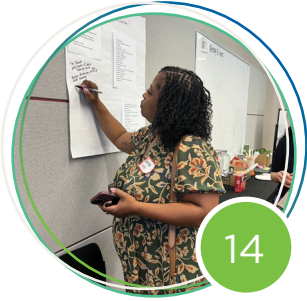
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Where Trust Meets Impact

Letter from Our CEO



Dear Friends of Alexandria,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and a deep sense of purpose about what we are building together.

Economic well-being is not a given. This past year reminded us of that clearly. Shifts in federal policies coupled with rising costs, housing pressures, and financial uncertainty affected families across Alexandria. ACT was proud to connect you with the people and organizations doing the work that makes change real and lasting. That's the power of together.

This is what we do. ACT is a linchpin, bringing together donors, nonprofits, government, and community leaders to tackle Alexandria's most pressing challenges. Through ACT, your generosity is connected to outcomes you can see: families stabilized, nonprofits strengthened, and an economic fabric made more resilient for all Alexandrians.

None of this work happens without trust earned through transparency, accountability, and a genuine commitment to every relationship we hold. To our donors, nonprofit partners, the civic leaders, our board, and our extraordinary staff, thank you. You are the reason ACT can deliver on its promises, and the reason Alexandria is a place where everyone can belong and thrive.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus is clear: to deepen ACT's role as Alexandria's most trusted philanthropic partner; to help shape how economic well-being is understood and prioritized; and to ensure that every communication, every grant, and every connection reflects the values that define us.

The work ahead is urgent and it belongs to all of us. I invite you to give, engage, advocate, and connect others to ACT for Alexandria. This is your community. And ACT is how you invest in it.

With deep gratitude,

HEATHER PEELER
President & CEO
ACT for Alexandria



Thank You for Celebrating 20 Years With Us!

ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA ONE COMMUNITY. ONE FUTURE. OCTOBER 3, 2025



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SPOTLIGHT ON HONOREE: LAUREN STACK

"I am someone who's always thinking about what's next. What new initiatives do we need to lean into? How will we adapt and pivot to meet the needs of our community — today and in the future? The answers will evolve, but ACT will always be here to respond and do what's needed for Alexandria."



Honoring Lauren Stack

20 Years of ACT's Achievements



\$23 million

in donations raised for Alexandria nonprofits through ACT's annual giving day, Spring2ACTION



\$33 million

distributed to nonprofit organizations through ACT's grant programs



200+

Alexandria-serving nonprofits strengthened through grants, trainings and workshops, and convenings

20th Anniversary Campaign

Leslie Ariail and Allison Erdle
Wendy and Lou Brown
The Collis Warner Foundation
Brooke Sydnor Curran and Chris Curran
Laurie Flynn
David and Diann Frantz
Lisa Guernsey

Madigan Family
The Neuhaus-Speck Family Fund
Betsey and Jon Rosenbaum
Marguerite Scheflen and Gene Steuerle
Kathy and Peter Tenhula
The Frank and Betty Wright Foundation

Gala Sponsors

PRESENTING

Cooley LLP/Wendy and Mike Lincoln

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Virginia Bennett and Scott Sekerke
The Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation
Verdence Capital Advisors/Christina and Charles Holt
Peter and Megan Madigan

FUTURE BUILDER

AT&T
Collis Warner Foundation
Dominion Energy
HyperSpectral.ai/Harry and Maria Hopper
Inova Health System

CHANGE MAKER

Anonymous
Brown Advisory
Christopher W. Brown and
Mimi Conger
Sarah King and Lyles Carr
Cindy and Rusty Connor
Corcoran McEneaney
Allison Cryor DiNardo and
Rob DiNardo
Robert Dugger and Joan Huffer
Chris Foster

David and Diann Frantz
Jennifer and Tim Gale
Tom and Magaly Hirst
Trip and Chris Howell
Lisa Jacobs and Paul Brinkman
Amy Liu and Craig Witmer
McLaughlin Ryder Investments
Nautilus Coaching and
Consulting LLC
Nancy and Edward Rice
Betsey and Jon Rosenbaum

Jeannie Shaughnessy and
Noah Simon
Calvert and Sally Simmons
Foundation
Stacey and Donnie Simpson
Erin and Claude Stansbury
Marguerite Scheflen and
Gene Steuerle
Anurag and Monika Varma
John and Bridget Weaver
George and Patti White



Your Generosity Goes Further Here

When you give to ACT, when you choose to hold your fund with us, you show up for the communities we serve.

ACT is a connector, a convener, and a multiplier. Your gift or fund doesn't support a single program, it powers an entire ecosystem of nonprofits, partnerships, and community-driven solutions working together to strengthen Alexandria's economic well-being.

Connect

NEIGHBORS & NONPROFITS

399

Number of Grantees



WHY I DONATE TO ACT

“When I give through ACT, I know my dollars stay right here in Alexandria, doing work I care about. There’s something powerful about investing in the place you love and trusting the right people to make it count.”

—ROSEMARY HAYES JONES





Convene

LEADERS AROUND SOLUTIONS

1,307

Participants total



67 Nonprofit Convenings

Gatherings that bring nonprofit leaders, partners, and community stakeholders together to connect, share insights, discuss community challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration with **258 participants**



5 Education and Awareness

Building events intended to inform the broader Alexandria community about key issues, initiatives, or opportunities for engagement, helping increase understanding and public awareness around important topics with **455 participants**



9 Capacity Building Trainings

Workshops or skill-building sessions designed to strengthen nonprofit staff, leadership, and organizational effectiveness through professional development, tools, and practical strategies with **594 participants**



Multiply

EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED



851

Grants totaling **\$3.58 million**, **53%** to Alexandria-based nonprofits

Your generosity is more than a transaction: it is a statement of trust. We are accountable to you, and we are grateful for you.



WHY I HAVE A CHARITABLE FUND WITH ACT

“Our family is very happy to have started a donor advised fund with ACT for Alexandria in 2025. We find the donor advised fund particularly helpful, allowing us to bunch donations of appreciated investments within one calendar year, saving on potential capital gains tax. This approach also helped us maximize tax-deductible contributions with the new 0.5% AGI floor on charitable contributions in the recent tax bill.

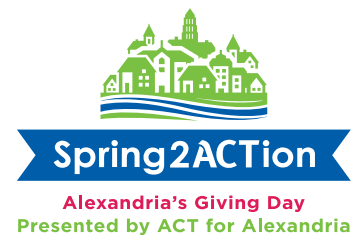
—TRISTIAN CAUDRON



Philanthropy that Meets the Moment

In 2025, the work was urgent and ACT was ready. ACT brought the Alexandria community together through events like Spring2Action, turning generosity into action at exactly the moment it was needed most.

Spring2Action, a new high for Alexandria giving!



Spring2Action matters deeply, and the numbers tell the story. Since 2011, thousands of donors have given nearly \$26 million to 200 nonprofits through Alexandria's Annual Giving Day.

At a moment when Alexandria nonprofits felt the destabilizing effects of federal funding freezes, employment uncertainties, and increasing demand for essential services, Spring2Action served as a critical stabilizer. It's ACT's connective power in action: one day, thousands of donors, and an entire nonprofit ecosystem strengthened. That is what being a trusted partner in philanthropy looks like in practice.



8,000
Number of Donors



\$3.1M
Raised



193
Participating Nonprofit Organizations



Philanthropy that Builds the Future

Alexandria is more than a place. It is a community built on generosity, connection, and shared investment in one another. **ACT is ensuring that our city's philanthropic spirit endures for everyone who calls Alexandria home, now and for generations to come.**



Through Think Ahead Alexandria, the generosity of today's Alexandrians will continue to shape the city for generations to come. *Launched to bolster the long-term financial sustainability of Alexandria's nonprofits, Think Ahead Alexandria*

makes it simple and accessible for donors to include their favorite local organizations in their estate plans. Because philanthropy isn't just for the ultra-wealthy, everyone has the ability to leave a lasting mark on the city they love. When you make a legacy gift through Think Ahead Alexandria, your values, your community, and your generosity live on. The future of this city is too important to leave to chance. Think Ahead Alexandria is how we plan for it together.

A Quiet Gift, A Lasting Impact Senior Services of Alexandria's Enduring Legacy



Scan to read the full story



A Lasting Promise: One Couple's Legacy Sustains Carpenter's Shelter for Years to Come



Scan to read the full story



Ready When Alexandria Needs Us

2025 hit Alexandria hard. A fatal plane crash shook the region. Federal upheaval and layoffs reached into the heart of our community. ACT was there from the start, listening, convening, and moving resources to where they were needed most.

DCA Together Relief Fund

ACT joined Capital Region Community Foundations to raise nearly \$800,000 for the DCA Together Relief Fund to aid impacted families, first responders, and nonprofit organizations supporting recovery and healing from AA flight 5342's devastating crash.

Community Support Initiative

When the safety net is stressed, Alexandria's nonprofits do not face it alone.

When the federal landscape shifted dramatically in 2025, ACT responded swiftly and with purpose, launching the Alexandria Community Support Initiative to strengthen the economic well-being of all Alexandrians and build the capacity of nonprofits responding to growing community needs. This ongoing effort includes:

1. Connected Alexandria, a technology platform for nonprofits to communicate, coordinate and share resources
2. Biweekly Community Resource and Resilience Working Group meetings with real-time updates from City officials and nonprofit leaders
3. Capacity building workshops. In 2025, 120 nonprofit leaders attended *Meeting the Moment: Helping Northern Virginia Nonprofits Explore Shared Services and New Cost Sharing Model*, a workshop to re-envision sustainability and future resilience. This session was co-hosted with Arlington Community Foundation, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, and Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties



Capacity Building Grants

ACT awarded eight \$10,000 grants to strengthen organizational resilience by supporting the people and systems behind the work. These grants prioritize well-being, leadership development, and operational sustainability. Caring for those who care for the community is essential to long-term impact and resilience. Grantees included: Casa Chirilagua, Community Lodgings, OAR of Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church, Restoration Immigration Legal Aid, Service Never Sleeps, The Spitfire Club, Together We Bake, and Voices for Virginia's Children.



“Wellness is not a luxury, it’s a part of the work you have to do, and you have to build in practices around it. When staff are supported through a wellness program, they are more patient and kind to clients.”

—**ELIZABETH JONES VALDERRAMA**

Executive Director of OAR of Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church

“This recognition from ACT for Alexandria reinforces what we see every day—when communities are invested in, and residents are empowered, meaningful change happens. This support will expand opportunities for youth and families in Chirilagua while strengthening community leadership and ensuring residents have the resources and voice to help shape their neighborhood’s future.”

—**LYNN THOMAS**

Executive Director of Community Lodgings



NeighborShare ALX

A pilot launched by ACT for Alexandria in partnership with NeighborShare, provided fast, flexible financial support to residents facing sudden financial hardship as a result of the federal government shutdown. Trusted local nonprofits identified residents with urgent needs and donors chose which needs to fund, directly supporting the people who needed it most. ACT was NeighborShare’s first community foundation partner bringing this innovative model to Alexandria before anywhere else. In 3 months, the platform distributed more than \$32,000 in direct assistance, reaching more than 250 neighbors, including over 115 children. NeighborShare ALX made Alexandria’s spirit of generosity tangible: neighbor helping neighbor, one need at a time.

Looking Forward

The future is now. By listening to our community and investing in the systems that drive real economic well-being, ACT is doing more than responding to today's challenges. We are laying the foundation for a city where everyone can thrive for generations to come.

ADVOCACY + LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Fighting for Alexandria: Advocacy that Moves Prosperity Forward

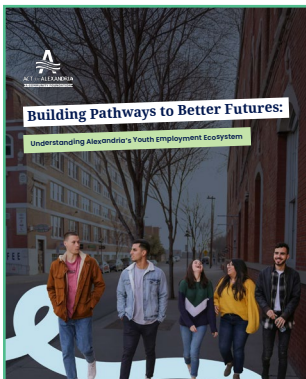
In November 2025, ACT for Alexandria stepped forward as a bold community advocate, releasing *Thriving Together: A Plan for Economic Mobility*, a comprehensive 13-point agenda highlighting policies and investments in human services that nurture the wellbeing of Alexandria residents and workers who power our economy. With federal funding cuts driving up unemployment, housing costs outpacing wages, and demand for human services rising, ACT leveraged its unique position to elevate community needs and propose concrete, cross-sector solutions. This agenda reflects ACT's enduring commitment to ensuring that every Alexandrian, regardless of income, background, or circumstance, has a real pathway to stability and opportunity.



Read the full agenda



ACT's Youth Employment and Career & Technical Education (CTE) Working Group



Read the report



Alexandria's future workforce is sitting in classrooms right now. Whether they have a clear path to a meaningful career or barriers that cut that path short depends on decisions we make today. ACT is bringing together more than 50 leaders from City government, Alexandria City Public Schools, nonprofits, employers, funders, and higher education to break down silos, address systemic barriers, and build an equitable career readiness ecosystem for all Alexandria youth. ACT is connecting and convening. We're not duplicating what others do, but aligning the organizations, systems, and resources already at work in Alexandria, so they function as a coordinated whole. When Alexandria's young people have a clear path to meaningful careers, they are better positioned to afford to live, belong to, and reinvest in the city they call home.

“What’s special about this group is the diversity of voices at the table and how open everyone is. Normally, people come these spaces with their own agendas. But ACT sets a tone where every conversation centers on students and their future.”

—GASTON ARAOZ
Dominion Energy

Community Voice in Action

The people closest to the problem are closest to the solution. That is why ACT created the ACT Youth Council and invested in a Community Advisory Board for the Fund for Racial Equity.

Youth Council

During its tenure, the Youth Council gave 25 of Alexandria's young leaders a meaningful platform to shape conversations, spark ideas, and influence real change. Council members led impactful projects, elevated the issues that matter most to them and their peers, and demonstrated the creativity, courage, and determination that young people bring to civic life. The Youth Council didn't just develop leaders, it helped build a city more committed to hearing them. Ultimately, ACT's Youth Council inspired a new generation of youth leadership programs where young people across the city now have more spaces than ever to find their voice, lead, and create change.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kayleen Diaz

Jordan Fowler

Lucy Hunicutt

Clara Kwakye

Christian Nguimba

Sydney Robasson

Grace Wensing

Lena Wilson

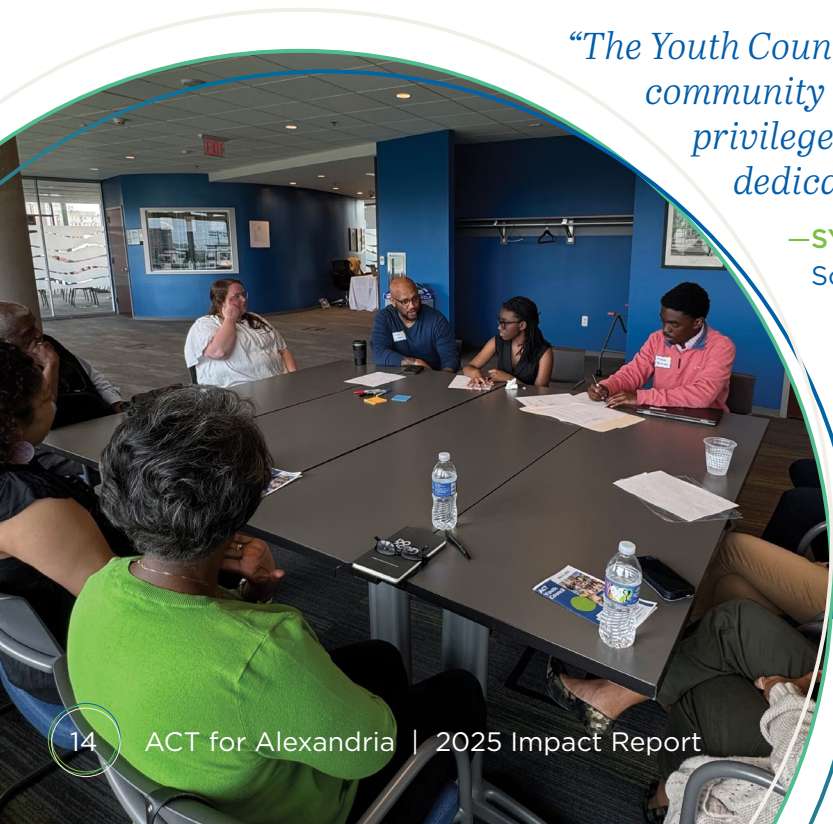
“The Youth Council provided the tools to improve my community along with my personal skills; it has been a privilege to serve amongst Alexandria’s most dedicated youth to create meaningful change.”

—SYDNEY ROBASSON

Sophomore, Alexandria City High School



Watch the video





Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Community Advisory Board leverages their experiences living in and working with those most impacted by systemic racism in Alexandria to set funding priorities and award grants from the Fund for Racial Equity. Embracing trust and resilience amid a challenging year, grants supported those responding to emergent community needs and organizations growing and supporting community power to increase racial equity in Alexandria.

CAB MEMBERS

Patricia Amaya	Bill Campbell	Cecilia Garcia	Lisa Guernsey	Kim Hurley
Naima Kearney	Richard Merritt	Lawrence Smith	Mahlet Tefera	

Through their grantmaking community members moved beyond advising the process to leading it. Because the people closest to the challenges are closest to the solutions.

“As part of the Community Advisory Board, I have learned that while many communities share similar needs, the ways those needs are addressed must be culturally responsive and community-informed. Providing education and increasing awareness within communities and institutions is a critical first step toward reducing disparities and building greater equity. When we commit to this work, we create stronger, healthier environments where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

—CECILIA GARCIA



ACT Staff & Board

2025 ACT Staff List



SHRUTI CARR

Development Associate
Joined June 2025



NICOLE DAVID

Operations & Strategy
Manager



EMILY DAVIS

Associate Director of
Development
Joined June 2025



VANNICE EVANS

Program & Operations
Associate



**SHELLEY SPACEK
MILLER**

Program Manager



**LEEANN NAPOLEON-
TURKAL**

Development & Program
Manager
Left June 2025



HEATHER PEELER

President & CEO



TRICIA RITCHIE

Chief Development
Officer



BRANDI YEE

Chief Program Officer



2025 ACT Board List

JOHN ARMSTRONG	Joy Riot Agency
KAREN AVERY	Isaacson, Miller, Inc.
JULIA BURGOS	Alexandria City Public Schools
LORRAINE CARRASCO	Citi
ROSE DAWSON	Alexandria Library
MAUREEN DEVINE-AHL	Candor and Company
JENNIFER FERRARA	John Marshall Bank
CHRIS FOSTER	Omnicom Group
DAVID FRANTZ*	Conlon, Frantz & Phelan LLP
PAM GILCHRIST	Virginia Tech
LISA GUERNSEY	New America Foundation
CHARLES (CHUCK) HOLT	Verdence Capital Advisers
MARK JINKS	Retired, Alexandria City Manager
BASIM KHAN	Neighborhood Health
STEPHANIE LANDRUM	Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
BRIAN LUNDEEN	Nara Accounting Advisors
PETER MADIGAN	University of Maine
LISA MARTIN	Embrace Communications
PETER MCELWAIN	Clifton Larson Allen LLP
LORI MORRIS*	Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation
ERIK MUENDEL	Branded Realities, ESP Coffee & Tea, Galactic Panther Gallery
SUKUMAR RAO	The Parnin Group
AMY RUTHERFORD	Red Barn Mercantile, Penny Post and Pippin Toy Company
LAUREN STACK*	HyperSpectral Corp/JP Morgan
GENE STEUERLE*	The Urban Institute
KELLY THOMASSON	Dominion Energy Foundation
JAKE TRUEX	McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc.
ANU VARMA	Adani North America

*Emeritus Board Member



ACT *for* **ALEXANDRIA**

A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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