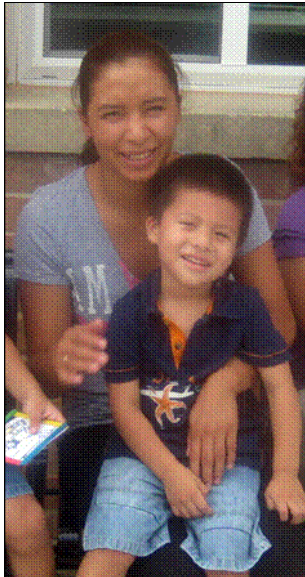


The Faces of APAH Residents



Marisol lives in Columbia Grove Apartments with her two children.

Originally from Guatemala, she lived in another Arlington apartment before moving to an affordable unit at Columbia Grove. She finds temporary work outside of the home, but primarily cares for her young children or provides childcare to other families in the neighborhood.

Marisol participates regularly and enthusiastically in community activities, including English classes, computer classes, and the parents' play group.

In 1989, **Vernadine** moved to Arlington. For the past ten years, she has lived with her three children in Courthouse Crossing Apartments. Her children, ages 13, 17, and 21, all attend or have graduated from Arlington public schools. The oldest now attends George Mason University. Vernadine works as a substance abuse counselor, but to make ends meet, she also works a second job as a cab operator. Vernadine's younger daughter struggles with limited mobility resulting from muscular

APAH's residents reflect Arlington's cultural and socioeconomic diversity. Households include individuals, families, single-parent households, elderly couples, and residents with mental and physical disabilities. We house over 2000 residents in 995 units across 12 properties. Residents come from all over the world and work in a variety of jobs including construction, retail, administrative, food service, taxi driving, and nursing jobs. Several residents have generously shared their stories.

dystrophy. Due to her daughter's increased needs, APAH is working to accommodate her family in a larger, wheelchair-accessible apartment.

Fanny and her family emigrated to the U.S. from Peru in 1998. They were fortunate to come with permanent residence, but learning English was difficult and they had to struggle to get ahead. The family moved to Columbia Grove Apartments and found jobs.



Their effort is bearing fruit: Their oldest daughter graduated from James Madison University and their younger daughter is studying Economics at Virginia Tech. Fanny continues to study English and participate in resident services programs. Her husband is less active in these programs because he works two jobs.

When APAH purchased Buchanan Gardens Apartments in December 2009, we found families who were not only low income but also were caring for family members with mental and physical challenges. Often, residents were unaware of services that could help them. One such family is supported by a single mother who is raising four sons,

Antonio, Estefan, Leonardo, and Nicolas, pictured here with their mentor, Ollie.



In Ollie's words, "Buchanan Gardens has provided a close-knit and safe community that has enabled the boys to live, thrive, and grow. When APAH learned that three of the four boys were triplets, all of whom were blind, APAH immediately got to work in doing what it could to help ensure that their housing needs were met, and their lives are brighter as a direct result."