



*Amanda*  
**ANDERE**

**A**s executive director of FACETS, a nonprofit that connects vulnerable area families with resources for housing and other basic needs, Amanda Andere works tirelessly to help erase a problem that many misunderstand—or aren't even aware exists.

Andere says, "In Northern Virginia, and specifically in Fairfax County and other wealthy counties in Northern Virginia, people don't think about poverty and homelessness ... don't understand that there is a real need in our area." She further explains, "A lot of folks are the working poor, and, you know, we want

them in our community as well."

Of her leadership at FACETS the past three years, Andere says she is proudest of not only helping to reduce Fairfax County's shelter wait list but providing services to break the cycle. In her first year at FACETS, 18 people moved into housing; the second year, nine; and the third, six. "Every year we're kind of chipping away at the numbers of people who need that housing," she says.

The trifecta vital to FACETS' and its partners' success comes in the form of access to: education, employment and affordable housing. Looking to

the future, Andere anticipates, "If we are increasing access to those three things, we know we'll have a more stable community."

Giving back—at FACETS, on the Reston Association board, through Reston's Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Church, as an adjunct professor at Mason, a member of Nonprofit NoVa, etc.—comes naturally to Andere who always saw her immigrant parents give greatly, thankful to those who had helped them. She says, "That's why I'm inspired to make sure that we have a community that does that."—**NATALIE KAAR**