



Fairfax County Commission for Women

The commission's charge is to
promote the full equality of women and girls
in the county.



FY 2013- FY 2014
BIENNIAL REPORT



Message from the Chair

Jeanie F. Jew, Chair

In 2012-2014 the Fairfax County Commission for Women focused on strategic planning and on building partnerships to benefit the women and girls of Fairfax County. The Commission worked with George Mason University to honor women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professions. It teamed with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to raise awareness about breast cancer. The Commission partnered with the Fairfax County Police Victim Services Section to collect donated cell phones for the Commission's Verizon HopeLine project. The Commission has joined the Just Ask human trafficking prevention group to raise public awareness of teen sex trafficking in the county. Additionally, the Fairfax County Commission for Women has begun building an alliance with the other women's commissions to benefit the women and girls in the region.

The Commission for Women is grateful to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for their continued support of the Commission and its mission: To promote the full equality of women and girls in the county.



Ongoing Efforts

Verizon HopeLine

As a result of the Commission for Women's successful collection of donated cell phones in 2013-2014, Verizon HopeLine donated a total of \$15,000 to Artemis House, Fairfax County's emergency domestic violence shelter. The Victim Services Section of the Fairfax County Police Department helped collect hundreds of donated cell phones from Commission for Women drop boxes at county police stations, and the City of Fairfax Commission for Women contributed phones collected at Fairfax City Hall.



Members of the Commission for Women with representatives of Verizon and Artemis House.



National Association of Commissions for Women

The Commission for Women continued its participation in the NACW, the only organization providing linkages and support for all Commissions for Women nationwide.

Student Representative

During this biennium, the Commission for Women was fortunate to have the youngest Commission for Women member in the country, Sakshi Chhabra. Ms. Chhabra, a student at Annandale High School, made valuable contributions to the Commission, and provided the perspective of young women in the county.



Interim Vice Chair Sondra Hemenway and Student Representative Sakshi Chhabra



Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

The Commission proudly continued its active support of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, which is working to create a memorial to honor the suffragists imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917, whose actions brought about a “turning point” in the struggle to win the right to vote for women.

2012-2013

Domestic Violence Action Center

The Commission for Women is proud to have provided support and donations at the time this important resource for Fairfax County was created. This co-located service center for victims of domestic violence is now providing a much-needed range of advocacy services through its visionary alliance of agencies, organizations and community support.

Domestic Violence and Affordable Housing Dialogue

In October 2012, the Commission for Women convened a dialogue of interested policymakers and community members to develop and prioritize recommendations in response to the increasing need for emergency and long-term housing for victims of domestic violence. Almost fifty individuals representing over twenty-five organizations participated. Peg Hacskaylo, Executive Director of the District Alliance for Safe Housing, provided an inspiring and visionary keynote introduction.

Tier 1 Domestic Violence Training

The Commission for Women provided financial support for the inaugural domestic violence 3-day training. This training marked the first time that comprehensive domestic violence training was made available to professionals and community members county-wide.

Domestic Violence and Affordable Housing White Paper

In January 2013, the Commission for Women completed over two years of work when it provided to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors its recommendations for meeting the housing needs of domestic violence survivors. Several of the recommendations have come to fruition, such as dedicated transitional housing for domestic violence survivors, and information for victims and their advocates on their legal housing rights. Other goals such as additional emergency domestic violence shelter beds have yet to be accomplished.



Members of the Commission with Supervisor John Foust and honoree Dr. Joy Hughes of George Mason University



Women's History Month 2013: Women in STEM

The Commission for Women marked Women's History Month in March 2013 with a celebration of women in STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. George Mason University's Chief Information Officer

and Vice President for Information Technology, Dr. Joy Hughes, accepted the proclamation from the Board of Supervisors and spoke eloquently about overcoming the roadblocks to women in STEM.

2013 Women's History Month proclamation by the Board of Supervisors honoring women in STEM



2013-2014

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Commission for Women and the Board of Supervisors honored the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for their “Pink Heals” campaign during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2013. Chief Richard Bowers accepted the proclamation and praised the ongoing partnerships between Fire and Rescue, the Commission for Women and the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

Support for Lethality Assessment Training

The Commission for Women provided funding to enable a wide range of Fairfax County’s first responders to receive domestic violence lethality assessment training from the nationally recognized expert, Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of Johns Hopkins University. Since half of Fairfax County homicides are domestic violence-related, application of this training will provide a real opportunity to save lives and improve the safety of victims and their children.



2013 Breast Cancer Awareness Month proclamation by the Board of Supervisors



Strategic Planning

With the assistance of facilitator Corrine M. House of George Mason University, in the Fall of 2013, the Commission for Women undertook a strategic planning process to determine how they should direct their energy and attention on behalf of the women and girls of Fairfax County over the next two years. Commissioners' research and thoughtful discussion yielded an important priority for women and girls in Fairfax County: human trafficking.

Women's History Month 2014: Women of Courage, Character and Commitment

In March 2014 the Commission for Women saluted the success of women in Fairfax County law enforcement. Special honoree was the county's first female Sheriff, Stacey Kincaid.

Workplace Violence Policy

The Fairfax County Workplace Violence Policy, a longtime project of the Commission, was fully adopted in 2014. This policy will help to prevent workplace violence, and provides the County with mechanisms to ensure that victims do not face repercussions in the workplace. The Community Outreach Committee of the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council is working to encourage the adoption of analogous policies by private employers in Fairfax County, led by Commission for Women representative Emily McCoy.



Members of the Commission with Fairfax County's first female Sherriff, Stacey Kincaid



Guest Speakers

The Fairfax County Commission for Women wishes to thank the following individuals who spoke at 2012-2014 Commission meetings and events, providing valuable information and support for the work of the Commission:

Sam Bachman

Supervisor of Offender Services
Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Chief Richard Bowers

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

Chris Davies

Supervisor of Counseling Services
Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Kristin Fitzmorris

Creator of **JustAskVA.org** human trafficking prevention website and owner, Hidden Brook Communications

Peg Hacskaylo

Executive Director, District Alliance for Safe Housing

Corinne House

Communications Manager, Office of Student Involvement, George Mason University

Dr. Joy Hughes

Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Information Technology, George Mason University

Mollianne Logerwell

Assistant Professor, Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement, George Mason University

Elizabeth Payne

K-12 Coordinator for Health, Family Life, & Physical Education, Instructional Services Dept., Fairfax County Public Schools

Heather Sarmiento

Prevention & Education Specialist, Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Supporters

The Commission for Women would like to acknowledge assistance provided by the following:

AK Group

Willie Bailey

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

Sandy Bromley

County-Wide Domestic Violence Coordinator

Andrea Ceisler

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

Chantilly Academy students

Nora Mahoney

Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Bonita Pennino

American Cancer Society

City of Fairfax Commission for Women

Bonnie Swayze

Alliance Rubber Company

Joe Meyer

Shelter House

Ellen Nasanow

Friends of the Fairfax County Commission for Women

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center



Retired Commissioners 2012-2014

The Fairfax County Commission for Women wishes to recognize and thank the members who retired in 2012-2014:

Cathy Baum

Sakshi Chhabra

Treasurer 2013-2014

Kathy Goggin

Chair 2006-2008; Vice Chair 2012-2013

Lee Helfrich

Vice Chair 2011-2012

Diane Hoyer

Chair 2008-2010

Kari Warren

Commissioners & Officers 2013-2014

Jeanie F. Jew

Chair, Springfield District

Sondra Seba Hemenway

Interim Vice Chair, At-Large

Cynthia Bhatnagar

Mason District

Julia T. Boone

Hunter Mill District

Miriam Swydan Erickson

Providence District

Nancy Krakover

Braddock District

Barbara Lipka

Sully District

Emily McCoy

Lee District

Dr. Binh Nguyen

Dranesville District

Mattie Palmore

Minority At-Large

Maria Jarmila Vorel

Mt. Vernon District

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The Commission meetings are public meetings held on the second Monday of each month (except August) at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. Check the website,

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw



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