



# Fairfax County Commission for Women

The **Commission's charge** is to promote the full equality of **women and girls** in the County.



Volume 1, Issue 3

FALL 2009 Newsletter

## Message from the Executive Director

As autumn was kicked off by football season (no pun intended), I watched the leaves begin to turn and started to break out my warmer clothing. I was also reminded that it is a time to remember and honor those who are, and have been, victims of Domestic Violence. October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and many in the community raised awareness about this devastating family and societal issue in a concentrated way during this time of year.

Ina G. Fernández



*October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and many in the community raise awareness about this devastating family and societal issue in a concentrated way during this time of year.*

Did you know that in 2008, Fairfax County police responded to 10,099 domestic violence related calls for service; the magistrate's office issued 2,187 emergency protective orders (EPOs) and 2,168 domestic violence assault and battery misdemeanor warrants; the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDRC) issued 780 protective orders (POs) and 2,100 criminal misdemeanor domestic violence cases were adjudicated; the Victim Assistance Network provided individual counseling to 750 victims; Artemis House provided emergency shelter to 237 adults and children who were victims of domestic violence; and the Fairfax-Falls Church Point-in-Time-Survey found 7 percent of homeless single individuals identified as victims of domestic violence victims and nearly one

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## News from the Chair

I am happy to share with you some of the activities and events that we have been involved with this fall season.



Diane T. Hoyer

Many Commissioners from the CFW and the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (OFW&DSVS) were present at the Board of Supervisor Board meeting designating October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The CFW and OFW&DSVS collaborated with many organizations throughout the county to remember and honor the courage and strength of victims and survivors, raise consciousness about the prevalence of domestic violence and encourage prevention activities.

The Domestic Violence Committee of the CFW developed a draft workplace violence policy. Since June the Commission has hosted an interagency collaboration with the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Policy, Prevention and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) which is chaired by the County Executive. The DVPPCC is guiding the development of a comprehensive and coordinated community wide response to domestic and sexual violence in Fairfax County. At the October Meeting the Interagency Committee on Workplace Domestic Violence proposed their final draft to submit to the CFW and

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This **quarterly newsletter** of the Fairfax County **Commission for Women (CFW)** is a **great resource** to learn about the CFW. It provides information on issues relating to **women and girls** in **Fairfax County**.



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Annually, the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, in partnership with the Commission for Women (CFW), hosts a collaboration of local and federal government agencies, as well as community, faith-based and other organizations and individuals to plan and support activities focused on raising awareness of the implications domestic violence has in our communities. One of these events is the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) proclamation presented at a regular meeting of the BOS proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

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### News from the Executive Director

quarter (24%) of homeless individuals in families identified as such?

These are staggering numbers, and when one realizes these statistics reflect only those who are served by county programs, the implication is overwhelming. There are countless victims and survivors served by many other organizations as well as those who are never identified. And the sobering reality is that the statistics grow every year.

Please consider becoming involved in your community to raise awareness about domestic violence. It does, indeed, exist in our community and affects people you know. For more information on domestic violence and different events in which you may choose to participate, please follow this link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/dviolence/>

## 2009-2010 Issues Survey

In 1971 The Fairfax County Commission for Women was established to advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County and to be an active voice for women and girls in areas such as educational equality, domestic violence and progress in the workplace.

*“Changing the world for the better takes passion, dedication, information, resources, timeliness and mutual support.”*

— Gloria Steinem

Now for the first time in our nation’s history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago (in 1967 women made up only one-third of all workers). It changes how women spend their days and has a ripple effect that reverberates throughout our nation. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities. Quite simply, women as half of all workers changes everything. (From the Executive Summary of The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Changes Everything.)

In an effort to meet the changes in our nation’s and community’s workforce demographics, the Commission for Women is conducting a survey to identify the issues important to the women and girls of Fairfax County. To effectively address and advise the BOS on these issues the Commission must hear the views, thoughts and opinions of the community. The survey is an online survey and can be taken by accessing the Commission’s web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw>. Your voice is valuable and important please go to the Web site <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opinio/s?s=1510> and click on the **2009-2010 Issues Survey**.

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## News from the Chair

the DVPPCC before submission to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for approval.

The CFW and Verizon Wireless HopeLine are sponsoring the second annual cell phone drive to help victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County and we are asking for your help. If you have wireless phone(s) you no longer use, wireless telephone batteries or chargers, in any condition and from any service provider, please drop these items off at the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic Violence & Assault Services at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 339, Fairfax, VA 22035. Additionally, if you have questions or would like to assist the Commission with collecting used cell phones at your office or place of worship, for example, please contact the Commission for Women at 703-324-5730; TTY 711.

Commissioners volunteered their time again this year at the 2009 Fall for Fairfax. Fall for Fairfax is Northern Virginia's largest fall festival including more than 100 interactive activities and exhibits and programs focusing on education, sport and fitness, the environment, public safety and personal health. During the festival the CFW engaged young festival attendees by inviting them to create a design that was made into a button that they could proudly wear. While the children were busy creating their buttons, mothers had an opportunity to look over our resource materials. The CFW Living Healthy Calendar for 2010 also debuted at the Fall for Fairfax. An electronic

version of the calendar will be placed online and available at the CFW homepage in the near future and a limited number of printed copies will be made available for the public.

Last but not least, Commissioners attended the 4th Annual Coffelt Cancer Survivorship Conference and distributed brochures and information about the CFW.

The goal of the conference was to help those touched by cancer better understand the power of nutrition, fitness, positive thinking and medical innovation. After attending the conference, Jeanie Jew, the Commissioner representing the Springfield District contacted her supervisor, Pat Herryty. Supervisor Herryty was instrumental in declaring October to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is our hope that the CFW can help save lives by encouraging women to have a mammogram. Early screening has proven to save lives.

It's been an exciting Fall! Please visit our Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw) for future events and I hope to see you at our **Women's Voices Forum on Saturday, March 20, 2010.**

## Fall for Fairfax

**The Commission for Women hosted a table at the widely attended Fall for Fairfax this past, October 3.**

The Commissioners distributed informational brochures about domestic violence, sexual assault, legal assistance and financial literacy and other service programs of interest to women. Many families stopped by the table and kids had fun designing their own buttons! In addition, women visitors had the opportunity to complete a survey on their thoughts of the most important issues affecting women and girls in the County.



## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On October 19 the Board of Supervisors proclaimed October Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Accepting the proclamation on behalf of the CFW was Jeanie Jew, Springfield district representative. Dr. Edmiston from INOVA Fairfax Hospital stressed the importance of screenings to women of all ages and ethnicities. A reception followed and many women received lovely pink bags from Inova Hospital and some important self-examination information to commemorate the day!

## Fairfax County Commission for Women

Appointed by the Board of Supervisors

*Commission members are volunteers from each Magisterial District.*

<b>Braddock District</b>	Terry Wanbaugh, Vice Chair
<b>Dranesville District</b>	Diane Hoyer, Chair
<b>Hunter Mill District</b>	Michele Jones
<b>Lee District</b>	Emily McCoy
<b>Mason District</b>	Vacant
<b>Mt. Vernon District</b>	Diana F. Shermeyer
<b>Providence District</b>	Keeshea Turner Roberts
<b>Springfield District</b>	Jeanie F. Jew
<b>Sully District</b>	Kathy Goggin
<b>At-Large</b>	Alotta Taylor
<b>Minority, At-Large</b>	Sook Kim

**Student Representative** Faviola Donato-Galindo

**Executive Director** Ina Fernández

**Liaison, Commission for Women** Glynda Mayo Hall

**Administrative Assistant** Everetta Lewis

The Commission for Women holds its meeting the second Monday of every month, excluding holidays, at 7:15 p.m. in the Government Center Executive Conference Room 232, and is open to the public.

Please contact us for more information

**Fairfax County Commission for Women (CFW)**  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 339  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
**Telephone: 703-324-5730, TTY 711**  
**Fax: 703-324-3959**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw)



### ADA Statement

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services, and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request.

To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5730; TTY 711.

For information on how to reach this location using public transportation, visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.fairfaxconnector.com>" [www.fairfaxconnector.com](http://www.fairfaxconnector.com) 703-339-7200; TTY 703-339-1608 or HYPERLINK "<http://www.wmata.com>" [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com) 202-637-7000; TTY 202-638-3780.

# SAVE THE DATE

Fairfax County  
Commission for Women

# 2010

## WOMEN VOICES FORUM

Saturday, **March 20**

### Monthly Information for Your Health

#### October

**Violence Prevention Month:**  
**Empower yourself.**

- I-CAN/-Family Abuse Protective Orders:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/jdr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/jdr).
- Fairfax County Victim Assistance Network: 703-360-7273\*.
- Women's Self Defense Program sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Department: 703-246-7806\*.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month:  
[www.nbcam.org](http://www.nbcam.org).

#### November

**Tobacco Use: Smoking is costly to your lungs & wallet.**

- Great American Smokeout: November 19.
- Quitting smoking is tough and may take 3 or more tries.
- People who stop for 3 months can remain cigarette-free forever.
- [www.smokefree.gov/guide/](http://www.smokefree.gov/guide/).

#### December

**Spirituality: Build your soul; search your heart.**

- Reaffirm your beliefs.
- Have a positive attitude; Every tomorrow is a new day.
- Perform random acts of kindness.
- Take time to celebrate.

\* All Virginia phone numbers on this calendar can also be reached by dialing 711 (Virginia Relay).

