



Department of Family Services  
**Volunteer Connections**  
 for Children, Youth & Families

Summer 2009

Issue 2



## 2009 Volunteer Fairfax Awards Ceremony

More than 450 guests attended this year's awards ceremony at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA. Groups and individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions.



**Rick Nehrbooss**, who volunteers as a facilitator with the Parenting Education Programs and mentors with the BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program, was nominated in the "Adult Volunteer" category. Rick has been volunteering with us for over seven years.

**Marlis McCollum** was nominated for her work with the BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program in the "Benchmark Award" category. This category recognizes volunteers who gave over 250 hours of volunteer service in 2008. Marlis volunteered 282 hours in 2008. Marlis has been volunteering with us since 2005.



**Jennie Hibbert** was also nominated for a "Benchmark Award." Jennie knits finger puppets for children with the Parenting Education Programs. The puppets match characters in books which she also provides and hands out to the children when they graduate with their families after completing the parenting program curriculum. Jennie volunteered 262 hours in 2008 and has been with us over 10 years.

A special thank you to this year's nominees for their ongoing support in serving Fairfax County residents!

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## Budget Reductions and Child Abuse Prevention Programs



Fairfax County Government's response to the economic downturn has had some impact on programs that you give to so generously of your time to support.

In Child Abuse Prevention Programs:

- BeFriend-A-Parent has ended with no new recruitment of volunteer mentors. The BeFriend-A-Child program was moved from Child Abuse Prevention Services to the Foster Care and Adoption program. Ann's role with BeFriend-A-Child will continue, but has been moved to the Foster Care and Adoption Unit as well.
- One of the social worker positions supporting BeFriend-A-Parent and BeFriend-A-Child was eliminated. As a result, Chuck Berlin moved into a new position in our department.
- Chuck will continue to manage some mentoring matches, but his involvement will be less than before.

- The Volunteer Services Program which supports all the volunteers in Prevention will continue supporting the BeFriend-A-Child and other Child Abuse Prevention programs as YOU are vital to us and our families.

To see the County's Fiscal Year 2010 (July 2009-June 2010) overall budget, copy this link into your browser:

**[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/advertised/fy2010/citizens\\_guide.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/advertised/fy2010/citizens_guide.pdf)**

## BeFriend-A-Child Move to the Foster Care & Adoption Unit

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Some thoughts from Chuck:

How grateful I am for the opportunity to "do social work" in the same division, and for the Board of Supervisors restoring a number of human services programs and positions. *Thanks very much* to several of you and other concerned persons who voiced your views to the Board and to directors and managers. I've been privileged since 1998 to serve and guide hundreds of special folks.

You and mentees will see me at some of our group events and training. A small portion of my new duties will include some BeFriend responsibilities.

These so-tough-times nationally, globally, make all the more important *your service* in guiding, in listening to and in going places with kids and teens. BeFriend-A-Child makes for happier, safer and enriched kids, and strengthened families. Thank you!

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We will miss both Chuck and Ann here in Prevention but will still work closely together!



**Below is information on two programs that are offered through Parenting Education Programs.**

### **Teen Parenting Program**

This year the Parenting Education Programs held parenting classes for teen parents in three Fairfax County high schools. The classes lasted for about 14 weeks. About 25 mothers/mothers-to-be and one father attended. Teens expressed how much they learned from the classes. The program is scheduled to conduct parenting classes during the next school year and is planning to work with four more high schools by the end of the school year. Contact Krissa Slone at 703-324-7745, TTY 703-222-9452, [Krissa.Slone@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Krissa.Slone@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you would like more information.

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### **Good-Touch/Bad-Touch®**

Good-Touch/Bad-Touch® (GTBT) provides research-based, effective, body safety and violence prevention education for children in Pre-K through 6th grades. It includes information and discussions about child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, bullying of all types, Internet safety, stranger danger rules, bystander responsibilities and answers to questions about substance abuse.

The GTBT program is delivered in different settings within Fairfax County, including neighborhood and day care centers, churches, boys and girls clubs, at scout meetings and in schools. The program has shown tremendous growth. Last year, at the end of May, there were 389 children attending the class. This year, at the end of May, 575 children had attended. A pre-test and post-test is given to the students showing up to 56 percent change in the students' knowledge regarding body safety concerns.

This year the GTBT curriculum has been delivered in some Fairfax County Public Schools during school hours. This arrangement has made it very easy to reach the children. There is plan for more schools to participate in the coming school year.

Contact Program Coordinator Tsehay Elias at 703-324-7459, TTY 703-222-9759 or [Tsehay.Elias@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Tsehay.Elias@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you would like to know more about the program.

## Volunteer Newsletter Now Online

We are sending "Volunteer Connections" via e-mail for a variety of reasons. Those without e-mail will still receive a paper copy.



### Benefits:

- Saves taxpayer dollars.
- Is environmentally friendly.
- Lets you view the entire newsletter in color.
- Less paper for you to recycle!

### Please:

Send updated e-mail addresses to us if there have been any changes within the last year. This will ensure continual delivery to you.

If you still wish to receive a paper copy, please let me know by contacting me at:

Laurie.Eytel@fairfaxcounty.gov or  
703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452

or

Laurie Eytel  
Fairfax County Department of Family Services  
Child Abuse Prevention Services  
12011 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

## Volunteers Needed for August 15<sup>th</sup> Kinship Respite Day

The Kinship Respite Committee of Fairfax County needs volunteers to help with an event it will hold on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> entitled: "A Day of Backyard Water Play – Let the Learning Flow." The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. simultaneously at two sites – Gum Springs Community Center in Alexandria, and Mott Community Center in Fairfax. The day will involve outside water play, crafts, and other activities with children ages 3-12. There will be two shifts of volunteers, starting with set-up at 9 a.m. If you are interested in helping with this fun and rewarding day, call Nancy Coffey, DFS Prevention Services, at 703-324-7723 or e-mail her at: [nancy.coffey@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:nancy.coffey@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Kinship families are those where a grandparent or other family member is raising a relative child when the parents are unable to do so. Many family situations can cause the



need for kinship care giving, including substance abuse issues, mental health problems, homelessness, incarceration, or military deployment. One of the needs of these families is to give the caregiver a break, and kinship respite day events are designed to do just that, while providing a day of fun for the children. In Fairfax County about 3,500 grandparents are raising grandchildren. Kinship respite events are held four times per year.



## Partnership and Volunteer Appreciation Events

On April 21 in Springfield, and on April 29 in Fairfax, the Children, Youth and Families Division held an appreciation event for our dedicated partners and volunteers -YOU - during National Volunteer Appreciation month.

We wish to thank our generous sponsors for their support of these two events:

Grace Presbyterian Church  
Fairfax United Methodist Church  
Whole Foods of Fairfax  
Olive Garden  
Papa John's

Popeye's  
Romano's Macaroni Grill  
Great American Restaurants  
Gumax International Cuisine

Entertainment was generously provided by:

Tilly Blanding  
Emma Earnest  
Marie Conteh\*

Stonebridge High School Choir\*  
Julianne Remer & Alexandra Lajoux

\*in pictures below



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## Volunteer Spotlight: Juanita Wilder...in her own words

### Why did you decide to volunteer with Family Services Parenting Education Programs?

I have always been interested in working with young parents on helping them provide positive parenting to their children.

### How long have you been volunteering with us?

I've been with the program for two years now.

### What is one of your most memorable experiences with the program?

The best times happen when it is evident that the individuals get it. They can actually express how it **feels** to understand how to nurture their children and themselves.

### Tell us a little bit about your life outside of volunteering with us.

I am a '60s activist who believes that it is not enough to talk about the wrongs of the world, each of us must do something about it.

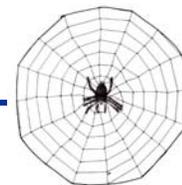
### What is something about yourself you'd like to share that others might not know about you?

I actually get more out of the program than I give. I am a volunteer because I would feel as if I am cheating the system because of what I receive from the program. I love it and the great staff who support the program.

**Thank you for your comments and for supporting our families!**



## Interesting Web Sites



### Check Out Fairfax County Web Pages

The Fairfax County Web site [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) continues to add and update its pages to offer news and information on a variety of topics. Recent additions and updates include:

**ARTS:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/arts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/arts)— Events, links to area facilities and organizations, classes, public art projects.

**BLIGHT:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/housing/blight](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/housing/blight) — Blight Abatement Program, how to report blight, photo gallery featuring examples of blight.

**COMPLAINTS & CONCERNS:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/complaints](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/complaints) — One stop for forms to report complaints, concerns and issues in neighborhoods or communities — animals, environment, crime, homes and properties, consumer issues, taxes, human rights.

**DULLES METRORAIL:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/transportation/dullesmetro](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/transportation/dullesmetro) — Information on construction, lane closures, station designs and traffic impacts (including Routes 123 and 7 in Tysons).

## Training Opportunities

### Social Services Training

As a volunteer you may be eligible for free training from the Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA). Classes are free. Course topics range from emotional disorders to time and stress management. Call VISSTA at 703-324-7836, TTY 703-222-9452 to find out about programs offered, or check out their Web site at [www.vcu.edu/vissta](http://www.vcu.edu/vissta).

### Springfield Exchange

This social services lunch lecture series is free and open to the public. Coffee and tea are provided, but you are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. The exchange occurs on the second Thursday every other month at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. - noon, and the presentation runs from noon - 1:30 p.m. Call Paulette Whiteside at 703-324-5285, TTY 703-222-9452 for more information. No RSVP required.

### Fairfax County Public Library Learning Opportunities

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/libevents/evntform.asp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/libevents/evntform.asp), or stop by a branch and pick up a copy of *This Month*, the library's calendar of events, to view their opportunities.

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**Our Web site:**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/about/volops.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/about/volops.htm)



### Projected Parenting Programs Groups

**Please contact Laurie at 703-324-7871, [leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you wish to facilitate one or more of these groups.**

The following groups meet 5:30-8 p.m. and will be conducted in English unless otherwise noted:

7/28/09- 10/20/09	Tuesday	5-11 age range in Spanish	Falls Church	13 weeks
9/12/09- 3/13/10		0-4 age range 2nd Saturday each month & 2 home visits	Annandale	21 weeks
9/17/09- 12/17/09	Thursday	5-11 age range	Reston	13 weeks
9/21/09- 12/21/09	Monday	5-11 age range	Alexandria	13 weeks
9/21/09- 12/21/09	Monday	5-11 age range	Annandale	13 weeks
9/24/09- 12/17/09	Thursday	Parent & Teen	Springfield	12 weeks
9/29/09- 12/22/09	Tuesday	5-11 age range	Centreville	13 weeks
10/1/09- 1/14/10	Thursday	5-11 age range in Spanish	Alexandria	13 weeks
10/6/09- 3/9/10	Tuesday	0-4 age range African American Culture	Springfield	21 weeks
10/22/09- 2/4/10	Thursday	5-11 age range in Spanish	Alexandria	13 weeks
11/9/09- 2/9/10	Monday	5-11 age range in Spanish	Fairfax	13 weeks



To request this information in an alternate format, call Laurie Eytel, 703-324-7871 or TTY 703-222-9452.