

Volunteer Connections

for Children, Youth & Families Division Volunteers



:: January 2011 :: Issue 1 ::

2010 Volunteer Satisfaction Survey



Of the 68 surveys that were sent out to the Parenting Education Program and other Child Abuse Prevention volunteers, 24 were returned—a 35% return rate. Below are some results that you might find of interest from those who responded. (BeFriend-A-Child mentoring, now housed in Foster Care and Adoption, did not send out a survey this year.)

The Parenting Education Program survey revealed that 54.1% of respondents have volunteered with us a year or less. 20.8% of you have been with us between one to five years, and 25% of you have been with us five years or more! When asked if you would recommend our programs to others, 23 said yes, one said no.

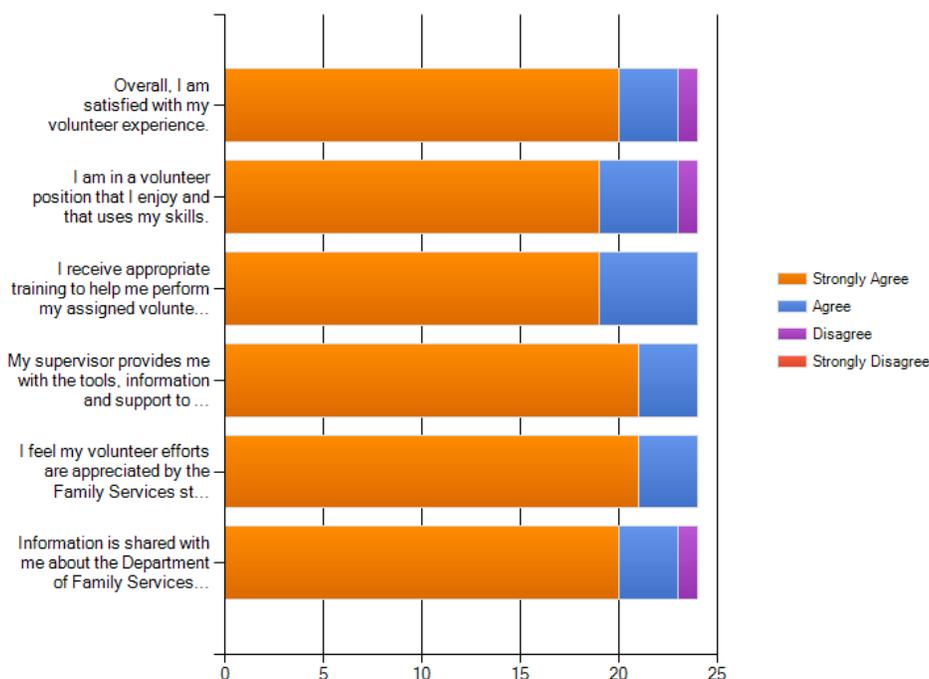
When asked if you found “Volunteer Connections” to be a useful resource, 70.8% said yes, and 29.1% said either no or not applicable. Please share with us how we could make this a more useful publication for you if you didn’t respond yes—our goal is to serve you in the best way possible.

Below are some additional responses to the survey questions. If you’d like to know some of the other results, please let Laurie know at leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Please rank each question below.



2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey Results

The results of the *2009 Fairfax County Youth Survey* conducted in the fall of 2009 are now available to the public. The survey continued the efforts of previous youth surveys conducted in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2008. Surveys were voluntarily and anonymously completed by county students in the sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades.

The survey was conducted to determine the frequency of behaviors of youth in the county in areas such as delinquency, substance abuse, violence, health and health risk behaviors, as well as positive behaviors including personal integrity and community engagement. Here are a few of the survey findings:

- ✦ Cigarette smoking and alcohol use have declined in all age groups since the 2008 survey was conducted.
- ✦ Use of smokeless tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants increased slightly since in all age groups except sixth graders since the 2008 survey.
- ✦ Self-reported bullying or being bullied decreased sharply since 2008 according to eighth, tenth and twelfth grade survey respondents.
- ✦ Approximately 8% of sixth grade survey respondents reported being bullied by an adult in the household at least once a month.
- ✦ 20% of the sixth grade survey respondents reported having carried a weapon other than a handgun in the past year.
- ✦ Approximately 22% of youth in eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades reported carrying a weapon other than a handgun in the past year. Approximately seven percent reported carrying a handgun.

If you would like to view the complete survey results and tabulation report, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey.





Volunteer Spotlight -

Judy Hechinger



Why did you decide to volunteer with BeFriend-A-Child mentoring?

I decided to volunteer with the program after my husband Chip and I were fully trained in the Emergency Foster care program. Our four children are grown now so more time was available to help within the community. With both of us working full time it was suggested that the mentoring program would be a better fit. I was delighted with the idea and attended the training program with Chuck Berlin. Shortly after finishing the training Chuck called in reference to a wonderful family that was in need of mentors. I was matched with a little girl who at the time was five.

How long have you been volunteering with us?

I have been volunteering with the program for three years.

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

While my mentee's sister was waiting to be matched up with someone I agreed to mentor her as well. After two years just one on one with my mentee I asked her how she felt about her sister joining us on our outings. She sat very quiet for a few moments and then looked up at me with a big smile and said, "I think that would make her very happy and if she's happy I am happy." This really shows how much joy these children get from the program and the dedication of BeFriend-A-Child staff and volunteers.

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

My husband Chip and I have been married for 30 years, and we have four beautiful grown children

and two precious grandchildren.

My employment is with the Department of Tax Administration with Fairfax

County. We are members of St. Lawrence the Martyr Roman Catholic Church which includes volunteering as Director of the Gabriel Project. This program helps pregnant women with long or short-term needs by offering assistance at the parish level with physical, material, spiritual, and emotional support.

What is something about yourself that you would like to share that others may not know about you?

We enjoy vacationing on Hatteras Island in North Carolina, and with two of our children out of state we enjoy traveling to Colorado and Tennessee. We are having a lot of fun with the Country Dance lessons we are taking through the Fairfax County Recreation Center.

A favorite quote of mine is.....

In this life we cannot do great things.
We can only do small things with great love.
Mother Teresa

Any closing comments?

What a wonderful program BeFriend-A-Child is. I see it first hand with my mentee and her lovely family. Not only do the kids enjoy the special group outings but what a great support program for their mother. I am so happy to be part of such a successful and nurturing program that makes such a difference in so many lives.

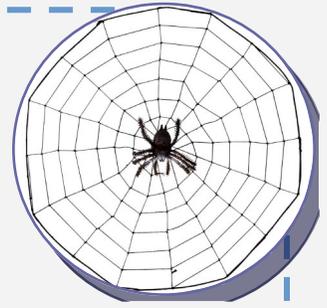
Thank you Judy!

Exploring the Fairfax County Web Site

Have you ever wondered how a large, important county government like Fairfax County is organized? You can view the county's organizational chart at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/county-org-chart.pdf. See how long it takes you to find the Department of Family Services on the chart -- anything less than twenty seconds is excellent! You get extra credit if you know the name of the department's deputy county executive BEFORE you look at the chart.

Also on the county's web site, you can check out the Ask Fairfax! page by entering the web address www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/askfairfax/ on your computer screen. On this page you will be able to see a list of upcoming online discussions you can participate in that relate to topics of interest to people who live and/or work (or volunteer!) in the Fairfax community. The page also has transcripts of recent discussions you may have missed.

And while you're on the web site, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod, where you can choose to watch programs and videos on a variety of topics of interest to county residents. You can also choose to access live programming from cable channel 16, the county's cable channel, on your computer.



**Remember
there's no such
thing as a small
act of kindness.
Every act creates
a ripple with no
logical end.
~Scott Adams~**

Please Note:

Whenever possible, we prefer to send information electronically. This is cost efficient and environmentally friendly.

If you prefer phone communication or United States mail instead of e-mail, please let me (Laurie) know at 703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452.

Thank you!

Farewell to Keesha Edwards

The Parenting Education Program staff bade a fond farewell to Keesha Edwards, in October 2010. She accepted a position with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, another department within County government. Her new title is Intensive Care Coordinator, Mental Health Resource Program with Mental Health Services.

Keesha worked for the Department of Family Services in the Parenting Education Programs for seven years. One of her main endeavors was developing and implementing the African American Culture Curriculum program classes. Before that she worked for the Foster Care and Adoption Program for three years as a Child Specific Adoption Recruiter. She recruited adoptive families for children deemed the most difficult to place.

She has extensive experience working with families within the county and is especially skilled at

working with families of diverse racial, cultural, and socioeconomic communities. Along with her strong clinical skills, experience in community education, and expertise with helping families feel a sense of empowerment, we know she will excel in her new position to enhance the lives of the families she works with.

Her smile and positive attitude will be missed, and we wish her all the best in her new role!



Tax Deductions for Volunteers

Here are some income tax savings you may be able to claim related to your volunteering: You may deduct non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses directly related to your volunteer service if you itemize deductions.

The type of expenditures that you may deduct on your tax returns include:

- bus and cab transportation expenses
- parking costs and toll fees
- cost and expense for the upkeep of uniforms
- telephone bills
- supplies purchased and incidental expenses to perform volunteer duties
- automobile mileage and expenses for gas and oil
- non-cash contributions of property (e.g., clothing, books, household items, equipment, etc.)

IRS Publication #526 "Charitable Contributions" may be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf for more information, or check with your tax advisor.

Upcoming Parenting Education Groups:

Please contact Laurie at 703-324-7871, leytel@fairfaxcounty.gov if you wish to facilitate with one or more of these groups.

The following groups meet 5:30-8 p.m. in 2011 and will be conducted in English unless otherwise noted:

1/20 - 4/21	Thurs	Ages 5-11 (African Am. Culture)	TBD	13 weeks
1/20 - 4/25	Mon	Parent/Adolescents	Mt. Vernon	12 weeks
1/27 - 4/28	Thurs	Ages 5-11	Springfield	13 weeks
2/2011 - 6/2011	Tues	Ages 5-11 (Spanish)	Centreville	13 weeks
1/24 - 6/27	Mon	Ages 0-4 (Spanish)	Fairfax	21 weeks
2/2 - 6/29	Wed	Ages 0-4 (African Am, Culture)	Alexandria	21 weeks
2/28 - 5/21	Mon	Parent/Adolescent	Fairfax	12 weeks

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Our web site:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/about/volops.htm



Fairfax County Department of
Family Services



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call 703-324-7871, TTY 703-222-9452. Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements. This information is available in alternate formats by calling 703-324-7871; TTY 703-222-9452.