



Community Interfaith Liaison E-Newsletter

August 2004 – Issue #18

The Community Interfaith Liaison E-Newsletter is a publication of the Fairfax County Community Interfaith Liaison Office (CIL) providing Fairfax County faith communities and faith- and community-based organizations with current news about human services and community strengthening resources, workshops, events, and community coordinated initiatives that support the mission of Fairfax County Government.

If you have questions about an upcoming event, wish to submit information for possible inclusion, or would like to receive more information regarding an event that has already taken place, please send an e-mail to ciluser@fairfaxcounty.gov. If you would like to be removed from the Community Interfaith Liaison E-Newsletter, please send an e-mail with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you.

For more information on the Community Interfaith Liaison Office, please visit our website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dsm/cil/.

*Sandra Chisholm
Community Interfaith Liaison*

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Feature Articles

Fire Ignites Dynamic Faith Community Cooperation . . .

On an ordinary Sunday morning in July, members of the Manchester Lakes community were abruptly awakened by a scorching fire that quickly engulfed their homes. In the midst of panic and frantic efforts to evacuate the Victoria Crossings complex, the members of "Image," a Single Adults group led by Pastor Chris Rhodenhizer and sponsored by the Calvary Road Baptist Church, arrived at the complex's community center for their usual weekly gathering unaware of the ongoing fire.

Alarmed by the situation and finding themselves encircled by grieving members of the blazing complex at Manchester Lakes, the members of the church provided immediate consol to the victims of the fire. George Boals, the facilities director of the church, led the organizational efforts with the Red Cross upon their arrival at the scene and afterwards as well.

After coordinated efforts between Boals and the Red Cross representatives Stephen O'Brian and Cameron Ballantyne, Calvary Road Baptist Church's gym was used to provide shelter for the victims on the night of July 11, 2004. Although sufficient facilities including cots and food were available until 12 Noon, all of the members of the Victoria Crossings at Manchester Lakes complex were fortunately able to find refuge with friends and family.

While the cause of the perilous fire that took over 100 fire fighters to extinguish is still under investigation, it is estimated that it caused approximately nine million dollars in damage to the complex. According to the Washington Post, carbon-monoxide poisoning was the cause of the three fatalities that occurred as a result of the fire that consumed 18 of the 24 apartment units and displaced 48 people from their homes. Calvary Road Baptist Church continued to provide support by organizing meals for the victims through collaboration with such local contributors as Chipotle, Safeway, Starbucks, Panera Breads, and Shoppers Food Warehouse. In addition to Boals, Chad and Beth Seidler and Robert Murphy, better known as "Wig," were key leaders of the church's efforts to aide the Victoria Crossings complex victims in the aftermath of the fire.

Members of the church offered their endless time and effort in the following week to ensure the comfort of the victims through initial donations of clothes and basic commodities and, later, Gift Cards of various values to an array of stores in the surrounding area. Hosting a Fairfax County Fire Safety Meeting held on Thursday night, July 15, 2004, Calvary Road Baptist Church opened its Sanctuary to nearly 500 members of the Manchester Lakes Community and members of the Fairfax County staff and Board of Supervisors. The meeting included commentaries on fire evacuation methods and analysis of the Manchester Lakes complex's building standards and the fire safety precautions taken within the buildings. While informational, the meeting served as a forum to actively discuss fire safety concerns and future measures to be taken by the county in regulation of such precautions.

Commenting on the involvement and coordinated efforts of the Calvary Road Baptist Church, Boals emphasized the predominant role of the church within the community, "That's what the church is ultimately for in the community: to reach out to and help the local members when they are most in need."

Reaching out ... Foster Care in Fairfax County . . .

Remember the last time you gave a child a hand?

Most of the kids you've helped probably smiled and then skipped on home to their brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. What you may not know is that here in Fairfax County about 500 children do not go skipping back to permanent homes. They are children living in foster care.

What is Foster Care?

It is a temporary living arrangement for children and teens who are unable to live with their birth parents as a result of being abused, neglected, or having a serious family problem. Many live in a foster home for a period of time. The families who look after them receive ongoing training and professional support, including workshops, invitations to social events, and a monthly support group. The County pays for each child's expenses while in foster care, such as room and board, day care, and medical care.

Children in foster care are a lot like the children in your community, and they need your community now more than ever. Many have been in the system a long time. Some are teenagers, many of African-American or Hispanic descent, and some have special emotional and behavioral needs. All deserve to have a permanent, loving family and a community to call their own.

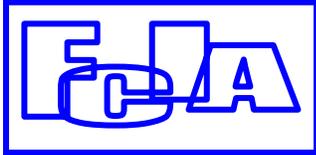
Who are these foster parents lending a hand?

They are people who live and work in your community. They are married or single and at least 21 years old. They rely on family and friends, the people who make up their community, to give them support and love, praise and energy. All of them are giving a child the chance to be a part of their family until the child can be returned home safely or be placed in another permanent home, such as with a relative or adoptive parents. What a gift!

A strong community is like an extension of your family, and family is just what these children need. They need your help. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please give us a call or come to one of our information sessions.

Fairfax County Foster Care and Adoption Orientation Meetings
2nd Monday of each month
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Human Services Center, Pennino Building
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia
No registration required
For more information: 703-324-7639 TTY 703-222-9452

Faith Communities in Action



Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) is a network of faith communities, community-based organizations, and government agencies that fosters interfaith communications and cooperation to build and strengthen human services resources throughout Fairfax County.

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Government Center Conference Center Rooms 2 & 3
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

Events...Workshops...Conferences

August 5, 2004

The Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services presents ...

Learn How to Use the Human Services Resource Guide
Free Hands-on Training Sessions

Thursday, August 5, 2004

Friday, August 13, 2004

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Falls Church Human Services Building
6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 507

Training is available on how to use the Human Services Resources Guide, a web-based directory of human services available to Fairfax County residents. This training will provide an overview of the Guide, information on how to use the Guide, and ideas on how to make the Guide work for you.

To register, please call Keisha Dotson at 703-533-5786 or Norma Bartholomew at 703-533-5787.

Sunday, August 5, 2004

Works Sunday ...

11th Annual Works Sunday
Sunday, August 15, 2004

Many faiths working together to make a difference ...
You can make it happen. Join us!

Visit the website at www.workssunday.org

Many faith communities of Herndon and Reston join together annually to hold "Works Sunday," a day where we put our faith into action to help the communities where we live. All are encouraged to join us in making a difference in our community. Want to know more? Here's how to get involved. Visit our website at www.workssunday.org and click on "Volunteering" or "Contributions" to see the opportunities available this year. It won't be the same without you!

Monday, August 16, 2004

Workshop for Spanish-Speaking Families on Preventing, Recognizing, and Handling Common Emergency Situations ...

For Spanish-Speaking Families

Workshop on
Preventing, Recognizing, and Handling Common Emergency
Situations in the Home
Presented by the American Red Cross

Monday, August 16, 2004
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sacramento Neighborhood Center
8793 E Sacramento Drive
Alexandria, Virginia

This workshop is free and refreshments will be served but registration is required. The workshop is sponsored by SCAN. Contact Paola Martinez McDonald at 703-836-1820 to refer families.

Tuesday, August 24, 2004

SCAN presents Parenting Classes ... The ABC's of Parenting (in Spanish) ...

Parenting Classes
The ABC's of Parenting
In Spanish

Every Tuesday, August 24 – October 5, 2004

Fairlington United Methodist Church
3900 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Do you have questions about parenting a preschooler or kindergartner? As life gets busier, take time out for yourself as a parent? Come to the next Parenting Class and be with other parents who are just like you! Transportation for Alexandria residents is available as well as childcare. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Contact SCAN at 703-836-1820 or by email at pmartinez@scanva.org.

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services presents ...

Hope & Recovery:
A Visit to Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services Mt. Vernon

8794-S Sacramento Drive
Alexandria, Virginia

11 a.m. – 12 Noon

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS) hosts monthly tours that rotate among its three centers (Mt. Vernon, Falls Church, and Reston) to introduce the public to its programs and services. PRS has a longstanding track record of helping persons recover from mental illness and become independent, productive participants in our community. The tours offer a first-hand opportunity to speak with our CEO, a PRS client, and a family member. To RSVP and for directions, contact Elisa Kosarin at ekosarin@prsinc.org or call 703-531-6303.

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Springfield & Franconia Exchange presents ...

Springfield & Franconia Exchange
Grant Writing Workshop

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Presentation: 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Springfield
Fellowship Hall
7300 Gary St.
Springfield, VA 22150

The Springfield & Franconia Exchange is free and open to the community. Complimentary coffee & tea will be served. Brown bag lunches are encouraged. Please park in the rear of the church and enter through the gym. No need to RSVP. For more information, contact Irimina Howe at 703-324-7130 or Paulette Whiteside at 703-324-5285.

Saturday, September 11, 2004

Panel Discussion
"A Spiritual Response to Gang Violence"

Saturday, September 11, 2004
2:30 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church
4604 Ravensworth Road
Annandale, VA

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax is sponsoring a panel discussion and community dialogue addressing gang violence. The panelists will be Chaplain John Montgomery, Fairfax County Adult Detention Center; Chaplain Dave Fox, Fairfax County Police Development; Sharon Wendtland, Barrios Unidos; and Dave Stevens, Christian Science Healer and Lecturer. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 703-830-1340 or 703-323-0022.

September 23, 2004
Childhelp USA/Virginia presents ...

Performance of *Varekai*
by Cirque du Soleil

Thursday, September 23, 2004
8 p.m.

RFK Stadium
Washington, DC

\$100 per ticket

To reserve tickets for this benefit performance, call Childhelp USA/Virginia at 703-208-1500. \$20 of each ticket is tax deductible. All proceeds will support the child abuse treatment and prevention programs of Childhelp USA Children's Center of Virginia in Fairfax, a nonprofit organization serving the National Capital Region. The Center provides a child-friendly facility where abused children can receive the services of Fairfax County social workers, law enforcement agents, nurses, and therapists under one roof.

Monday, October 4, 2004
Mental Health Education Conference ...

Creating a Caring Community
A Mental Health Education Conference

Co-Sponsored by Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness
Ministries and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Virginia
Affiliate

Monday, October 4, 2004
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
3601 Seminary Avenue
Richmond, VA

You are invited to a mental health education conference designed for clergy, youth pastors, education directors, parish nurses, counselors, Stephen Ministry workers, care group leaders, and religious leaders of all faith traditions.

Early registration discount: Pay \$25 if received by Sept. 1; \$35 after Sept. 1.
Registration deadline: September 15. Fee includes lunch, information packet, exhibit tables with free resources, keynote speaker, and three workshops.

Interpreter for the Deaf available if requested of us no later than September 1.
Questions? Contact Ginny Chambers at ginnychambers@vaumc.org or call Ginny or Martha Stokes at the Virginia United Methodist Conference Center, 1-800-768-6040 or (804) 521-1100.

News, Announcements, & Updates

⌘ Projects Needed for VolunteerFest 2004

Does your organization need to collect or sort food, clothing, or books? Do you have cleanup, painting, refurbishing, or landscaping projects to complete? Do you have any hands-on projects that need to be completed? Volunteer Fairfax invites you to participate in this community-wide event by submitting a project proposal that addresses a specific need or specific activity at your facility or site. The deadline to submit project proposals is Friday, August 27, 2004. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a project or need further information, please call Renee Hoyt Atkinson at 703-246-3460.

And, mark your calendar for the 10th anniversary of VolunteerFest on Saturday, October 23, 2004, as part of the national "Make a Difference Day." This year we are joining with nonprofit and public agencies to focus on "Building Communities One Day at a Time." For more information, visit the website at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

⌘ Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed!

The Meals on Wheels program is in immediate need of volunteers to deliver meals to clients in the areas of Centreville, Chantilly, Tysons, McLean, Alexandria, and Fairfax. The job involves picking up meals at specified sites between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon and ensuring that the meals are delivered to the clients, usually by 1 p.m. Drivers can choose to deliver meals weekly, biweekly, monthly, or to substitute as needed. If you would like more information, please call the Volunteer Intake Hotline at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186 or email Beverly.mullis@fairfaxcounty.gov. For reasonable ADA accommodations, contact Pam Graff at 703-324-5410, TTY 703-449-1186.

⌘ Islamic Law 101

The Peaceful Families Project of the FaithTrust Institute (Seattle, WA) will be conducting an intensive 2 1/2 day Workshop in Washington, DC, (hotel not yet finalized) during the first week of October 2004. The workshop is especially directed at judges, lawyers, criminal and civil justice professionals, and legal services, shelter directors, etc., who need to know more about Islamic law and Muslims. The subjects of the training will be: "Islamic Law 101, Understanding the Muslim Community, and Marriage, Divorce, and Child Custody Laws."

The objective is to impart useful information to assist those in the legal profession and others when making decisions concerning Muslim women and their families, and when interfacing with the Muslim community. There will be approximately 15 well-known trainers including several lawyers, academics, researchers, and activists. The cost will be \$400 per person including materials. The cost does not include hotel fees. There will be a company handling all registrations to be announced soon.

Those interested in attending should send their full contact information with name, title, address, phone, fax, and email to Sharifa Alkhateeb, Director, The Peaceful Families Project, P.O. Box 942, Great Falls, VA 22066. Ms. Alkhateeb can also be contacted at 703-980-6333, or by fax at 703-726-1072 or email to nacmu@aol.com with the subject line: "October Workshop."

⌘ Parent Connection Support Groups ...

Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) offers Parenting Classes, Developmental Playgroups for Parents and Children for children 0 to 5 years of age, and Parent Connection Support Groups for parents and families who need a little help with parenting skills, anger management, child development information, conflict management, and other topics. For more information on dates and times, please contact Paola Martinez directly at (703) 836-1820 or via e-mail at pmartinez@scanva.org.

⌘ Nurturing Parenting Program

The Nurturing Parenting Program is a Fairfax County sponsored program that strives to promote family functioning and fight child abuse through work with parents and their children. This program is designed to be community based, with one faith group or organization providing the space for a 15 – 24 week course (or year-round), and other congregations/groups supporting the program by providing food and childcare on assigned night.

We have programs organizing now in the Mount Vernon area, but we hope that you will consider supporting the host congregation in this effort. With many congregations participating, the burden for any one group will be limited, perhaps only three times per year.

What is Required and How You Can Help ...

Each week we would like a different congregation or group to do two things:

1. Childcare ... provide childcare with our staff – usually 10 – 15 infants through 4-year-olds and six to eight children ages 5 – 11 years. We need two to three volunteers from 5:15 p.m. – 8 p.m. Older teens may volunteer.
2. Food ... prepare/serve/clean up after a dinner for 40 – 50 people. We need approximately five people from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Older teens may volunteer.

Dinner ideas: A sample dinner might include spaghetti, salad, fruit cocktail, rolls, dessert, water, juice, or tea. Other dinner suggestions include chicken (BBQ, fried or baked), Macaroni and Cheese, Beef Macaroni, Pizza, Chicken Nuggets, Cold Cuts, Soups, Lasagna, Hot Dogs, or Casseroles.

For more information about the program, to contact the “host” church in your area, or to sign up, please contact Krissa Slone at 703-324-7745 or via email at Krissa.slone@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Resource & Grant Opportunities

Digest of Federal Grants with Faith-Based and Community Organization Eligibility - 07/26/04

Publisher: The Roundtable on Religion & Social Welfare Policy

By: Lisa M. Montiel, Roundtable Research Scientist

The grant opportunities this week for faith-based and community-based organizations are through the Departments of Health and Human Services.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Aging

Faith-based and other organizations may apply for the Alzheimer's Disease Social Research Project grant if they have been officially designated by the Mayor of a municipality that has a population of at least one million residents over the age of 60. The grant will support social research into Alzheimer's care options and their impacts, best practices, and related topics.

One grant of \$2,943,530 will be awarded for a one-year project. Interested applicants should note that there is a cost share of at least twenty-five percent. Applications are due August 31, 2004. Application instructions are at: http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/announcements/ADSocial_Research_Project.pdf and the Federal Register notice is at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-16708.pdf>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Faith-based and community-based organizations with experience working with HIV/AIDS in Botswana may apply for a grant entitled, Expansion of Psychosocial Support and Peer Counseling Services to HIV-Infected Women and Their Families in Botswana. The grant is to support a project that provides technical assistance, organizational capacity building, and sub-grants to other non-governmental organizations working in HIV prevention and care for the target population. The successful applicant may directly provide these services or designate an umbrella organization to provide these services.

One grant of \$3 million will be awarded for a five-year project. It is anticipated that the grantee will be funded the first year with \$600,000. Applications are due August 20, 2004. The Federal Register notice is at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-16412.pdf>.

Accommodations

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all County programs, services, and activities. Special accommodations/alternative information formats for Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) meetings and Community Interfaith Liaison Office meetings, events, and workshops will be provided upon request. Please call 703-324-3453 or TTY 703-803-7914 to request special accommodations or if you have any questions or concerns. Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.

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