



# Community Interfaith Liaison E-Newsletter

October 2005 – Issue #30

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](mailto: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. For more information on the Community Interfaith Liaison Office, please visit our Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/cil/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/cil/).

*Sandra Chisholm  
Community Interfaith Liaison*

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# A Domestic Violence Awareness Checklist for the Religious Community ...

Religious communities provide a safe haven for women and families in need. In addition, they exhort society to share compassion and comfort with those afflicted by the tragedy of domestic violence. Leaders of the religious community have identified actions to create a unified response to violence against women.

- ***Become a Safe Place.*** Make your church, temple, mosque or synagogue a safe place where victims of domestic violence can come for help. Display brochures and posters which include the telephone number of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs in your area. Publicize the National Domestic Violence Hotline number: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD).
- ***Educate the Congregation.*** Provide ways for members of the congregation to learn as much as they can about domestic and sexual violence. Routinely include information in monthly newsletters, on bulletin boards, and in marriage preparation classes. Sponsor educational seminars on violence against women in your congregation.
- ***Speak Out.*** Speak out about domestic violence and sexual assault from the pulpit. As a faith leader, you can have a powerful impact on people's attitudes and beliefs.
- ***Lead by Example.*** Volunteer to serve on the board of directors at the local domestic violence/sexual assault program or attend a training to become a crisis volunteer.
- ***Offer Space.*** Offer meeting space for educational seminars or weekly support groups or serve as a supervised visitation site when parents need to safely visit their children.
- ***Partner with Existing Resources.*** Include your local domestic violence or sexual assault program in donations and community service projects. Adopt a shelter for which your church, temple, mosque or synagogue provides material support, or provide similar support to families as they rebuild their lives following a shelter stay.
- ***Prepare to be a Resource.*** Do the theological and scriptural homework necessary to better understand and respond to family violence and receive training from professionals in the fields of sexual and domestic violence.
- ***Intervene.*** If you suspect violence is occurring in a relationship, speak to each member of the couple separately. Help the victim plan for safety. Let both individuals know of the community resources available to assist them. Do not attempt couples counseling.
- ***Support Professional Training.*** Encourage and support training and education for clergy and lay leaders, hospital chaplains, and seminary students to increase awareness about sexual and domestic violence.
- ***Address Internal Issues.*** Encourage continued efforts by religious institutions to address allegations of abuse by religious leaders to ensure that religious leaders are a safe resource for victims and their children.

## The Clothesline Project ...

T-shirts, simple t-shirts. Who among us doesn't have dozens of them in drawers or on shelves somewhere? Thanks to a group of women from Cape Cod, Mass., we will never look at t-shirts the same way again.

They are founders of the Clothesline Project, a small core of women who are finding a way to take the staggering, mind-numbing statistics on violence against women and turn them into a provocative, in-your-face, educational and healing tool. Inspired by the AIDS quilt, they came up with the idea of using shirts hanging on a clothesline.

"Doing the laundry has always been considered women's work; and, in the days of close-knit neighborhoods, women often exchanged information over backyard fences while hanging their clothes out to dry," says Carol A. Chichetto of East Dennis, Mass., chair of the project's steering committee.

"The concept was simple -- let each woman tell her own story, in her own unique way, and hang it out for all to see. It was and is a way of airing society's dirty laundry."

Dozens of their shirts were hanging like banners from balcony to balcony at NOW's 1992 national conference in Boston. Others were hung at ground level during NOW's 1994 national conference in Texas, which made their messages even more visible:

"Teach me to cry and when I have learned to cry, teach me to dance so that I may dance in the puddle of my tears."

"The only time you bought me new glasses was when you punched me in the face."

"...raped me, beat me, and stole my pride and faith, and made me afraid ... BUT MY SPIRIT ROSE UP and I found courage and hope. I DID NOT DIE!"

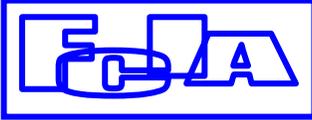
"You can batter my body but you can't touch my spirit."

The project began with 31 shirts, displayed on the village green in Hyannis, Mass., in October 1990 as part of an annual Take Back the Night March and Rally. Throughout the day, women came forward to create new shirts and the line kept growing. Now it has grown to include dozens of projects nationwide and internationally, with an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 shirts.

As visitors walk among the shirts, they hear sound effects -- a gong, a whistle and a bell. The gong sounds several times a minute, to indicate that another woman has been battered. The whistle sounds once a minute, to indicate that another woman has been raped. The bell sounds several times a day to indicate that another woman has been killed by an intimate partner.

To find out how you can connect with a local Clothesline Project or to start one of your own, contact the project's half-time national office at Box 727, East Dennis, MA 02641, 508/385-7004.

## 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.

### Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Government Center Conference Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Conference Rooms 2 & 3

*ALL FAITH COMMUNITIES INVITED TO ATTEND*

## Events...Workshops...Conferences

Thursday, October 13, 2005

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

*Legal Protection for Domestic Violence Survivors*

Presented by Mehagen, McRae, MacDowell & Associates, PC  
and  
Rena Cutlip, Thairih Justice Center

Fairfax County Government Center Atrium  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

12 Noon - 1

This discussion will focus on civil legal remedies that are available to native born and immigrant survivors of domestic violence and will provide an overview of legal protections under the federal Violence Against Women Act of 1984.

This series is sponsored by Fairfax County's Office for Women, Department of Family Services, and Department of Systems Management for Human Services, along with Network Against Family Abuse (NAFA), Victims Assistance Network (VAN), and Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO).

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

*The Effects of Domestic Violence on a Victim's Health*

Presented by Susan Folwell, The Women's Center

Fairfax County Government Center Atrium  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

12 Noon - 1

Women with a history of domestic violence report 60 percent higher rates of all health problems than do women with no history of abuse. This presentation will address the effects of domestic violence on a victim's health, as well as provide helpful information for victims who seek medical treatment.

This series is sponsored by Fairfax County's Office for Women, Department of Family Services and Department of Systems Management for Human Services, along with Network Against Family Abuse (NAFA), Victims Assistance Network (VAN) and Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO).

Saturday, October 22, 2005

The Dominican Retreat presents ...

Holding on While Letting Go ...

A day of reflection, rejuvenation, and enrichment  
for those caring for aging relatives.

Saturday, October 22, 2005  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dominican Retreat  
7103 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA

Cost: \$50

The day will be a blend of information, support, and spiritual fulfillment. Topics will include Spirituality & Aging, Grief, Balance for the "Sandwich Generation," and Humor for the Caregiver's Soul. The cost is \$50 and includes all materials and lunch. For more information or to register, call 703-356-4243 or visit [www.dominicanretreat.org](http://www.dominicanretreat.org).

Sunday, October 23, 2005

The Dominican Retreat presents ...

Wellness Day for Women  
Sunday, October 23, 2005

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Dominican Retreat  
7103 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA

Come join us for a prayerful day designed to pamper the body and spirit in an atmosphere of contemplation, wholeness, and holiness.

This wellness sampler day will begin and end with prayer and will include:

- Keynote Presentation
- Time for personal prayer and meditation
- Healthful lunch
- Opportunity to sample various healing modalities such as chair massage, guided meditation, Tai Chi, acupuncture demonstration, yoga, and more.

Space is limited ~ reservations are required. For more information or to register call 703-356-4243 or visit [www.dominicanretreat.org](http://www.dominicanretreat.org). Suggested Offering: \$50

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and Alzheimer's Family Day Center presents...

Caregivers Retreat  
*A Special Day of Relaxation for Older Adult Caregivers*

Wednesday, October 26, 2005  
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 pm.

Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist  
2351 Hunter Mill Road  
Vienna, VA

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and the Alzheimer's Family Day Center are offering a special day of rest and relaxation for older adult caregivers. Lunch, light exercise, massage, entertainment, and a speaker are included at no charge. Daycare for your carereceiver is available upon request, but space is limited. To register or for more information, call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538. If you will need daycare, please register by October 12. All others may register until October 19.

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

*Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships:  
What is Domestic Violence and What Can You Do to Prevent It?*

Presented by Lori Carver-Johnson, Victim's Assistance Network

Fairfax County Government Center Atrium  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

12 Noon - 1

This presentation provides an overview of the key ingredients that make both healthy and unhealthy relationships: self-esteem, balance, agreements, connections and communication styles. Participants will understand what makes a good relationship, realize that communication styles affect the way we relate to one another, and determine safe ways to connect with one another.

This series is sponsored by Fairfax County's Office for Women, Department of Family Services, and Department of Systems Management for Human Services, along with Network Against Family Abuse (NAFA), Victims Assistance Network (VAN), and Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO).

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division presents ...

Middle Potomac Community Watershed Forum

Longfellow Middle School  
2000 Westmoreland Street

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend the community forum to provide input on the first draft of the watershed management plan for these five community streams (Turkey Run, Pimmit Run, Scotts Run, Dead Run, and Bull Neck Run). To learn more visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/watersheds](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/watersheds) or call Kristine Weidner at 703-820-3840.

## News, Announcements, & Updates

### ⌘ Vienna Teen Neighborhood College ...

Register now for the Vienna Teen Neighborhood College Class of 2005. Build experience ... practicum may help you earn credit for government or IB service requirements, scouts, college and scholarship applications, etc. Learn how to get involved in your community and how to make a difference and be a leader. Meet government officials and community leaders. Learn how to solve problems and make decisions with others in our multicultural community.

The College is for students in grades 9 – 12 and will meet five consecutive Tuesdays (October 18 – November 15, 2005) from 5:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. The Center is located at 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. There is no charge. A light dinner will be provided, but class size is limited. Pick up your registration forms at the Vienna Community Center and complete them today! Deadline is October 12, 2005. For more information call Denise Taramasco at 703-787-4962 or TTY 703-803-7914.

### ⌘ National Donor Sabbath ...

This year the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Transplantation, has designated November 11 - 13, 2005 as National Donor Sabbath weekend. It is a chance to directly dispel a widely held myth that one's religion does not support organ, eye and tissue donation. Community leaders can play a vital role in this observance by encouraging members of your congregation to learn the facts about donation, make a decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor and discuss their wishes with their families.

Washington Regional Transplant Consortium, the federally-designated organ and tissue recovery agency for the D.C. metro area is looking for help in making this year's Donor Sabbath even better than last year. Over the years we have written to more than 1,500 local leaders and many have responded by handing out materials, printing bulletin inserts and asking for speakers to highlight the fact that donation saves lives every day. Many religious institutions have invited us to health ministry fairs, Sunday school classes,

coffee hours, Men's and Women's Fellowships and other events that are scheduled throughout the year. Materials may be found at WRTC's Web site, [www.BeADonor.org](http://www.BeADonor.org), by clicking the Donor Sabbath link at the top of the homepage. Materials may also be ordered by calling 866-Be-A-Donor and asking to speak with our Community Education Specialist.

### ⌘ Youth Suicide and Depression Prevention RFP ...

The Fairfax Partnership for Youth's Community Task Force on Youth Suicide and Depression will be offering a total of 20 community trainings during 2005/2006 on the topic of youth suicide and depression prevention. The Partnership will be posting a Request for Proposals in the early fall which will invite faith and community organizations to submit a proposal regarding who the target of the training would be, how the training will be helpful to their organization and its constituents, as well as how the group intends to build on the training and next steps.

Ten of these trainings will be targeted for faith groups and the remaining 10 will target other community organizations. The goal of the Task Force's training program is to prevent teen suicide through identification and appropriate referral of high school age youth who exhibit signs of depression or other risk factors for self-harm. The method for accomplishing this goal is outreach to parents, youth-serving professionals, and other adults who work with children regarding the seriousness of the risk, how to identify youth at risk, and options for effective response. For more information please contact Jennifer Heffron, Co-Chair of the Taskforce, Fairfax Partnership for Youth at [mentalhealthtaskforce@verizon.net](mailto:mentalhealthtaskforce@verizon.net).

### ⌘ Fairfax Partnership for Youth RFP ...

The Fairfax County After-School Network, an initiative of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, is preparing a Request for Proposal for two areas of the County. Community-based and faith-based organizations will have an opportunity to submit proposals for a series of at least three meetings to bring together other community- and faith-based organizations to raise awareness in the need for community involvement in supporting after-school programs. The goal is to build community capacity for after-school programs and, ultimately, inform parents of the availability of programs and options. For more information, contact Ruth Toxopeus at 703-324-5580 or [Ruth.Toxopeus@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ruth.Toxopeus@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### ⌘ Local Grant Funding Opportunity ...

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc., on behalf of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, will be seeking to award competitive grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 to small Northern Virginia faith- and community-based organizations (FBCOs) that serve jobseekers facing employment barriers. Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration (WORC), an affiliate of Goodwill of Greater Washington, was selected by The *SkillSource* Group as an intermediary partner to help build partnerships between faith- and community-based organizations, the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, and the One-Stop Career Centers. The program, *Employment Access through Partnerships and Community Collaboration*, will fund projects that serve local job seekers facing multiple challenges, including limited English, reading, and math skills, as well as a lack of access to reliable transportation or child-care. Attention will be focused on parts of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties whose residents experience formidable barriers to employment.

A [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) is available at [www.myskillsource.org](http://www.myskillsource.org). WORC will host workshops on October 14 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at The Job Hut Center at Manassas Mall and on October 19 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the South County SkillSource Center. to assist organizations in developing Requests for Funding (RFP). RFPs must be received no later than 5 p.m. (EST), Monday, November 14, 2005. If you would like a copy of the RFP mailed to you or if you have any questions, please contact Colleen Doyle at 202-857-5992 or [cdoyle@worconline.org](mailto:cdoyle@worconline.org).

### ⌘ Faith Communities needed for Homeless Adult Hypothermia Shelter Sites ...

Faith Communities are needed this coming winter to provide a warm and safe place for homeless adults who are camping or living in their cars in and around the central – central western areas of Fairfax County. Faith Communities are being asked to provide night shelter for 20 to 35 homeless adults in their facility. Actual shelter times will start each evening at 5:30 p.m. and end no later than 7:30 a.m. the following morning. Organizers of this effort are hopeful that Faith Communities will volunteer space in their facilities for a one-week time period; however, single nights will also be welcomed. A minimum of three volunteers are needed to be on site at all times. Some faith communities split the time into two shifts of three volunteers each so that no volunteer is at the shelter more than eight hours. Although evening and morning meals can be arranged through other volunteer sources, participating Faith Communities are encouraged to consider providing these meals on the nights they provide shelter.

Faith Communities who cannot provide space for an evening shelter but are still interested in participating in this effort may assist in other ways, to include:

- Providing volunteers to help staff other faith community shelter sites;
- Recruiting van drivers;
- Washing shelter blankets;
- Preparing and/or delivering meals to shelter sites;
- Providing "G" rated videos to show at shelter sites;
- Providing bottled water and snacks;
- Providing toiletry supplies (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shaving razors, and washcloths)
- Supplying first aid boxes; and/or;
- Providing administrative and communication assistance.

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services will contract with a community organization to coordinate the Faith Community Hypothermia Shelter initiative this coming winter. Once this contractor is finalized, faith communities will be notified.

If your faith community is interested in participating in this winter's Faith Community Hypothermia Shelter initiative, please contact Sandy Chisholm at 703-324-5185 or by e-mail at [schish@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:schish@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Resource & Grant Opportunities

### ***Digest of Federal Grants with Faith-Based and Community Organization Eligibility - 09-27-05***

**Publisher:**

**The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy**

**By: Lisa Montiel, Roundtable Research Scientist**

**First published: September 27, 2005**

The grant opportunities this week for community and faith-based organizations are through programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the United States Agency for International Development.

It should be noted that some of the grant announcements this week require expertise in particular foreign countries.

Special note on grants for hurricane relief and emergency services programs:

Organizations interested in providing relief and emergency services in the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita should follow the instructions provided on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site at <http://www.eps.gov/katrina.html>.

Formal service contract listings will probably not be posted due to the immediacy of the needed emergency services. Therefore, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as other federal and state agencies, request potential service providers contact them directly with proposals. The Web site provides the contact information for the relevant federal and state agencies.

### **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Applicants interested in applying for the Challenge Grant opportunity that was announced in the July 26, 2005, edition of the Roundtable e-newsletter should note that the funding competition has been canceled. CNCS has decided to modify the grant opportunity to focus on proposals that recruit baby boomers as volunteers in projects that address human needs created by the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The new funding opportunity, which will appear in the Roundtable e-newsletter, is expected to be announced around October 3, 2005. The notice canceling the current Challenge Grant program can be found at:

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=12](http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=12).

### **U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

There are two funding opportunities through USAID this week for qualified faith-based and other organizations with the capacity to conduct projects in Afghanistan.

The first, the Higher Education Project, is a cooperative agreement that will support a project that improves teaching and learning in faculties and departments of education in four-year postsecondary institutions in Afghanistan.

Project activities will focus on improving instructional strategies, curriculum, English language and technological skills of faculty, assisting professors of education to engage in the intellectual community at national, regional and international levels, instilling an ethic of professionalism within faculty members, improving administrative capacity at the ministerial and university levels, and assisting in curriculum assessment and restructuring.

A total of \$40 million will be awarded for a five-year project. Applications are due December 20, 2005. The request for applications is at:

[http://www.fedgrants.gov/EPSTData/AID/Synopses/2001/306-05-026%26%23032%3BAPSO/1\\_HEP%26%23032%3B306-05-026.DOC](http://www.fedgrants.gov/EPSTData/AID/Synopses/2001/306-05-026%26%23032%3BAPSO/1_HEP%26%23032%3B306-05-026.DOC).

The second USAID funding opportunity is to implement a project in Afghanistan entitled Ministry of Women's Affairs' Initiative to Strengthen Policy and Advocacy through Communication and Institution Building.

The successful applicant will assist Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs to conduct outreach and capacity building activities to women's groups, engage in policy development activities that enhance the social, economic and political participation of women, conduct activities that maximize the use of the provincial Women's Development Centers, and carry out media campaigns for public outreach and advocacy.

A total of \$2.5 million will be awarded to a single successful applicant for a two-year project. Applications are due November 18, 2005. The request for applications is at:

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/EPSTData/AID/Synopses/2001/306-05-027%26%23032%3BAPSO/MISPA%26%23032%3B-%26%23032%3BWMN%26%23032%3BPROGRAM.DOC>

## 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.

## Back Issues



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