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BREAKING NEWS

Dominion Virginia Power and Dominion Foundation Grants \$1M to Shelters and Housing Assistance Programs

One of the nation's largest energy producers, Dominion Virginia Power, is giving more than \$1 million in grants to organizations that provide shelter or housing assistance for the homeless and others in need. These grants will benefit many organizations in 14 states. Of the total donation, the Dominion Foundation awarded \$118,000 to 16 organizations in Fairfax, Alexandria, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, and in Prince William Counties.

On Dec. 9, 2010 Dominion Virginia Power and the Dominion Foundation awarded the Reston Interfaith Housing Corporation a grant of \$25,000 for weatherization improvements to 11 townhomes located in Herndon and the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. In addition, 40 Dominion employees volunteered to weatherize the shelter and townhomes. Dominion also made grants to other nonprofits in Fairfax County including Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services and Northern VA Family Service (NVFS)/SERVE. These grants cover the costs of weatherization work on shelters and other housing for the homeless and include such improvements as attic insulation, duct sealing, window frame sealing, floor-at-wall sealing, replacing door weather strips, insulating switch and receptacle cavities, and replacing old thermostats with new programmable models. Reston Interfaith also joins United Community Ministries and the Salvation Army as an EnergyShare partner with Dominion, and will have utilities assistance resources for County residents in need this winter and summer.

"We are extremely pleased to partner with Dominion to weatherize our transitional townhouses and the shelter," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith. "Dominion's generous contribution will make these homes more comfortable and help residents realize the lifelong benefits of lower energy costs."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Northrop Grumman – Meeting Place to Address Homelessness

View photos at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/events/businessengagements/northropgrumman/nov2010-northropgrumman-event.htm>.

More than 50 business and community leaders responded to an invitation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors [Chairman Sharon Bulova](#) and Northrop Grumman to attend the second business engagement event organized by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The event was held at Northrop Grumman's Dulles Corner facility in Herndon on Nov. 30, 2010. Business and community leaders were joined by elected officials, members of the [Governing Board of the community partnership](#) and staff from the Fairfax County [Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) (OPEH) to:

- Discuss strategies to prevent and end homelessness.
- Find out how businesses and their employees can make an impact.
- Talk about dynamics of engaging the entire community.

Members of the Governing Board shared why they decided to get involved and have remained committed to the goal of ending homelessness in 10 years. Along with Chairman Bulova and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Hudgins, Governing Board member and Vice President of Full Spectrum Initiatives, Defense Systems Division with Northrop Grumman Dan “Fig” Leaf shared a touching personal experience with a homeless family overseas. **All Governing Board members encouraged the attending businesses to [join the community partnership](#) in support of the 10-Year Plan.**

More than 1,500 children, women and men are faced with homelessness each day in our community and many are just one paycheck away from homelessness. “You may be surprised to learn that my family has always actively volunteered and in the past we served food to hundreds of homeless people every night in our hometown,” said Rafael, a former homeless client. “We never thought that we would be the ones needing food or shelter, but when we were, FACETS was there to help.” Rafael was introduced by FACET’s Executive Director Amanda Andere. During his presentation he shared how grateful he and his family were to FACETS, OPEH and the entire community partnership for helping them get back on their feet.

In the spirit of the holiday season, **many of participants made financial donations and commitments of engagement.** Many also offered to:

- Supply in-kind goods and services to nonprofits serving the most vulnerable of our neighbors.
- Provide financial assistance to enhance the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program.
- Volunteer their time and talents to help local nonprofits.
- Educate their employees and companies to raise awareness and understanding on issues such as limited availability of affordable housing.

“We are fortunate to have a business community that gets it!” said Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor and Governing Board member. The participation of so many businesses at the Northrop Grumman business engagement event demonstrates that our local businesses understand what it takes to build great communities – it is done by working together.”

Special thanks to Chairman Bulova, Northrop Grumman, the Governing Board Business Engagement Committee, OPEH staff and all the guests for helping make this event such a success.

The Governing Board Business Engagement Committee plans to host four events in 2011. **For more information on opportunities to get engaged and support the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/give/>.**

SAVE THE DATE

Community Forum on Homelessness – Feb. 16

Mark your calendars to save the date for a Community Forum on Homelessness being planned for the afternoon on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011. The theme for this Forum is: *Bringing HOST Alive!* Updates on plans to continue implementation of the HOST system will be provided along with interactive discussion among providers. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova is planning to open the session. The planning committee is meeting tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 14, and additional details will be included in the *Partner Update* within the next three weeks.

SIDEBAR

Annual Point-in-Time Count – Jan. 26

The annual Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons will be conducted on Jan. 26. All homeless providers are expected to participate in the count, which will utilize data entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). A separate data entry process using an Excel spreadsheet is available for providers that are not able to enter data through HMIS. Separate training sessions are being offered for Family Programs and Single Adults Programs, with a special session for Domestic Violence providers or other family programs that are not able to use HMIS. Training dates and locations are:

- **Jan. 18** – 2 to 4:30 p.m., Conference Rooms 4/5, Fairfax County Government Center. This session will focus on Family Programs and changes in the HMIS data process.
- **Jan. 20** – 1:30 to 4 p.m., Conference Rooms A and B, Region 2 Human Services Center, 6245 Leesburg Pike (7-corners). This session will focus on Single Adult Programs and cover both the HMIS and Excel data processes.
- **Jan. 20** – 10 a.m. to noon. This is a special session for Domestic Violence programs, or those few family programs that will need to use the Excel data process. HMIS changes and process will not be covered in this session. This session will be at the offices of Bethany House, 6121 Lincolnia Road, Suite 303, Alexandria 22312 (near Landmark Plaza).

For additional information or questions on the Point-in-Time count or training sessions please contact Bill Macmillan in the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness at william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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