

## Supervisor Hudgins Swears in Head Start Policy Council's Officers

As Supervisor Catherine Hudgins prepared to swear in the new council officers on Jan. 24, she congratulated them for making the commitment to serve. She said, "Giving of your personal time to come to meetings and trainings is commendable. Participating on the council will allow you to gain new



skills and experiences that will serve you throughout your lives. Furthermore, without your involvement on the council we would not have a Head Start program."

Policy Council members include parents of Head Start children and local community agency representatives. They share governance responsibilities with the Board of Supervisors in the planning, operation and evaluation of Fairfax County Head Start programs.

"One of the cornerstones of Head Start is family engagement," said



Supervisor Hudgins with Ray Riller, Vice Chair; Uyanga Nomingere, Treasurer; Glendy Bowman, Chair; Kattia Morales, Parliamentarian; and Patricia Salinas, Secretary.

Head Start Director Jennifer Branch. "When parents commit to serving on the policy council, they are showing a real commitment to their own personal growth and working toward preparing their children for school and a lifetime of academic success."

## Reaching the Community with OFC's Facebook Page

OFC's Facebook page features information that is helpful to our staff as well as the professionals we work with. We provide updates on changes to policies in the field of early childhood education and school age care, information on industry best practices, announcements about upcoming professional development opportunities, OFC job announcements, as well as photos and short videos from OFC events. We also share links to stories already on our website.

"Placing content on social media sites like Facebook meets our public where they already are," said Angela Morlu,

OFC's communications specialist. "Thousands of Fairfax County residents use Facebook to keep up with friends, family and organizations they support. It just makes sense to bring important news to them, rather than waiting for them to find our website."

To make our Facebook page a resource for more people in our community, we are currently reaching out to child care professionals in the area to increase awareness of the page. Office for



Children employees can also help make our community more aware of the important work we do by inviting friends to visit us on Facebook. OFC's Facebook page can be accessed on non-county computers by clicking on the Facebook link at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc).



## CEPS Offers Community Information Sessions

Changes to the Fairfax County Home Child Care Facilities Ordinance were recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors and now it is time to share the news about how the changes affect the delivery of services in family child care homes.

OFC's Community Education and Provider Services Division held

three information sessions in January to review the ordinance changes before they went into effect on Feb. 1. "OFC is always committed to keeping

providers informed," said CEPS Director Catherine Sauer. "Our goal is to make this transition as easy as possible." An additional training session is planned for this spring to reach speakers of Hindi and Urdu.

Each session was well attended, with Fire Department and OFC staff reviewing the ordinance changes and answering providers' questions. Providers were happy to hear about

the variety of ways to obtain the increased number of professional development hours including webinars, on-line trainings and programs through county libraries and parks. They were also pleased to learn that they can now use a substitute when they need to be away from their child care home.

"It is the goal of the ordinance to support providers in enhancing the quality of care and the health and safety of children," said Sauer.

## SACC Centers Help End Homelessness in Our Community



SACC centers across the county actively participate in a variety of community service projects each year. The children and staff take pride in being part of a caring community that helps and respects others. Recently, nearly 800 children attending SACC programs at Armstrong, Coates, Crossfield, Dranesville, Floris, Forestville, Great Falls, Hunters Woods, McNair, Oak Hill and Sunrise Valley Elementary Schools partnered with Reston Interfaith to participate in activities to raise awareness and support programs to end homelessness.

At these centers, SACC teachers and children discussed factors that contribute to homelessness, and ways community organizations provide help to the homeless. The

children were encouraged to think of ways they could help those in need

SACC children participated in walk-a-thons and fun runs to raise awareness about homelessness. At Dranesville SACC some children ran nearly two miles around the school's track, as music played and their friends cheered them on. "It was a great experience. The children enjoyed the opportunity to combine physical activity with community service," said Dranesville SACC Center Supervisor Nicole Lynn.

Children at Forestville SACC participated in several activities to help the homeless. The children decided to host a food drive to benefit the Embry Rucker Shelter,

collecting more than 12 boxes of canned food, breakfast cereals, cooking oil, rice, and other food items. The children also took part in a Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon around the school and nearby Great Falls Nike Park. The following week, some of the children and their families went to the Embry Rucker Shelter to make sandwiches for the residents.

These activities and events helped Reston Interfaith reach this year's goal of 4,000 participants. Reaching the 4,000 participant goal means Reston Interfaith will receive additional funding from Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless program, which will go directly towards ending homelessness in our community.

# 2012 SACC Winter Program

During this exciting winter program, children went on a “virtual vacation” and experienced the arts, entertainment, language, literature, and culture of their destination. Games, food, music, dancing and other fun activities were a part of the unforgettable adventure.



SACC  
VIRTUAL  
DESTINATIONS  
winter program



# Length of Service

Fairfax County recognizes staff who have reached service milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years of employment with the county. Here are Office for Children staff who reached milestones in 2011.

## 10 Years

Patricia Abbott  
Christopher Eugene Barker  
Wendy Bellinger  
Jeanette Lorraine Brown  
Esther Thampi Cheryan  
Michael Derrick  
Richard Fatherree  
Lilian Virginia Foran  
Nikita Ruth Gibbs  
Icy Virginia Hollingsworth  
Wayne Thomas Howard  
Tony Humphrey  
Dorie Ann Irby  
Tracey Johnson  
Patricia Jordan  
Kathleen King  
Carol Sue Klosterman  
Christin Noel McGowan  
Peggi Mercurio Calvin  
Malvina Morrison  
Nikki Marie Neely

Alexa O'Flynn  
Vivian Rose Perseo  
Latisha Monique Robinson  
Neelma Radha Chinsammy Sajjad  
Leslie Kamal Schmidt  
Lawrence Simmons  
Paul Kenji Marsiaelle Smith  
Ember Martin Taylor  
John William Tontz  
Andrea Nicole Wilson  
Melanie April Zissios

## 15 Years

Thomas Collins  
Ramiro Gonzalo Cortez  
Margarita Ibay Cramer  
Jennifer Lynn Dixon-Duff  
Richard Jeffrey Hershey  
Jermaine Lovelace  
Helen Grenda McCane  
Casey McCullough  
Michael Allen Pounder

Melanie Kerr Richey  
Deborah Lynn Weigand  
Carmisha Lenissa Wiggins

## 20 Years

Bridgett Alexander  
Trevor Crabtree  
Julian Gaither  
Paul Rodney Mills  
Kristofer Robert Zablackas  
Melinda Beamer  
Nancy Brannegan  
Marsha Celistan  
Arthur Cole  
Nirmal Gupta  
Patricia Castillo Ludwig  
Carolyn Ann Staats  
Dian Lawrence Tublin  
Catherine Seaman Vandersluys

## 30 Years

Milton Whitfield