

## OFC Recognized by Virginia Association of Counties



### Eat and Run Program Praised for Innovation

The Office for Children received a Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award at the January 12 Board of Supervisors meeting. VACo recognized the “EAT and RUN” program which promotes healthy eating and physical activity in family child care settings.

There are 95 counties in Virginia, and in 2015, there were 92 entries across the state for the award. OFC was among five winners from Fairfax County.

Community Education and Provider Services developed the “EAT and RUN” book in 2013. The book contains 15 “Eat” and 15 “Run” activities that can be used by family child care providers with children of all ages to incorporate good nutrition and physical activity into their programs. The “EAT” activities are easy recipes that focus on healthy eating with an emphasis on growing fruits and vegetables that can be used in the activities. The “RUN” activities are non-competitive and teach children that exercise can be fun.



Nutrition Coordinator Abeba Tzeggai, CEPS Director Jene Moore and CEPS Assistant Director Kamini Jassal accepted OFC's VACo Award.

CEPS uses workshops and follow-up home visits to support family child care providers in implementing strategies from the “EAT and RUN” book. “EAT and RUN” is also an effective tool to recruit family child care providers into the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program which helps family child care providers to serve healthy, nutritious meals to children.

Held annually, the VACo competition recognizes local government programs in awards criteria that include innovation, cooperation and model practices. “We are honored to be recognized among many other fine programs in the state focused on the healthy development of our children,” said CEPS Director Jene Moore.



# “Tea for Two” Programs

## CCAR and CEPS Field Staff Collaborate

Managers in the Community Education and Provider Services and Child Care Assistance and Referral programs recently hosted a joint teambuilding event. Staff from both programs who work in the field with family child care providers were invited to connect with each other over a pot of tea.

“Encouraging employees to cultivate supportive relationships with each other is meaningful,” said CEPS Director Jene Moore. “People sometimes forget how important happiness is to the success of employees in the workforce.”

Recognizing this, three of the Department of Family Services Office for Children’s Core Values reflect a focus on employee satisfaction as a means of achieving excellent customer service:

- **Collaboration/Teamwork:** We collaborate to maximize resources and achieve success.
- **Respect:** Be kind – be supportive – be the difference.
- **Value Employees:** Every employee is respected, appreciated and supported.

DFS has several initiatives throughout the agency that encourage employees to get connected, build stronger teams, and make meaningful friendships to enhance the work experience. “All of our customers benefit when staff has built a strong network of support for handling cases,” said CCAR Director Flor Philips.

CEPS Assistant Director, Kamini Jassal explained that, “CEPS and CCAR employees rely heavily on each other in their work with providers. It is important that they know each other well. Hosting the tea for well-established and newer employees to meet each other and collaborate became a fun way for us to renew existing relationships and jumpstart new ones.”



# SACC Winter Program Adventures

## Children Attend GMU Basketball Game

Eagle Bank Arena echoed with the sound of nearly 1,600 enthusiastic children enrolled in SACC's Winter Program as they cheered on George Mason University's basketball team to a victory against Wagner. While at the arena, children also had the unique opportunity to take part in exciting on-court games and activities and enjoyed an energetic performance by the talented George Mason Pep Band.

This field trip was just one of a variety of fun activities children enjoyed as part of SACC's Global Adventurers: Winter Edition program held in December. Following the basketball game, GMU assistant coach, Bryson Johnson, talked with children about how his interest in sports led him on a global adventure. He entertained the children with the story of how his passion for basketball paved the way for a career that included playing for teams in Canada and Germany.

## Children Explore World Destinations as Global Adventurers

At SACC's 23 winter sites, teachers guided children's exploration of some of the world's greatest wonders designed and built by visionaries and architects. While visiting architectural masterpieces such as the Great Pyramids, Stonehenge, the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower, children also explored the sports, art, literature and contemporary culture of these global destinations.

To culminate their winter adventures, children and teachers celebrated the amazing world wonders and destinations they had explored with food, music and traditions representing the different cultures of their global destinations.



# 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 2015.

## 10 Years

Kenneth Alvo  
Tiffany Beazer  
Howard Bellamy  
Maria Benavidez  
Juawana Bilbro  
Josie Bowen-Bristol  
Daris Bush  
Terri Chun  
Jacqueline Coleman  
Tanya Coxson  
Stacy Day  
Bronwyn Dean  
Abram Denton  
Gwendolyn Dunmon  
Heather Dyer  
Anthony Ellison  
Rajean Ford  
Sherese Harris  
Linda Hogue  
Michelle Lorbeske  
Patricia Lovett  
Sylvia Marroquin  
Marcus Ferguson  
Harold McCoo  
Michelle Moore  
Maria Natera  
Kathryn Neylon  
Demetrica Payton  
Satoriea Peoples  
Senia Rivera-Maldonado  
Sharlene Sawyer  
Christopher Scott  
Wanda Shelton  
Chitra Singh  
Heather Spalding  
Katherine Uhrich  
Jennifer Ungar  
Cinthya Valdivia

Luther Wade  
Michael Wall  
Shoshannah Willingham  
Jody Withrow  
Marissa Younts

## 15 Years

Nelly Araujo  
Sarah Ayanam  
Antionette Benton  
Rhonda Cuffey  
Shannon Grayson  
Jennifer Guzman  
Renda Ifert  
Latanya Johnson  
Christopher Koenig  
Christina Konstas  
Sonia Lazo  
Juan Leon  
Latoya Marshall  
Kimberly McCollum  
Ada Mitchell  
Kali Pellegrino  
Simran Saigal  
Damon Terrell  
Abeba Tzeggai  
Donna Varela  
Wendell Washington Jr.

## 20 Years

Angela Anderson  
Nancy Blang  
Timothy Bratcher  
Tierra Cooper  
Patricia Fuller  
Susan Goettl  
Susan Hansell-Davis  
Karmenrina Kears  
Mozone Kelly  
Christine Lamkin

Andrea Lesane  
Jeaneen Loudon  
Patricia Miller  
Tracy Minarczik  
Beverly Moore  
Judy Moore  
Louise Trammell  
Derrick Tucker  
Andrzej Turski

## 25 Years

Amy Benner  
Jimmy Bernardez  
Maribeth Bretschneider  
Laura Carter  
Emma Celis  
Karle Finley  
Rose Gilliam  
Jennifer Green  
Alease Haynes  
Deloris Lawrence  
Diane Lawson  
Cordelia Maweni  
Myra O'Leary

## 30 Years

Beth Byham  
Sandra Mauldin  
Monica Schulz  
Vicki Wood

## 35 Years

Cynthia Gonzales  
Anita McElhiney