



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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## Information Release

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## Park Foundation Announces 2016 Eakin Award Winners

The Fairfax County Park Foundation (FCPF), a charitable organization which supports the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), has named three winners of its 2016 Eakin Philanthropy Awards: Rachel Harris of Let’s Help Kids, Northop Grumman and The Ruth and Hal Launders Charitable Trust. These annual honors go out to individuals or organizations for their efforts in support of county parks.

Harris founded Let’s Help Kids (LHK) in 2010 at the age of six to help elementary school-aged children whose families are experiencing financial hardship by providing them with special items or experiences that they otherwise could not afford. Jen Sterling, chair of the LHK Board of Directors and Rachel’s mother, is a former FCPF Board Director and provided pro-bono design services through her company, RedThinking. Since 2011, LHK has donated \$8,300 to Rec-PAC and PACT (Parks and Community Together).

Since 2001, Northop Grumman has provided donations of \$109,600 to the Park Foundation to support programs such as the Land Preservation Fund and the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Its donations also provided funds for Burke Lake Park, Frying Pan Farm Park and the Movin’ & Groovin’ play area at Clemyjontri Park. The corporation provided seating at events, reducing the registration cost to FCPF representatives and sponsored a 2016 Volunteer Workday at Hidden Oaks Nature Center as part of the MWEE program.

The Ruth & Hal Launders Charitable Trust partnered with the FCPA to create The Arrowbrook Centre Park in Herndon. In 2010, Arrowbrook Center, LLC donated 6.4 acres of property with site improvements including a lighted synthetic field, a picnic pavilion with restrooms, a basketball court, two lighted tennis courts, a bocce court, a playground and trails. Since 2014, the trust has donated \$50,000 to the Arrowbrook Centre Summer Concert Series.

The Eakin Philanthropy Award, established in 2009, is named in honor of the Eakin family, donors of the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority over 50 years ago. The award recognizes significant financial or in-kind contributions, projects with broad, long-term benefit to the community, and visionary contributions which create new programs or facilities and provide a new approach to addressing community needs. The award recipients were selected by unanimous vote of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board of Directors.

For more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662 or at [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.