

**ADULTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN**

FEBRUARY 2009

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Hello everyone – here is a recap of our last Coalition meeting. **If you wish to be removed from this list, please send an email to – [ghcc@cox.net](mailto:ghcc@cox.net).**

**Agenda Items –**

- **New Proposals** – We will submit several proposals before the deadline of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Those proposals are – Prom Notecards, My Child is Graduating – A Guide to Parenting the College Freshman, Clearview Lunch Bunch Program, Hutchison Lunch Bunch Program, and McNair Lunch Bunch Program.
- **Unified Prevention Coalition Conference – “What Today’s Youth Want You to Know”** – [register now via website](#). Conference will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Oakton HS from 8:15 am – 4:00 pm.
- **Herndon High & Herndon Middle Hispanic Parent meetings** – the next meeting is Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Hispanic Parent Meetings** – Our last meetings are Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **New Parent Meeting on Student Accountability – Fall 2009** – we discussed a program to be held for parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders – 12<sup>th</sup> graders that would focus on accountability. We discussed video-taping the presentation for PTAs to use at a later date.

**Announcements –**

- **Fairfax County Dept. of Human Services** – Jenifer Henry and Michelle Gregory reported on the FREE Tax Preparation programs offered in our area. For more info, [click here](#). The Budget impacts were discussed and they are looking for community input. They ask that if you recommend not cutting something from a certain department that you also recommend a way to cut funds from the same department, not a department that is different. For example – if you recommend keeping something from public safety – you should also recommend a way to cut funds from public safety. Public hearings on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan will be held in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax on **March 30 at 7 p.m., March 31 at 3 p.m. and April 1 at 3 p.m.** The Fairfax County School Board will make its budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors during the March 31 hearing, beginning at 7 p.m. To sign up as a speaker, the public should call the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

- **Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic** – Veronica Vogt reported they can now accept children from all over Fairfax County, not the limited areas as before.

- **Dranesville ES** – Kathy Wilds reported that they had a Hispanic Parent meeting (2/26), an Anti-Bullying presentation by Stefan Mascoll (3/18), an InterCambios meeting (3/19), International Night (4/24) and will celebrate their school’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 15.

- **Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services** – Pallas Washington reported that they are interested in reaching Hutchison ES with their Neighborhood Network Program. They will also look at Coppermine ES when it opens up due to its high free & reduced numbers.

- **World Vision** – Juan Pacheco reported that World Vision international will fund our local group. They will still be working on prevention and mentoring. He spoke briefly about the Youth Empowerment Project which is a 20-week, in depth local youth leadership and civic engagement training series. They are also trying to help provide for local needs through warehouse storage. They will partner with local organizations to provide them with items such as first-rate overstock

items. For more info, contact [Juan Pacheco](#) or [Henry Pacheco](#).

- **Town of Herndon Police** – Officer Farby reported that they were having a Kids at Hope Fun Night and they will have an agility course and a bake sale. The Youth Academy will be starting soon and they have just 2 spaces open for new members. He reported that the Senior Academy was well attended and 12 individuals graduated recently.

- **Reston Interfaith** – Bill Threlkeld reported that beginning with Fiscal year 2010, they will no longer be able to fund the Homework Help program at the Resource Center. Currently, over 40 students are being helped. The program is held twice a week from 7 – 8:30 pm. Contact [Bill Threlkeld](#) if you want more information. He also reported that the Reston Interfaith Foreclosure Program is picking up. They have also held First Time Home Buyer's programs out of the Senior Center. Their ESL program is very popular. They are looking for groups/organizations willing to provide a meal for the attendees. It would be on Tuesdays for approximately 35-40 people. Contact [Bill Threlkeld](#) for more info or to offer to help out.

- **Health Department** – Virginia Wilkinson reported that her case load of pregnant or new moms is stable at 27 individuals.

- **Trinity Presbyterian** – Virginia Wilkinson reported that the Wednesday afternoon "Food For the Soul" is up to over 170 people attending. They are also partnering with Herndon United Methodist to provide ESOL classes and the youth are planning a mission trip.

- **Hispanic Parent Meetings** – The next meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The meeting after that will be April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center.

- **Del. Tom Rust's Office** – Legislative aide, Carol Sinclair attended our meeting and said that if anyone needs assistance, to please feel free to contact her. The phone number is – 703-437-9400 or by email – [csinclair@tomrust.org](mailto:csinclair@tomrust.org).

- **St. Joe's School** – We welcomed Jenn Sues to our meeting. Jenn is a teacher at St. Joe's and she reported that they held a Coat Drive for Supervisor Cathy Hudgins office, donated meals for Reston Interfaith, 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to Harbour House, and they collected food for LINK. To contact Jenn, [click here](#).

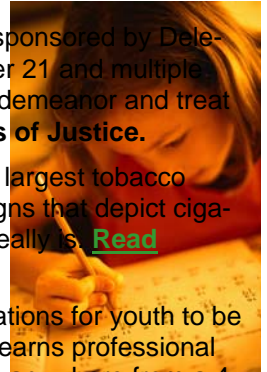
#### Other Announcements –

- **Action in the Virginia General Assembly** – there are a number of bills that were put forth.
  - o [Senate Bill 1084](#) Learner's Permit, sponsored by Senator Howell (**Bill dropped by Patron**) and [House Bill 1782](#), sponsored by Del. Albo. Bill amended to read - **Public school standardized driver education programs**. Requires that public school standardized driver education programs in Planning District 8, for any student completing a driver education program on or after January 1, 2010, include an additional minimum 90-minute parent/student driver education component, as part of the in-classroom portion of the driver education curriculum, requiring the participation of the student's parent or guardian and emphasizing parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driver behavior, juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage consumption of alcohol. **Bill PASSED by both House and Senate.**
  - o [Senate Bill 1266](#) **School Calendar**, sponsored by Senator Vogel, a member of the Northern Delegation which is being heard on Monday by the Commerce and Labor Committee, chaired by Sen. Saslaw. This bill is asking for local school boards responsibility for setting school start dates and eliminates post-Labor Day mandated opening. A similar bill in the House ([HB 2090](#)) would allow for flexibility for specific reasons. **Bill died in committee.**

#### OUR MISSION

*The GHCC is united in a drive to help ensure the well-being of all youth in the Herndon community. We dedicate our efforts to provide information and education about preventing under-age drinking, drug-abuse use issues, and personal character issues faced by our young citizenry, because all kids are capable of success, no exceptions.*

- **House Bill 2087 Reducing Penalties for providing alcohol to those under 21**, sponsored by Delegate Melvin. Currently, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to provide alcohol to those under 21 and multiple offenses are treated individually. The proposed bill would reduce it to a Class 3 misdemeanor and treat multiple offenses as a single offense (such as at a house party). **Bill died in Courts of Justice.**
- **Tobacco Companies Marketing Young Females** - In the last two years, the nation's two largest tobacco companies – Philip Morris USA and R.J. Reynolds – have launched new marketing campaigns that depict cigarette smoking as feminine and fashionable, rather than the harmful and deadly addiction it really is. [Read More...](#)
- **Department of Family Services Youth Employment Center** - Currently accepting applications for youth to be on the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) at Job Corner. It's a very fun volunteer opportunity that earns professional references and leadership skill development. Most serve on the YAB for up to one year with anywhere from a 4 to 10 hour monthly commitment. The application can be found at our website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/webdocs/publicassistance/jobcorner.htm>.
- **CRS Take Charge! Program Available for Youth** - Community and Recreation Services' (CRS) Take Charge!, a free tobacco, alcohol and other drug prevention program, is available to middle and high school youth groups. The middle school-age program focuses on tobacco education and prevention. The high school-age program covers information on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Participants receive a student workbook, snacks and incentives. The program is funded by the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation. For more information, contact [Elizabeth Robertson](#), CRS prevention specialist — Teen Services, 703-324-5213.
- **5th Annual Fairfax County Career Expo**, the *Job Corner* staff will be presenting a workshop for teens and young adults that offers tips on how to be a more competitive candidate in today's smaller summer job market (see attached flyer). They will also share information about a few local summer internship and work experience programs. **Space for the youth workshop is limited**, but not for the Expo (all are welcome!). To reserve a spot at the youth workshop which will be in Conference Rooms 2 & 3 at the Government Center during the Expo on Saturday, March 28th at 12:00pm, call the Department of Family Services *Job Corner* at (703) 531-6290. To find out more about who else is presenting and attending the 5th Annual Fairfax County Career Expo that day, see this website:
  - <http://www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com/attendees.html>.
- **Mental Wellness Conference, May 19<sup>th</sup>** - Don't miss our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jerome Short, Director of Clinical Training, and a Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. Dr. Short will share with us his expertise in Psychological Fitness and Well-Being. Workshops on different areas of wellness. For more information, visit us at [www.fairfaxyouth.org](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org).
- **Fairfax Cares Website** – a new website was developed to help combine various non-profit groups into one website where individuals can donate, volunteer to help, or just find out more information about how to help neighbors in need.



### Meetings for 08-09 (all meetings are at 3:30 pm)

- March 18
- April 22
- May 27

## Upcoming Dates

- Mar. 19 – North County Lunch Series, 12 – 2 pm at Vinson Hall, McLean. Program features Steve Gurney, founder and publisher of the Guide to Retirement Living Sourcebook.
- Mar. 23 – Peer-a-Mid Summit – “Going Green”, 2:30 – 4:30 pm
- Mar. 28 – Unified Prevention Coalition 2009 Conference – Register Today!!
- Mar. 28 – Career Expo for Fairfax County – [click here for more info](#)
- Apr. 4 – Western Fairfax Multicultural Day, 11 am – 3 pm at Cub Run Center
- Apr. 7 – Reston Interfaith Financial Education Workshop, 7 pm at the Resource Center
- Apr. 16 – Hispanic Parent meeting for HHS and HMS, 7 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center
- Apr. 22 – **Herndon Coalition Meeting, 3:30 pm in the HHS Principal’s Conference room**
- May 19 – Mental Wellness Conference
- May 20 – Parent Program with College Student Panel – “My Child is Graduating – Parenting the College Freshman”, 7 pm at HHS Lecture Hall



***There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. With it beats the spirit of service, generosity, and compassion....and the health and well-being of our community, our country, and our world.***

***--Kobi Yamada***