

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

MAY 2008

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Thanks to those of you who attended our last Herndon Coalition meeting on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here is a recap of what was discussed –

**Agenda Items –**

- **Reston Interfaith – Safe Dates Program & Partnership** – we discussed an informal partnership with Reston Interfaith where we can both benefit from sharing resources and helping to communicate programs that benefit our community. The Safe Dates program is a science-based program that Reston Interfaith is hoping to receive grant funding in order to share the program with the community. The grant is from a Fairfax County Partners in Prevention Fund. The three programs being funded are: We Can! Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition; Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices; and Safe Dates. For more information on the grant, [click here](#). Jody Tompros, Dir. Of Transitional Services for Reston Interfaith said that they will provide a 9-session program that will also be shared with South Gate and Cedar Ridge in Reston. The Coalition agreed to sign a document stating our informal partnership with Reston Interfaith.
- **Parents Who Host Lose the Most Program** – If you would like more fact cards, please let me know. We have them in several different languages. Also, we shared information on Project Hospitality.
- **Alcoa Grant** – the Coalition received funding from Alcoa Fastening Systems for a parent education program for Hispanic Parents in 2 age groups – K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the Spring. There are 4 classes being offered this spring. Attached is a flyer in English and Spanish for you to share.
- **Prom Note-cards** – Prom note-cards are due NOW!!
- **Homecoming 2008** – The Herndon High Homecoming Parade will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. The theme this year is “Music”.
- **SDFY is Looking for Youth to be on Youth Council** – if you know of rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to be involved, contact Diane at 571-423-4270. They can be public school, private school, or home-school students.

**Announcements –**

- **Coalition** – Becky Field-Ross reported that we recently gave Brynn Walker a small donation to show our appreciation for maintaining our incredible website each year. Brynn has developed the site and maintains it with no funds.
- **Department of Family Services** – Marilyn Bursch attended and spoke about the presenter for our Hispanic Parent classes – Mario Prada. She said that the parents enjoy Mr. Prada's way of speaking and they respect his advice. She also mentioned that Fairfax County recently rescinded the cut for FC employees.
- **Hispanic Parent Meetings** – The last meeting was held on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> and we had speakers from the ESOL Transitional High School located at South Lakes, Northern Virginia Community College, and the Herndon High Career Center specialist, Linda Boyke. The turnout was small, but the people who attended were very engaged in the information shared. The next meeting will be May 22<sup>nd</sup> and the topic is Summer Programs. ***If you would like a flyer to share with your school/organization, please let me know.***

- **Herndon High School** – Jim Hannon reported that we have a new School Resource Officer (SRO) – Chris Lehman who came from Langston Hughes MS and a new Director of Student Services. School events that are upcoming – AP testing, Reality Store co-sponsored with Northwest Federal Credit Union, and Prom (5/17).
- **Herndon Elementary** – Connie Britt reported that there are several upcoming programs – BookFair and Ice Cream Socials. They also received the games from the Coalition and were thrilled with the number this year. The Herndon Town Council also recently honored teachers at HES. They will have RecPac at HES this summer, as well as a 3-week Summer School program.
- **Hutchison Elementary** – Brittany Good and Julie Brenson reported that they received a grant from the Council for the Arts which enabled the Elden Street Players to perform for a fund-raiser and over 170 people attended the play. They will be holding their Family Fitness Night (4/24). They are preparing for a 6<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-year celebration on June 13<sup>th</sup> with lunch & lots of carnival-type activities. They are hoping to expand their After-School program for next year. Cost is very important and they want to keep it as low as possible.
- **Health Department** – Virginia Wilkinson, school nurse for HHS & HMS, reported that they are up 2 new moms who are either pregnant or parenting that she will be working with. The Coalition said that even though the proposal for funding from the SDFY grant was rejected, they would find funds for print material for the Teen Parents that she is involved with.
- **Herndon Middle School** – Jaquelyn Wallace reported that they received the Books the Coalition provided and are looking forward to sharing those with parents, as well as the Counselors. It was also announced that Dr. Frank Jenkins will be retiring at the end of the school year.
- **Trinity Presbyterian Church** – Virginia Wilkinson reported that the spring ESOL classes are almost complete.
- **Dranesville Elementary** – Paulina Hidalgo reported that they had over 350 people attend their recent International Night. They are also hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Hispanic Parent night with Northwest Federal Credit Union on budgeting. They raised over \$3000 during their Jump Rope for Heart. Their Peer Mediation program was great this year and she also discussed some of the changes proposed for Summer School.
- **ALCOA** – Jacquelyn Wallace reported that they have received their budget for the upcoming year.
- **St. Joe's School** – Nancy Szymczak reported that Spring Track is starting, they are doing a Helping Hoops for cancer research, and they honored Officer Posey with an Alumni Award recently. They received their Accreditation.
- **Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic** – Veronica Vogt sent a flyer that announced the Sick Children program that will enable them to see sick children on Tuesday & Thursdays from 9 am – 12 pm. Kaiser Permanente donated money for a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. St. Anne's Church donated funds to help pay for needed medicines. No appointment is necessary, but you must be eligible and provide a proof of income. For more info, call 703-481-8160.
- **Town of Herndon Police** – Officer G reported that they will be involved in Community Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Their Herndon Youth Police Academy has 17 kids involved and they recently learned about Crime Scene Investigation. He announced that Safe Haven has closed down due to budget cuts from the Eisenhower Foundation. Some of the kids are going to the Neighborhood Resource Center for homework assistance. He announced that Liz Hagg has changed jobs and will now be working at the County level and that a replacement at Liz's level will probably not be hired. Lisa Gilleran is covering some of Liz's responsibilities. The Explorer's Club meets Thursdays from 5 – 8 pm with about 5 – 6 kids involved. He also expressed some concern over a YouTube video showing Girl Fights and that kids are starting to act it out in our area. He has had several cases that he is working on and he asked that if anyone hears of a "Girl Fight" occurring to please, contact the Police Department and report it.
- **World Vision** – Juan Pacheco reported that Gang Activity may rise this summer; one of our youth presented at the Latino Empowerment Conference; two youths participated in a regional Nonviolence Direct Action Training and will share

#### 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.*

the concept to peers at HMS Survivors Youth Club; the DJ Club at HMS debuted at an After-School Pizza Party and they are looking for other programs to be involved with and share their DJ skills. World Vision is hoping to expand its storehouse initiative into Northern Virginia and will involve local churches and agencies for support. They will also participate in a Tri State Gang Training; the CMI youth will do a presentation at Beta Program in JDC; and the youth will present to World Vision Board of Directors on the current condition of poverty in America. Juan also mentioned that Congressman Wolf's grant runs out in September and they are hoping their costs will be underwritten by World Vision.

**Venture into Volunteering**, a free volunteer fair, on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon, VA 20170. This fair will be the third of its kind in Fairfax County. Representatives from approximately 30 nonprofit organizations and Fairfax County agencies will be on hand to talk about their volunteer programs and benefits. Some of the community partners expected to attend are: Reston Interfaith, Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and Pets on Wheels. There will be volunteer opportunities available for everyone! **Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins is the guest speaker. Refreshments will be provided, and participants will have an opportunity to enter a prize drawing.** This event is hosted by the Fairfax County Department of Family Services/Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the Fairfax County Public Library, Volunteer Fairfax, The Campagna Center's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc. For more information or to request reasonable accommodations for a disability, contact Trina Mayhan-Webb at the Fairfax County Department of Family Services/Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, at **703-324-5184**, TTY 703-449-1186, or by e-mail at [trina.mayhan-webb@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:trina.mayhan-webb@fairfaxcounty.gov). Information also is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa).

### Youth Mental Health Conference – May 13

"Bridging the Gap: The Many Faces of Youth Depression" will be held Tuesday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at Fairfax Community Church, 11451 Braddock Road, Fairfax, by the Fairfax Partnership for Youth. Speakers will present the signs of suicidal tendencies and depression faced by youth of different ages, genders and cultural backgrounds. Conference attendees will become familiar with community resources for diagnosing and treating acute and chronic mental health problems in children. More information is available [online](#) or call Lauren Kimmel, 703-324-5535. For reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-5292.

### Upcoming Dates

**May 3** – Herndon Community Day, Neighborhood Resource Center – 12 pm – 4 pm

**May 7** – Hispanic Parent Class, 7 – 9 pm @ Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – My Teenager is Hard to Handle – What Can I Do?

**May 7** – Venture into Volunteering @ Herndon Senior Center – 10 am – 12 pm

**May 10** - Hispanic Parent Class, 4 – 6 pm @ Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – You Always Say No! Have Fun and Be a Parent.

**May 13** – Youth Mental Health Conference, 8:30 – 3:30 pm @ Fairfax Community Church

**May 21** - Hispanic Parent Class, 7 – 9 pm @ Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – My Child is Driving Me Crazy!

**May 22** – Herndon High Hispanic Parent meeting, 7 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – Summer Programs.

**May 28** – Herndon Coalition Meeting (last one for school year), 3:30 pm in the HHS Principal's Conference room

**June 7** - Hispanic Parent Class, 4 – 6 pm @ Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk.