

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

OCTOBER 2008

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Hello everyone –

Thanks to those of you who attended our last Herndon Coalition meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 24th. Here is a recap of what was discussed – (NOTE: It is a lot of information, but all of it is worth reading!!)

Agenda Items –

- **Mission Statement** – we renewed our Mission Statement for the 08-09 year – *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.*
- **Proposals from 07-08** – we briefly discussed the 14 different programs the Coalition participated in during last school year.
- **Budget for 08-09** – We will receive \$3000 in grant funding for this year (same amount as last year).
- **Part 1 – Strategic Plan for Coalition** – we went over the various activities that we will mark as priorities for our Coalition. The list will be available on our website.
- **Homecoming Info for 2008** – we passed around Homecoming Parade applications to those who needed one. The Homecoming Parade (sponsored by the GHCC) will be held Saturday, Oct. 18th at 9:30 am. All non-profit organizations/schools are free. Applications can be found on our website.
- **New Proposals** – at this time, we did not have any proposals submitted. All forms will be on the GHCC website.
- **Parents Who Host Lose the Most Program** – we discussed the background of this program and the various groups that are looking for committee members.
- **Coalition Communication** – we use e-newsletters and our [website](#).
- **Herndon High & Herndon Middle Hispanic Parent meetings** – we are going to try to coordinate our meetings and have them together to see if we can increase attendance. A complete list of meeting dates is listed on our website, under Programs.
- **Expanding our Members** – if you know of an organization or individual who would be interested in attending our meetings, please send their contact information to [Lisa Lombardozzi](#) and she will add them to our email list.
- **Potential Speakers** – We passed out some potential speakers for programs and there are listed below.
- **Meetings & Times for Next Year** – our meeting dates are listed below.

Announcements –

- **Herndon HS** – Jim Hannon reported that Back-to-School night went well; preparing for a Band Showcase on 9/27; and gearing up for Homecoming Week (Oct. 13 – 18).

- **Dranesville ES** – We welcomed new principal, Susie McCallam to our meeting and Kathy Wilds. They reported that they have an upcoming parent program (Oct. 8th at 7 pm) on *How to Help Your Children Deal with Bullies*. FCPSSDFY speaker, Stefan Mascoll will be the presenter. Paulina Hidalgo (Parent Liaison) reported that they will have a new program beginning on Oct. 16th called **Intercambios/Language Exchange**. It is not about English or Spanish classes, but a conversational experience that will allow participants to learn some basic and useful phrases in English and Spanish to be used with other parents who don't speak English. For more information, [contact Paulina](#) – 703-326-5266.
- **Reston Interfaith** – We welcomed Bill Threlkeld to our meeting. Bill reported that their non-profit is feeling the same squeeze others are with more and more clients with bigger needs. They are looking for volunteers for their programs. They trained 4 staff members on [Safe Dates Program](#) and will soon be offering the program in the community. They have a Herndon outreach through ESL classes at the Neighborhood Resource Center and will be offering Foreclosure Counseling. Bill also reported that their Homework Assistance program will begin Oct. 6th at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Students are referred by teachers and are in 3rd – 6th grades. The classes are held twice a week for 1 ½ hours.
- **Health Department** – Virginia Wilkinson, school nurse for HHS & HMS, reported that they she is working with around 20 new pregnant or teen-moms. Virginia also shared information on a T.A.T.U. program (Teens Against Tobacco Use) – [click here](#) for more info.
- **Trinity Presbyterian** – will be co-sponsoring ESL classes.
- **ALCOA** – Jacquelyn Wallace reported that they are looking at contributing to the LINK Coat Drive and also working with a program for Mentally Challenged Adults.
- **Department of Family Services** – Marilyn Bursch announced that the Women's Shelter is now under the Department of Family Services. She will be leaving our area and will be moving to work in the Culmore area. We will miss her involvement in our Coalition and wish her well! A new contact will be attending our meetings.
- **Hutchison Elementary** – Brittany Good reported that the school year is underway and they are working to finalize After-School program plans.
- **Young Life** – Brittany Good reported that they having their Club meetings on Mondays at 8 pm at student's homes. They have discussed diversifying the ethnic makeup of the group, but at this time they don't have a very diverse leadership group. For more information on, Young Life – [click here](#).
- **Town of Herndon Police** – Officer G had to leave early, but he will send us information on what programs he is involved with at this time.
- **Hispanic Parent Meetings** – The first meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 7 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center. We will be inviting the parents from HMS, as well. The meeting will focus on teacher communication, understanding the report card, and Herndon area resources.
- **Herndon Middle School** – Becky reported that the After-School program will start requiring students with a C to stay after one day per week for academic help and students with a D or F will be required to stay after 2 days for academic help.
- **All Night Grad/After Prom** – Becky reported that they are just getting committees formed.
- **Herndon United Methodist Church** – Becky reported that they will be hosting Harvest on Nov. 1st and will be having a used book/video/DVD sale and will also be accepting toys for the LINK Holiday Basket program.
- **Fairfax County Department of Health Services** – Patti Stevens reported that they are offering FREE prenatal classes for Hispanic women on Oct. 11th and Oct. 18th at the Neighborhood Resource Center. For more information, call 703-237-6017. She also asked that we send out the message to have people attend the Budget Sessions that will be offered.

OUR MISSION

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The Herndon Budget Session will be Oct. 21st at 7 pm at Herndon High School. This Budget session will be a joint-effort with the School System and the Fairfax County System working together. For more information, [click here](#). Patti also announced that she has been promoted to the [Executive Director of Public/Private Partnerships](#). We will miss her at our meetings!! Good luck, Patti. Jenifer Henry reported that there is a good opportunity for Teens at the Greater Reston Arts Center. [Click here for more info](#).

- **Herndon Community Center** – we welcomed Mike Hotze to our meetings. Mike reported that they had over 40 middle school students come over on the bus last week. They will be hosting their first Teen Night on Friday, Sept. 24th.

- **Herndon Elementary School** - Assistant Principal, Connie Britt was unable to attend, but sent in her report - *We are off to a great start for the year and are continuously tweaking our plan as needed!!! Hopefully, at the next meeting, I plan to report other new revisions/additions we're making in the cafe and throughout the school.*

Other Announcements –

- Drug Free Community grantees are **decreasing** youth drug use at a **faster rate** than other communities across our country! It has taken more than four years of **exhaustive research** to bring you this great news as we announce the interim findings of the DFC national cross-site evaluation conducted by the Battelle Memorial Institute's Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation. In short, DFC-funded communities not only have **lower instances of youth drug** use compared to the national average, they are also reducing youth at an accelerated pace compared to non-funded communities. For the **first time** in the history of the DFC program, we are now able to point to research findings that show the DFC model as an **effective tool** in reducing youth drug use at the community level. Please visit DFC's website at www.ondcp.gov/dfc to download a copy of the report and the national news release summarizing the report's findings.

- Reston Community Center Events –

- **College Tour – Monday, Oct. 13.** Students can tour campuses at the University of Virginia and James Madison University, meet with representatives from the Office of Admissions and experience college life for a day. Registration # 804800-9A; \$80 (residents)/\$100 (non-residents). For more information, call 703-390-6158 (TTY 800-828-1120); also for reasonable ADA accommodations.

- **Teen Trip to Kings Dominion – Saturday, Oct. 18, 11:15 a.m.-midnight.** A night of rides and thrills, as the park will be transformed into a Halloween-themed park. Registration required (# 808889-9A); \$25 (residents)/\$40 (non-residents). For more information or reasonable ADA accommodations contact [Nakish Jordan](#), director of teen programs, 703-476-4500 (TTY 800-828-1120).

- Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a partnership between FCPS and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Alcohol & Drug Youth Services. Michael Torres, Substance Abuse Counselor at HHS is available to help work collaboratively with students, parents, school personnel and community representatives to foster resiliency in students. [Contact Michael Torres](#) for more information – 703-810-2484.

Speaker Ideas –

- **Dating Violence Prevention** - speaker from Va Dept Hlth (VDH). He is a very dynamic speaker and has a lot to say about the subject. Robert L. Franklin, MS, *Male Outreach Coordinator, Sexual Violence Prevention*, 804-864-7739, robert.franklin@vdh.virginia.gov. You can also order FREE posters from: <http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence/menendingviolence/index.html>.
- **Bullying, Cyber-bullying**, etc. presentations to schools (even Elementary schools) - Stefan Mascoll – ATOD specialist for FCPS. You can also contact him about scheduling “Bong Shows”; 571-423-4276; Stefan.mascoll@fcps.edu

- **Communication Skills Workshop, Conflict Resolution Workshop, Peer Mediation Skills Workshop, and Restorative Practices** for parents, staff, and others - Joan Packer – Conflict Resolution Specialist for FCPS; 571-423-4273; Joan.Packer@fcps.edu
- **Internet Awareness** - Clayton Gerber – U.S. Postal Inspection Service; 410-715-7714; cegerber@uspis.gov.

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

- October 22
- November 19
- January 14
- February 25
- March 25
- April 22
- May 27



Upcoming Dates

- Oct. 1st – PTA Pyramid Meeting, 11:30 am at HHS
- Oct. 8th – Dranesville ES Parent Education program on Dealing with Bullies, 7 – 8 pm
- Oct. 16th – Dranesville ES Intercambios/Language Exchange, 7:30 pm
- Oct. 18th – Herndon High Homecoming Parade, 9:30 am
- Oct. 18th – 26th – Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 21st – Budget Input Meeting, 7 pm at Herndon HS
- Oct. 22nd – Herndon Coalition meeting, 3:30 pm at HHS Principal Conference room
- Oct. 23rd – Herndon High/Herndon Middle Hispanic Parent meeting, 7 pm at Neighborhood Resource Center
- Oct. 25th – VolunteerFest 2008
- Oct. 31st – Substance Abuse Awareness Week Conference, Oct. 31st – 8 am – 4 pm
- Nov. 1st – Herndon United Methodist Church Harvest Day

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