



The Mission of Rappahannock Goodwill Industries, Inc. (RGI) is *“to provide to people with barriers to employments- particularly those with disabilities – an array of quality vocational and educational services so that they can work most independently.”*

Throughout our 45-year history, RGI has grown and evolved to meet the needs of those we serve. We define our organization as a ‘business with a social purpose.’ The social purpose is a comprehensive array of vocational and employment support services, which includes assessments, education, training, placement, and long term follow-up supports. Additionally, RGI has a current workforce of approximately 480 employees; just under 60% are people with disabilities.

Since 1966, RGI has believed in the power of work to change people’s lives. To have a job, do it well and reap the benefits of that effort is one of the most important ways people can live their life with dignity. The commitment to improving the economic security of those we serve is implicit in our dedication to employment and is explicit in our vision: *That people with barriers to employment – particularly those with disabilities – enjoy full social and economic participation in their community.*

Discover the **Good** of
Goodwill

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Funding Sought to Support Homeless Programs

The Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) submitted its application for 2011 Continuum of Care funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on October 27, 2011. The CoC application included five individual applications from four member agencies. The George Washington Regional Commission submitted a one-year renewal request in the amount of \$59,305 for continued administration of the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Rappahannock Refuge, Inc., d/b/a Hope House requested a one-year renewal in the amount of \$57,918 to continue supportive services at its two-year transitional housing facility for women and children. Micah Ecumenical Ministries submitted a one-year renewal application for its Supportive Housing Program in the amount of \$31,632 to provide permanent housing assistance for thirteen chronically homeless persons, including one homeless veteran, over one year. Micah Ecumenical Ministries also submitted a new application under the Bonus Housing Program in the amount of \$27,848 to provide permanent housing assistance for seven chronically homeless individuals including one homeless veteran. Thurman Brisben Center submitted a new application for its FISH program in the amount of \$36,804 to provide permanent housing assistance for twelve homeless households over a one year period. Targeted assistance will be provided for at least five homeless households with children, two chronically homeless families, two veterans, and one unaccompanied youth.

The CoC’s 2011 application (Exhibit 1) and the individual agency applications (Exhibit 2s) are available for review on the CoC’s website. www.fredcoc.org.

HUD is expected to announce the awards by January 2012.

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The disAbility Resource Center

The disAbility Resource Center, founded in 1992, is a Center for Independent Living, one of 16 in Virginia, serving Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George and Caroline counties and the city of Fredericksburg. The dRC believes in community inclusion and a purposeful life for people with disabilities helping them to live up to their greatest potential of independent living by providing them, those who support them, and the community with information, education, and resources. The dRC and all Centers for Independent Living believe that living in the community rather than an institution is far better for the individual and ultimately better for the community

The dRC is the only cross disability, cross life-span agency serving the Rappahannock region. Consumers are always provided free, confidential services that are determined through the Independent Living Plan they develop with the staff who take into consideration the consumers' desires, gifts, talents and abilities. The majority of the dRC staff are people with disabilities or family members of people with disabilities.

All Centers for Independent Living are required to provide four core services: advocacy by and for individuals with disabilities, information and resources, independent living skills training, and peer counseling,

The dRC promotes advocacy by educating individuals, groups and the community on the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. Most importantly, the dRC teaches people with disabilities about their state and federal rights and responsibilities and encourages people to advocate on their own behalf. The dRC runs both adult and youth advocacy programs.

The dRC's information and referral services identifies resources and services available to people with disabilities and those who support them and maintains the information in their files. Information is provided on accessibility, housing, recreation, transportation, employment, education and other areas of concern to those with disabilities. Through outreach events and the provision of information and referral services to community members and groups, the dRC fosters relationships, awareness, and partnerships in an effort to create a community for all of its citizens.

Independent living skills training provides training in many of areas of daily living such as maintaining a checking account, cooking, learning to take the driver's test, organizing one's cupboards or one's schedule, and much more. IL skills are based on the goals of a person's independent living plan.

Peer Counselors are people who have similar life experiences as those they serve. Peer Counselors help people with disabilities set goals and create the steps to achieve those goals. The main goal, in whatever form it takes, is always independent living.

Other dRC services include deaf and hard of hearing services, exercise and nutrition classes, durable medical equipment re-use, veteran's outreach, Developmental Disabilities Waiver case management, facilitation of consumer-driven personal assistant services, Money Follows the Person nursing home transition coordination, adult and youth advocacy groups, work incentives benefits counseling, guidance on Social Security benefits questions, youth services and transition support, guidance on home modifications and funding for modifications, information on accessible housing, Medicaid Waiver information, and workshops and trainings for people with disabilities, their families and caretakers and the community.



COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Micah will open this year's cold weather shelter starting Nov 1, 2011 and lasting until Feb. 28, 2012. It will open only when the temperature drops below 32 degrees and when the forecast calls for rain or snow. The Micah bus will pick up from the community dinners at 6:30pm on nights the shelter is open. Guests may not walk to the shelter, but may come by taxi or vehicle if they miss the bus.

Volunteers are needed! To get involved with this year's cold weather shelter, contact Alice Cates at cates.alice@gmail.com or 540-479-4116 x15.

BUS DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport guests to and from the shelter. Drivers must have a CDL license with a passenger endorsement.

LAUNDRY PICK-UP AND DELIVERY

Dirty shelter linens must be exchanged for clean with the Goodwill laundry. Volunteers with trucks or large vans are needed to make this exchange weekly.

JOIN A SET-UP TEAM

The shelter is structured with various church groups responsible for each night of the week. Individuals are invited to join these teams.



It's Holiday Hope time!! The Holiday Hope program is unique, it matches people willing to help (sponsors) with community residents in need. You know exactly how your money is spent because you are able to deliver the gifts to the family yourself, or donate an item through a church, the schools, or as a group (i.e. friends, book club, bowling league, co-workers, or neighbors). If you are interested in sponsoring a child or donating items, please call Lori Weresnick, the Volunteer Services Coordinator at Spotsylvania Social Services, at 540-507-7896 or e-mail Lori.Weresnick@dss.virginia.gov.

The Department of Social Services with the help of Spotsylvania residents, businesses, churches and other organization was able to provide food and gifts to over 6,007 individuals in need last year.

Lori Weresnick
Spotsylvania Department of Social Services





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Currently the dRC is offering the following workshops and events:

- Medicaid Waivers – Learn about Virginia’s long-term care programs. Nov. 2, 2011. Contact Tennie Gratz, tgratz@cildrc.org
- SSI/SSDI – Learn about Social Security benefits, the effect of employment on benefits, and work incentives. Nov. 7, 2011 Contact Kim Baker, kbaker@cildrc.org, or Grace Marshall, gmarshall@cildrc.org
- Life Planning – Learn about the Life Care Planning steps that families of those with disabilities need to address. Nov. 17, 2011. Contact Jenny Fain, jfain@cildrc.org.
- Sensory Sensitive Santa Visits for children with disabilities Dec. 4 and 10, 2011. Contact Jenny Fain, jfain@cildrc.org, or Kim Lett, klett@cildrc.org .
- Finger Spelling and Beginning Sign Language classes beginning in January, 2012. Contact Arva Priola, apriola@cildrc.org.
- dRC Open House, Dec. 15, 2011, Contact Claudia DePollo, cdepollo@cildrc.org



2011 Continuum of Care Services Fair

Twenty local non-profit and public service agencies participated in the first annual Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care Services Fair. The event was free to the public and was held at Hurkamp Park on October 22. Many citizens from Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties attended the fair and received information about programs that are available within Planning District 16. These programs included housing assistance, food relief, employment training, legal counseling, social services, disability resources, HIV and AIDS awareness, domestic violence resources, and similar programs to meet community needs. Immediately following this effort, one agency reported that it provided emergency housing assistance to help one family avoid homelessness and become stable in their housing. The family attended the Services Fair and was previously unaware that help was available.





RAPPAHANNOCK GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, INC.

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By serving anyone with a barrier to employment, RGI has provided person-centered service to individuals of all ages – from teens transitioning out of high school, to seniors re-entering the workforce, we help all those who desire economic security for themselves and their families.

Services at our Job Help Center (JHC) are free and available to the public. They include a job research library, phone access and multiple internet-accessible computer stations for job search. Additional training in resume/cover letter creation, interviewing strategies and local area job listing resources are provided.

In an attempt to reach more people, Rappahannock Goodwill began partnering with the Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter in 2008 to provide the services of our Job Help Centers to their residents. Utilizing our JHC program as a guide, we trained their volunteers at their site, allowing even more individuals to be served. This partnership has been a positive addition to RGI services and we are actively seeking to replicate it with other community partners.

RGI also partners with the Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence (RCDV) to provide supported employment services to victims of domestic violence. Goodwill dedicates the time of an employment specialist to teach job search skills, provide job search support, intensive job coaching, and job retention support which will include efforts to secure long term, reliable transportation. This partnership began in January of 2010.

Also in 2010, RGI became an Employment Network under the Social Security Administration’s Ticket to Work Program. Goodwill’s Ticket to Work program serves all individuals with disabilities who want to get back into the workforce and become independent from Social Security benefits. At Goodwill, we don’t want to just help beneficiaries find a job; we want to help them find their future!

Most recently RGI began partnering with the Bay Consortium Workforce Investment Board (Bay WIB), the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) to manage a Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC). The DRC is located in the Comprehensive Workforce Center in the Massaponax area of Spotsylvania County.

The DRC is responsible for all outreach services within our local service area and for expanding the use of the Workforce Investment Board as an Employment Network. The DRC works the as the single point of contact with employers and jobseekers and will coordinate all disability employment services offered in the Workforce Center.

Megan Bergen
Vice President - Mission Development
Rappahannock Goodwill Industries
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GOODWILL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers are needed at our job help centers. If you're good with people, you can assist others as they look to find a job!



Youth First 2012

"Building a Stronger Community"

**Youth First 2012 will take place on Friday, February 3, 2012
at the Riverside Conference Center in Stafford County.**

This Year's Theme & Service Project!

Unlike in years past, the Youth First Partners have decided that there will be no official 'theme' to this year's Youth First Conference. Instead, participants will vote for the vendor that has the best display and that vendor will win the coveted YOFI award.

In addition, Youth First Partners have decided that this year's service project will be a benefit for our homeless youth and families. The Partnership has identified the following local agencies and organizations that will be beneficiaries of all items collected.

Local Schools McKinney Vento Programs (Call Lisa Dolan - 540.582.2480)
The Hope Center
Micah Ecumenical Ministries
Thurman Brisben Center

Participants and Vendor Staff are asked to select from the short list of predetermined items below to bring to Youth First. Participants can then choose which agency or organization receives their donation. If participants would like to bring additional items, or different items, each agency's wish list is also linked below. If you have questions, email Ben Nagle (ben@officeonyouth.org).

Donation Item List

- Gift Cards (from WaWa, Walmart, FoodLion/Giant/Bloom)
- Socks, Underwear, Hygiene Items (such as razors, deodorant, and soap)
- Can Openers, Crock Pots
- Tents, Sleeping Bags
- Backpacks (adult and child)
- Laundry Soap

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PROFESSIONALS ONLY
(THIS EVENT IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

WHAT IS YOUTH FIRST?

The Youth First Partnership began as a thought that the youth service agencies in our region could be better connected, and the community better served, through collaboration. The partnership is comprised of representatives from the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties, the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth, the Rappahannock United Way, and Snowden at Fredericksburg. Our mission is, *"To build a stronger community by promoting collaboration amongst youth serving agencies"*. We have a common vision to provide an annual venue to share resources and ideas, and to promote communication and collaboration between agencies.

Therefore, the Youth First Partnership organizes **"Youth First: The Annual Collaboration of Community Youth Services"** - an event to provide training opportunities, to promote networking, and to increase awareness of community based resources. Training sessions cover a wide variety of topics that address youth issues and related topics. The Youth First event also provides opportunities for both for-profit and non-profit youth service agencies to present an overview of their programs and distribute information to participants. Participants of this event are youth service professionals from various programs, agencies, and organizations within the community.

Save The Dates

December 1, 2011

Make plans to join the Virginia Housing Coalition and our partners, including ProjectFAITH, the Virginia Community Development Corporation, and the Virginia Housing Development Authority for our executive workshop on **Thursday, December 1st, Raising the Bar Beyond Excellence**. Join us as we welcome Dr. Raymond A. Bell, Jr., for this innovative and interactive session that will help you cultivate your strengths and find your focus to make you a more effective leader in the affordable housing arena and every area of your life. This program is not designed to grow leaders, but to grow better leaders by speaking to the leader in YOU. **Our speaker:** Dr. Raymond A. Bell, Jr. is the Senior Pastor of Mount Hope Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, and is the recipient of the prestigious Lilly Foundation sabbatical grant for clergy and a member of Hollifield Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Leading Edge Pastors, funded by the Lilly Foundation. In 2009, he was selected by the Lott Carey Foundation's Pastoral Excellence Program to participate in a three (3) year mission's expedition to Georgetown, Guyana; Jamaica, West Indies; and Rome, Italy to mentor and coach. He is a recent graduate of the Sorensen Political Institute at the University of Virginia, and is currently serving on the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center's Trustee Board. He is the President and CEO of two (2) 501c3 non-profits, Mount Hope Academy and Hope Community Development Corporation, an outreach service organization which partners with the community to deliver effective life services and programs for Senior Citizens, Workforce Development, and equipping First-Time Homeowners. Dr. Bell is a Certified Leadership Coach and has demonstrated expertise as an educator and lecturer in the areas of mental health, burnout, sexual integrity, life transitions, etc.

Who should attend: Executive Directors and other leaders in affordable housing, and those who support them.

Schedule: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (lunch included)

Location: Conference Room 1, Virginia Housing Development Authority, 601 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond

Registration fee: \$30 for Virginia Housing Coalition members (including organizational members), \$40 for nonmembers.

Questions? Contact VHC Administrator Mary Kidd, CMP, at mary@catapult-inc.com or by phone at (804) 497-3060.

Ride VA 2012 Poker Run

Save the date for Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity's 5th annual Poker Run on April 14, 2012, the 2nd Saturday in April. Our start/stop point will again be Morton's BMW Motorcycles in Four Mile Fork Shopping Center with the route through historic Fredericksburg and the counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford & King George.



Prepare to be dazzled



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**Christmas
Trees on Display**

*decorated by local artists,
designers, and businesses*

Fredericksburg Area Museum
and Cultural Center
Princess Anne & William Streets

Open to the Public
Nov. 8 - 18 from noon to 5 p.m.

Gala to be held on Nov. 19 at
UMW's Jepson Alumni Executive Center.
Order tickets now and take a tree home with you!

www.hopehousetrees.com

540-371-0831



Trees of HOPE

A Holiday Event to Benefit Hope House



FREDERICKSBURG AREA MUSEUM AND
CULTURAL CENTER