



## GREATER FREDERICKSBURG HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity moved 5 families into homes during 2010. We completed a home in King George, rehabilitated homes in the City and Spotsylvania using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, completed a home near Lake Anna and moved a family into another home in Spotsylvania. We are currently rehabilitating a home in Spotsylvania and are applying for building permits for our first home in Stafford County. Recently the Stafford Board of Supervisors approved conveying two lots, which are adjacent to the property we currently own. We are excited by all of the low income workforce families that we are able to help get into a home of their own.



All of this activity is only possible with the support of the community through volunteering and the donation of funds and materials. Thank you to all who have supported our efforts!

This spring we are starting a home repair program called “A Brush With Kindness”. This program is for homeowners who cannot afford to make home repairs without help from the community. Applications for the program are on our website: [www.fredhab.org](http://www.fredhab.org).

This is another opportunity for the community to show support by maintaining affordable housing in the area. We will be correcting health and safety issues, weatherizing, making modifications for those with disability, and simply making the house more presentable in our neighborhoods. We welcome groups who wish to help in these short duration projects that will have a great impact on our neighbors.

Please remember our ReStore where you can “get a bargain, build a home”. We accept donations of building supplies, appliances, lighting fixtures, and furniture and sell them to the public at great prices. The store is located at 4755 Jefferson Davis Highway and is open 9-5 Monday thru Saturday.

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### 2-1-1 Virginia

2-1-1 Virginia helps relieve the stress of not knowing where to turn in a crisis situation. There are literally hundreds of health and human service organizations in the Fredericksburg area, and 2-1-1 Virginia provides a streamlined, centralized, and easy-to-remember telephone number that can help ease the panic.

2-1-1 Virginia is the abbreviated dialing code assigned to health and human services Information and Referral by the Federal Communications Commission, operational in more than 32 states already. Callers can be connected to local information about financial assistance, health resources, childcare, employment, education, abuse, disaster relief, donations, housing assistance, and much more.

2-1-1 does not provide direct financial assistance; however, information and referral specialists can make confidential referrals to agencies and services that may be able to help. It is available to everyone in need of help, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely free and confidential, and Information and Referral Specialists are able to communicate in both English and Spanish.

Rappahannock United Way is proud to be a partner of 2-1-1 Virginia, the statewide Information and Referral service that launched in February 2006.

For more information on 2-1-1 Virginia contact Rappahannock United Way (540) 371 0041 or dial 211.

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## EDUCATION OF HOMELESS YOUTHS IN PD 16

A blacktop, parked cars, and four small walls can be the playground for children living in Planning District 16. For children living in hotel/motels this is their playground. The economy has especially impacted our most vulnerable population, children. In the 2009-2010 school year Stafford and Spotsylvania County Schools identified over 500 students as being homeless under the McKinney Vento Program. **This school year, the numbers have risen dramatically- to over 600- and the school year is not over.** Some would argue that our local school systems are the largest identifier of homeless children, youth and families.

The McKinney-Vento Act gives legal protection to children and youth facing homelessness. This federal legislation was originally passed in 1987 and reauthorized in 2002. The McKinney- Vento Act addresses homelessness as “lacking fixed, regular, adequate night time residence”. This powerful legislation provides a child school stability, immediate school access, support for academic success, and is a child-centered in intent. The goal is to keep students in their school of origin whenever possible. Each school district has a designated McKinney Vento Liaison that is able to determine eligibility and provide appropriate supports for students. All students identified under the McKinney Vento program have access to free breakfast and lunch, and some students are transported to and from their school of origin so as to provide school stability.

The McKinney Vento definition of homeless differs somewhat from the current HUD definition of homeless. Families who are ‘doubled up’ due to a lack of financial resources to secure housing on their own can be identified under the McKinney Vento definition. Families who are evicted from housing and move in with friends or relatives due to a lack of financial resources are considered ‘doubled up’ and are identified as such. Of course, families/students who reside in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, or who reside in hotels/motels due to a lack of financial/ housing resources are also identified through the McKinney Vento program.

Stafford and Spotsylvania County Schools received a grant from Project Hope Virginia, the Virginia Education Program for Homeless Children and Youth, to provide extra services for our McKinney Vento students. The grant funds part-time case managers for each school district. The case managers work primarily with families who reside in hotel/motels and unaccompanied homeless youth. An unaccompanied homeless youth is a student without fixed, regular, and adequate housing who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian that may be a runaway, living in homeless situations, or those denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to as throwaway children and youth). Each of these populations has been provided additional support from the school districts to assist in their academic success.

The Case Managers provide needs assessments, linking with community resources, and provide on going family support. The Case Managers also work with community agencies to address the particular needs of families that are facing homelessness. Thru collaborative efforts families can obtain permanent housing and students’ can achieve academic success. **Children do not choose to be homeless** and our local school systems appreciate the assistance you all provide to support children and families in difficult times. Our McKinney-Vento Case Managers are just one piece of that building block.

For more information, please call:

Lisa Dolan, Spotsylvania County McKinney Vento Liaison 540-582-2480

Kathy Olson, Stafford County McKinney Vento Liaison 540-899-6213

Michelle Patton, McKinney Vento Case Manager for Spotsylvania Schools 540-840-0950

Maarja Bracero, McKinney Vento Case Manager for Stafford Schools 571-423-9923



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING AWARENESS WEEK COMES TO FREDERICKSBURG

By Kim McClellan, Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors®

The Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors® (FAAR) is pleased to join with many business and non-profit partners to put on the region's first Affordable Housing Awareness Week June 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. This event will bring much-needed focus to the critical issue of finding and securing quality affordable housing for countless families throughout the region. Did you know that many working individuals and families, including police officers, firefighters, and school teachers, have difficulty finding affordable housing to rent or purchase? Access to quality affordable housing is an important employee retention tool for many area businesses. With mortgage rates at historic lows and housing prices at the most affordable they've been in years, now is the perfect time to have a serious conversation about how we plan for the future to keep our communities thriving, while remaining accessible and diverse.

Of the many activities planned for Affordable Housing Awareness Week, including a kick-off breakfast, Housing Fair, and open houses, the most valuable and interesting for local businesses are the community housing forums being held throughout the region. These intimate forums will provide local businesses a chance to hear from non-profits, realtors®, builders, and local elected officials about affordable housing challenges and steps the region can take to preserve affordability. If you are interested in attending any of the forums below, please RSVP to Kim McClellan, Government Affairs Director for FAAR, at [kmcclellan@faarmembers.com](mailto:kmcclellan@faarmembers.com) or 540-373-7711 by Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The forums are free of charge and include light refreshments.

### **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00am: King George**

King George Citizen Center  
8076 Kings Highway  
King George, VA 22485

### **Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm: Caroline County**

Caroline County Tourist Information Center  
23734 Rogers Clark Blvd.  
Ruther Glen, VA 22546

### **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00am: City of Fredericksburg**

Fredericksburg Area Association of Realtors®  
2050 Gordon W. Shelton Blvd.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

### **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm: Stafford County**

Cannon Ridge Golf Course  
9000 Celebrate Virginia Parkway  
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

### **Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm: Spotsylvania County**

Stevenson Ridge Bed and Breakfast  
6901 Meeting Street  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553



The Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence (RCDV) is moving the services and operations of the public outreach office. The new location is 4700 Harrison Road in Spotsylvania County (near the intersection with Jefferson Davis Highway). The mailing address remains the same P.O. Box 1007, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.

The new rented outreach space is larger and on one level, the ground floor. RCDV will continue to serve survivors of domestic violence and their children, free and confidentially, in English and Spanish from the new office during business hours via appointment or walk-in. As in the past, RCDV will offer the same services at shelters, hospital emergency departments, transitional housing, & group centers in the community and through Planning District 16 Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts.

Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence (RCDV) is a non-profit organization providing confidential domestic violence assistance in the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, and Caroline since 1978. These services include a free and confidential 24-hour hotline, a temporary emergency shelter, information, referrals, and advocacy.

The Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence empowers survivors and their children to believe in themselves and build new lives filled with dignity, respect, safety, and hope. "We give victims the time, space, and tools to heal their hearts, restore their connections, rebuild their lives, and renew their spirits."

**Confidential Assistance and Information Available 24 Hours a Day**

Hotline 540-373-9373

Or Call Toll Free 1-877-734-7238

## Our Affiliate's History

The Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity was chartered by Habitat for Humanity International, Inc. on July 5, 1995 by a group of concerned citizens seeing a need for adequate low cost housing for residents of the City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties. After being officially chartered we started searching for families in need of adequate housing, funds to build homes, and building sites. Our first family was selected in August of 1996; a building site located in the Mayfield subdivision; construction began in November and was completed in April of 1997. Our second house on Camptown Road in Spotsylvania County was completed in November of 1997. The third house on Chewning Lane was a "Blitz Build" during Habitat's "Building on Faith Week" in September of 1997. In 1998 we purchased and subdivided a lot on Airport Avenue in the city. We finished construction of the fifth house on that property in 2005. In 2003 the Free Lance Star newspaper offered Habitat a 1920's two story house on their parking lot and a building lot across the street. We had the house raised up and moved on a Sunday morning in April. This was our first attempt at refurbishing a house. After several roadblocks the home was dedicated in November of 2004. During the summer of 2006 we built our first two-story house and it was designated our "Youth Build" house in honor of five Stafford highschoolers that lost their lives in 2004.

Our affiliate's office started in the music library of the Falmouth Baptist Church, moved to the Baptist Association, then to a building in the Bowman Industrial Park. We leased our Houser Drive location (next to Comcast Cable in Spotsylvania) in 2000, due to the need for more space and a more accessible location to hold meetings. In 2001 we started receiving donations of building materials and home furnishings for resale. Our store operated on one Saturday a month holding a "Yard Sale." In 2004 we started opening the ReSale store during the week and hired a full-time manager to run the store and make pickups of donated items. The store has been such a success that we have now found a larger building to house all the items we have for sale.

In December 2006, we moved our operations (office and resale store) from our Houser Drive location to our new facility at 4755 Jefferson Davis Highway, which is in the Four Mile Fork Business Center—next to J&J Tile.

# 4th ANNUAL POKER RUN



Start-stop at Morton's BMW.  
Register on-line at [Fredhab.org](http://Fredhab.org) or call 540/891-5009.

Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity is having our 4th annual Ride VA 11 poker run on April 16, 2011. Our start/stop point will be Morton's BMW again, located at Four Mile Fork shopping center, 5099 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg, VA 22408. Our course will be about 100 miles through historic Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. The first stop will be at the Habitat build site in Stafford where the riders can sign a 2x4 that will be used in the home build.

Last year we gave away over \$3700 in prizes and in 2011 the prizes for both the best hand and worst hand will again be \$250 each. You can also buy 50/50 raffle tickets for \$5 each.

## 2011 POINT IN TIME SUMMARY

On January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, members of the Fredericksburg Regional CoC conducted its local PIT count of the homeless population. Over a 36-hour period, service providers and volunteers visited soup kitchens and outdoor locations to gather information from people who are homeless and near-homeless in Fredericksburg area. School Homeless Liaisons from the region also coordinated with the CoC to calculate the number of school aged homeless persons. Over 185 individual survey questionnaires were completed. After a review of the surveys and removal of duplicates, 162 unique surveys were available to evaluate homeless adults living in Planning District 16 on the night of the count. An additional 17 surveys were completed by adults who were not homeless the night of the count, but are considered at-risk of future instances of homelessness. In addition to counting homeless individuals and families, the survey also provides information on the needs and characteristics of the population to better provide services in the future. Getting homeless persons to provide personal information can be challenging, but in 2011, the CoC was able to offer incentives for completing the surveys through the generosity of the community. These gifts included free FRED Bus tickets donated by FREDericksburg Regional Transit, toiletry kits donated by the Salvation Army, free gift cards for phone minutes, food, and a service fair offering intake and referral information from various CoC agencies and the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) was sponsored by Micah Ecumenical Ministries.

**2011 PIT Summary Table**

Fredericksburg Regional CoC-2011 Point-In-Time Count Results - January 27, 2011				
Households <b>with</b> Dependent Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	14	7	0	21
Number of Persons (adults and children)	37	19	0	56
Households <b>without</b> Dependent Children	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	86	0	138	224
Number of Persons (adults and unaccompanied youth)	86	0	138	224
All Households/ All Persons	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Households	100	7	138	245
Total Persons	123	19	138	280

Homeless Adult Sub-Populations			
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Chronically Homeless	40	27	67
Severely Mentally Ill	36	12	48
Chronic Substance Abuse	23	5	28
Veterans	14	3	17
Persons with HIV/AIDS	6	2	8
Victims of Domestic Abuse	12	2	14
Unaccompanied Child (Minor)	0	89	89



The distribution of homeless persons by previously fixed address shows that the majority of HUD homeless persons were last previously housed within the Planning District and that the percentage actually increased from 84.4% in 2010 to 86.7% in 2011. A much lower percentage of HUD homeless persons were previously housed in the City of Fredericksburg (24.0% in 2010 and 9.3% in 2011), while a much larger percentage originated from the surrounding counties. The 2011 PIT results note that the largest number of homeless children, defined by the Department of Education (HEARTH Homeless Children), are identified in Stafford and Spotsylvania School Systems; however the number of school aged homeless has almost doubled in King George County from 5.9% in 2010 to 10.8% in 2011. As previously noted, this is unfortunately a growing trend for the region.

2011

Homeless Population by Previous Fixed Address	HUD Homeless Adults	HUD Homeless Children	HUD Homeless Subtotal	% of HUD Homeless Subtotal	HEARTH Homeless Adults	HEARTH Homeless Children	HEARTH Homeless Subtotal	% of HEARTH Homeless Subtotal	Grand Total of HUD + HEARTH Homeless	% of HUD + HEARTH Homeless
Caroline	9	6	15	5.4%	0	44	44	7.3%	59	6.7%
Fred'burg*	24	2	26	9.3%	8	43	51	8.5%	77	8.8%
King George	11	1	12	4.3%	1	64	65	10.8%	77	8.8%
Spotsylvania	39	71	110	39.3%	0	223	223	37.2%	333	37.8%
Stafford	33	47	80	28.6%	1	214	215	35.8%	295	33.5%
Other VA	19	3	22	7.9%	2	0	2	0.3%	24	2.7%
Outside VA	15	0	15	5.4%	0	0	0	0.0%	15	1.7%
Total	150	130	280	100.0%	12	588	600	100.0%	880	100.0%

2010

Homeless Population by Previous Fixed Address	HUD Homeless Adults	HUD Homeless Children	HUD Homeless Subtotal	% of HUD Homeless Subtotal	HEARTH Homeless Children	% of HEARTH Homeless Subtotal	Grand Total of HUD + HEARTH Homeless	% of HUD + HEARTH Homeless
Caroline	7	5	12	4.2%	37	9.8%	49	7.4%
Fredericksburg*	57	12	69	24.0%	57	15.2%	126	19.0%
King George	10	0	10	3.5%	22	5.9%	32	4.8%
Spotsylvania	28	62	90	31.3%	105	27.9%	195	29.4%
Stafford	43	19	62	21.5%	155	41.2%	217	32.7%
Other VA	18	1	19	6.6%	0	0.0%	19	2.9%
Outside VA	21	5	26	9.0%	0	0.0%	26	3.9%
Total	184	104	288	100.0%	376	100.0%	664	100.0%

# Micah Cold Weather Shelter Wrap-Up

**Three Groups came out to the Cold Weather Shelter the weekend of March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>: Ebenezer United Methodist Church Youth Group, Mine Road Baptist Church, and Spotsylvania Church of God. Between these three groups, the Cold Weather Shelter has now been cleaned and closed up for the season. Thanks to their hard work, we can look forward to a seamless opening come next winter!**

**The 2010-2011 cold weather shelter served 149 people**

**It opened 71 out of a possible 120 nights**

**Meghann Cotter**



## **VIRGINIA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS AUDIO CONFERENCE**

Federal and State Funding Shifts to Rapid-Rehousing: The POSITIVE Impact on Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs

April 12, 2011 10:00am—11:30am

[www.vceh.org](http://www.vceh.org)

## **VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

May 11, 2011—May 13, 2011

Virginia Beach, Hilton

3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

[www.vahcdo.org](http://www.vahcdo.org)

## **2011 COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

June 6, 2011—June 8, 2011

Grand Hyatt Washington DC

1000 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

## **VIRGINIA HOUSING COALITION INFORMATION SERVICE—2ND ANNUAL SUMMER SYMPOSIUM HOUSING BUILDS—In conjunction with the VHC Awards Dinner**

June 23, 2011, Omni Richmond Hotel

[www.housingvirginia.org](http://www.housingvirginia.org)

## **2011 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS CONFERENCE & POLICY SYMPOSIUM**

A Prescription for Ending Homelessness: Social and Health Equity

June 23, 2011—June 25, 2011

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill Washington, DC

400 New Jersey Avenue, NW Washington, 20001

[www.nhchc.org](http://www.nhchc.org)

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

July 13, 2011— July 15, 2011

Renaissance Washington DC Hotel

999 Ninth Street, NW Washington, 20001

[www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)

## HOMELESSNESS IMPLICATES HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS U.S. GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME Article Courtesy of National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

On March 10, 2011, the United States government filed its [official response](#) to the recommendations it received from the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of its first ever comprehensive human rights review. The response marks the *first time* that the Administration has acknowledged that homelessness in the U.S. implicates its human rights obligations.

The U.S. has been engaged in this [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) process for more than a year. It began with a series of government consultations in a dozen cities across the country, throughout which housing was the number one human rights issue raised, according to government sources. This comes as no surprise, as [recent studies show a dramatic rise in homelessness](#) - especially family homelessness - in the wake of the recession.

"We're especially pleased that the Administration supports the Council's recommendations to take steps both to 'reinforce' safeguards to protect the rights of homeless Americans and to reduce homelessness as part of our human rights obligations," said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

Foscarinis also noted that the Administration's response showed support for recommendations to improve social protection coverage, to ensure the rights to food and health for all, and to commit to "[c]ontinue its efforts in the domain of access to housing, vital for the realization of several other rights, in order to meet the needs for adequate housing at an affordable price for all segments of American society."

But, she emphasized, "the real issue now is whether the Administration will made good on these statements and take action to help the millions of Americans now suffering as a result of the foreclosure and economic crises sweeping our country."

The government submitted its initial UPR report to the Human Rights Council in April 2010, and then was reviewed by the Council in November. At the review, it received 228 recommendations, including recommendations to "take further measures in the area of economic and social rights and reducing the number of homeless people," and to "reinforce the broad range of safeguards in favor of & homeless [people] to allow them the full enjoyment of their rights and dignity." The government's response, which will be officially presented to the Council at its upcoming session on March 18, indicated they supported those recommendations.

"Three-quarters of Americans agree that housing is a basic human right, and the Obama Administration says it supports the reduction of homelessness as a human rights obligation," said Eric Tars, Human Rights Program Director at the Law Center. "So let's put those words into action. We strongly urge the Administration to tell Congress to stop cutting billions of dollars of housing assistance from the budget. That would defeat the very purpose of the recommendations they say they support."

Every country in the world is reviewed under the UPR every four years, meaning the U.S. will receive its next review in 2014. "We hope the Administration will take the same stand at home as it has at the U.N., and protect the basic human right to housing for all Americans," concluded Foscarinis, who will testify at a Congressional briefing on March 31 on the UPR process. "We don't want to have to report back four years from now and say we failed."