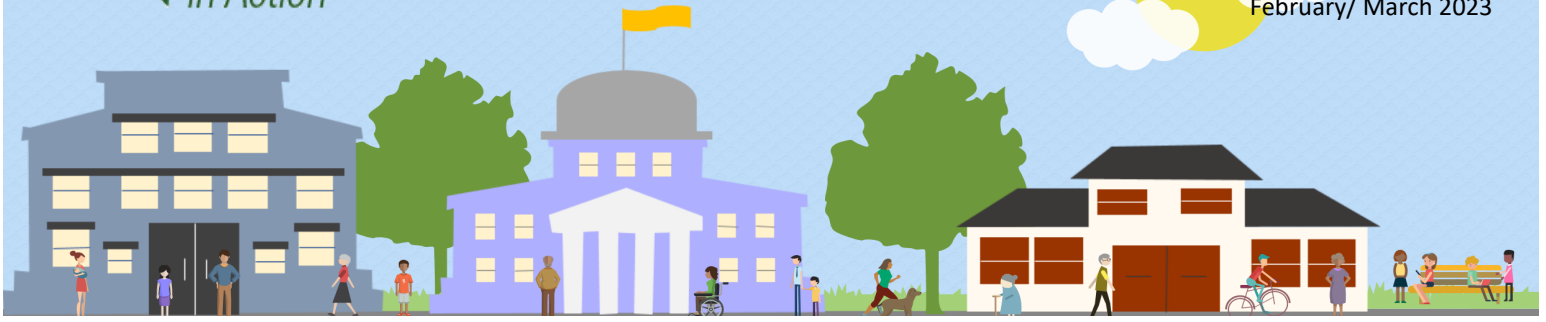




Common Ground

A Newsletter for the Interfaith Community

February/ March 2023



Fairfax County Health Department Updates

[Ask a Nurse: How to protect your family from respiratory viruses - YouTube](#)

For up-to-date information on the flu, COVID-19, and RSV, please see [StayWellNoVa](#) for more details.



Jeffrey C. McKay

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

View the State of the County address where Chairman McKay is joined by community leaders to discuss wonderful accomplishments, our future goals, and more! You can watch the full video here: [State of the County | Cable and Consumer Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

FCIA EVENT SAVE THE DATE!!!

We will have a presentation on
Mental Health and Wellbeing
Tuesday March 21, 2023 7-8:30



This event will be held virtually. Please [Register](#) to receive Zoom Link

Fairfax County has asked Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions to be the lead pilot in implementing the County's communitywide energy and climate action plan (CECAP). You will learn about their work with faith communities to increase their resiliency in the face of environmental stress.

In case you missed the October FCIA Meeting, please see the presentation on Domestic Violence here: [Community Interfaith Coordination | Neighborhood and Community Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

EQUITY

Each month, a different aspect of equity will be addressed.
Focus for February: Black History Month



[Save the Date: Black History Month Celebration on February 17](#)

Explore black history in Fairfax County and celebrate black perseverance and resiliency.
February 17, 2023, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

Health and Wellness

Stable Families, Thriving Futures program (SFTF)

Fairfax County Health Department established a new program called Stable Families, Thriving Futures program (SFTF). SFTF focuses on improving the immediate and long-term health, educational, employment, and financial outcomes of pregnant and parenting teens and young adults in Fairfax County. SFTF engages pregnant and parenting teens and young adults ages 14-25 along with members of their households to build capacity for whole-family thriving. [SFTF Referral Form.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Tier 1 is back this Spring!

DV Network Training Committee is organizing an in-person Tier 1 at the Fairfax County Health Department (Kelly Square) in Fairfax. 10777 Main Street, Rowland Training Rooms A&B, Fairfax, VA 22030 . It will take place over two Saturdays, March 11 and 18 from 8am – 5pm. You can access registration at: [Spring Tier 1 Training Registration](#) and if you need additional information please reach out to John Crownover (john.crownover@fairfaxcounty.gov). The Tier 1 training is designed for professionals interested in learning the dynamics of domestic violence in order to deepen their work with clients and community members, and anyone interested in volunteering with Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

Become A Champion for the New Children's Behavioral Health Plan

The new Children's Behavioral Health Plan written by Healthy Minds Fairfax consists of four Key Areas: Prevention and Education, Access to Services, Navigation of Services, and System Level Changes and we are looking for people to champion each key area. Champions will be responsible for overseeing the work on a specific key area by creating an implementation plan for that area. It is anticipated that the champions will meet once a month for a few months and then quarterly after that. We appreciate if you could complete the [Key Area Champion Survey](#) by February 28. If you would like a copy of plan or have any questions, please email Peter Steinberg at peter.steinberg@fairfaxcount.gov.

Fairfax County Launches Opioid Overdose Data Dashboard

In collaboration with the Opioid and Substance Use Task Force, the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) has created a [new public-facing dashboard](#) that will inform residents of trends in opioid overdoses and overdose deaths in the Fairfax Health District.

The Virginia Department of Health

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity is now accepting applications for the Virginia Partners in Prayer & Prevention Disparities Grant funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the program is to advance health equity and address COVID-19 related health disparities by partnering with Faith-Based Institutions/Organizations to address social determinants of health as they relate to reducing health disparities as an impact of COVID-19. The grant program supports future initiatives up to \$40,000. Application Deadline: Thursday, February 9, 2023 | 3:00 PM. Visit eVA.virginia.gov to review **RFA 2023-02-OHE** and find additional guidance for applicants.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer with the Body Safety Program

The Department of Family Services needs volunteer Body Safety instructors to help provide elementary students with the tools they need to prevent or interrupt child abuse and exploitation. If you are available during the day, feel comfortable in a classroom, and want to empower children, this opportunity is for you! Facilitators are trained. Contact Francesca Lovitt by email at Francesca.Lovitt@fairfaxcounty.gov, call 703-324-7459 or visit <https://bit.ly/DFS-VPS-BS-V>

Foster and Adoptive Parents Needed

Have you considered becoming a foster/adoptive parent? Would you like to learn more about the [children and teens](#) in our county who are waiting for homes? Nearly 200 children in Fairfax County are in foster care, and we have a pressing need for more foster parents for children ages 11-17, children with special needs, and sibling groups of three or more. Families (single or multigenerational) that are willing to be flexible, have fun, maintain structure and consistency are welcome to inquire about becoming foster parents and growing their families. "There are no unwanted children, just unfound families." [Learn more](#) about becoming a foster parent in Fairfax.



A Fairfax County, Va. Publication. 2/2023
To request reasonable ADA accommodations, please contact 703-324-4600, TTY 711.

Faith Communities in Action is supported by the
[Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services](#)



Safety and Security

Teen Sexting and Sextortion-Educational Webinar

Watch to learn about sexting, sextortion, tactics used on minor, who to call, resources, how to handle if financial sextortion happens to your teen, and more. Our panelists include FBI Supervisory Special Agent Barbara Smith, Fairfax County Police Department's Child Exploitation Detective Justin Urbaniak, and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's Director of Survivor Services Kathryn Rifenburg. Here is the [link to the webinar](#)

The Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) is going to expand their outreach efforts to include the faith communities. As a part of this effort, we invite you to sign up to be a volunteer since this is your area of expertise! Volunteer activities include outreach events, outreach presentations, ongoing training (including Until Help Arrives), and much more! Complete the Emergency Management Volunteer Corps Application: [Volunteering - Fairfax County Virginia](#). Contact: Courtney.Arroyo@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

Check out the **Fairfax County Police Department** monthly events for February 2023 [here](#)

Community Resources

Stuff the Bus

Stuff the Bus began in 2011 in response to a critical need to help restock the shelves of local food pantries after the holidays. This collaborative program is a partnership between Fairfax County Government and local nonprofits. Now in its 12th year, Stuff the Bus continues to support food assistance efforts for families and households. Since inception, Stuff the Bus has collected more than 220 tons of food to feed people experiencing food insecurity in Fairfax County. Donate to Stuff the Bus at any of these locations during the Winter 2023 Stuff the Bus Campaign from Saturday, January 14, 2023, through Saturday, February 18, 2023. Click for times and locations: [Stuff the Bus | Neighborhood and Community Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Dementia Friends Information Session

For caregivers & anyone in the community-Wednesday, **February 8, 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.** Learn about dementia, the most common type, and approaches to communicating effectively. Your new understanding can turn into practical action to help someone in your community. Offered during other months, too. Register here: [Bit.ly/DementiaFriendlyFairfax](#)

Dementia 101 for Volunteers

Hosted by Insight Memory Care Center. Wednesday, February 15, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Register here: [bit.ly/3XFicQG](#). Learn how to define dementia, distinguish the different types, and gain an understanding of the typical path of disease progression.

Happy feet and seats -- Valentine's Day sock and underwear drive!

This will be our fifth annual sock and underwear drive (5-12 years old). We have a collection box set up in the lobby of both locations for NEW socks and underwear until Monday, February 6! You can also mail items to the Sully Station (FCPD c/o PFC Meg Hawkins, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151). Let's see how many happy feet and seats we can create this year! 10, 10:30-noon. English and Spanish interpretation will be available. [People can register here](#). After they register, they will be asked to complete a short survey, the results of which will help inform the content of the webinar.

The Workforce Innovation Skills Hub (WISH)

The WISH is a first of its kind workforce development center and business incubator designed to connect Fairfax County residents with employment that pays a minimum starting salary of \$20 per-hour. The WISH is co-located within the Hybla Valley Community Center, and prioritizes serving residents in adjacent communities who are among the most historically disadvantaged in Fairfax County. The WISH provides training and certifications to those who wish to peruse careers in the skilled trades, healthcare, and technology sectors. It also provides critical wraparound and case management services to ensure that WISH clients have the tools they need to complete their training and break into the middle class. To learn more about the WISH, or get connected with the center directly please reach out to Supervisor Lusk's Chief of Staff at Matthew.Renninger@FairfaxCounty.gov.

Common Ground

A Newsletter for the Interfaith Community

Community Bulletin Board

The following public announcements are for interfaith meetings and activities sponsored by organizations within the community and are not specifically endorsed or sponsored by Fairfax County. These announcements are provided as a public service in the interest of expanding interfaith dialogue and goodwill. If you have an announcement you would like to share, please contact NCsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov

Solidarity Cup of Tea

Monthly on the 3rd Saturday. 2pm-4pm. Dar Al Hijrah Library, 3159 Row St. Falls Church, 22044. Women and men of all faiths welcome! Call to learn more: 703-536-1030 or visit our website at [Dar Al-Hijrah](http://DarAlHijrah.com).

Sisterhood and Interfaith Communities for Dialogue 2023 Unitea: A Gathering of Interfaith Women

Please join us for tea, light refreshments, and friendship. When: Sunday, February 19, 4:00-6:00pm; Where: Congregation Olam Tikvah Social Hall-3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22031. Please register at: [Sisterhood and Interfaith Communities for Dialogue 2023 Unitea: A gathering of interfaith women - Event - Congregation Olam Tikvah](#). Kindly bring personal hygiene items, such as feminine products, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, brush/comb, toothpaste/brush, for donation to the Catherine Hanley Family Shelter

VIC/NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr Day Celebration

Please check out the MLK Day celebration sponsored by Ventures in Community (VIC) and the NAACP featuring short speeches, poems, and choir performances [VIC/NAACP MLK Celebration Video](#). The theme of the inspirational virtual program was "Can Martin Luther King's strategy of nonviolent civil disobedience still achieve his vision of equality and justice?"

Tyson's Interfaith-Oneness of Humanity-Reconnecting Post-Pandemic

Please join us for an Online Event on Sunday February 5, 4:00 – 5:30 pm. A workshop for communities of faith on the challenges faced in rebuilding and reconnecting post-pandemic. [Eventbrite link to register](#). For more information on this and other events: tysonsinterfaith.org

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Symposium

Please join the Alexandria Health Department to learn about HIV/AIDS among Black Americans & how to stop the spread of HIV in our community. The event will include educational presentations, confidential HIV Testing and lunch for attendees. The event will include a call to action by Regina Jefferson, DC Department of Health HIV/AIDS Administration. Symposium presenters include Anthony Gutierrez, Gilead Pharmaceuticals; Deirdre Speaks, The Sero Project; and Skyler Mackey, Alexandria Health Department. Doors open at 10:30 for HIV testing and health information fair. Saturday, February 4, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M. **Oakland Baptist Church** 408 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302. Lunch provided. [Register here](#).