



Alexandria *and* Arlington Newsletter

Spring 2007

VEFC's Mission Statement:

Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC) trains and supports volunteers who provide short-term shelter care and mentoring to abused, neglected, runaway, homeless and at-risk children and youth throughout Virginia.

Coordinator's Corner

Thank you for your service to children in-crisis! Your dedication to children in crisis in our community is remarkable!

Just a reminder that April is Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month, so please join the "[Blue Ribbon Campaign](#)" by wearing a blue ribbon on your lapel this month to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. Thank you for all you have done as a VEFC Host Family -- for you are assisting in the prevention of child abuse.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-969-3795 or mmiller@vefc.org.

Thank you for giving your heart to a child!

-Marybeth Miller

Northern Virginia Program Coordinator

VEFC Week 2007!

Governor Kaine has officially proclaimed **April 30th – May 5th 2007 as Volunteer Emergency Families for Children Week** in the Commonwealth of Virginia!

New Booster Seat Law

Governor Kaine signed a new Booster Seat Law on February 23, 2007, and it will go into effect on July 1, 2007, the new law is as follows:

*** Children up to age EIGHT YEARS must be properly secured in an appropriate child restraint when riding in a vehicle.**

(Previously, children in Virginia could legally ride in a standard adult seat belt at age five.)

Seat belts may be substituted for children between ages four and eight, **ONLY** with a written statement from a physician who determines that use of a child restraint system would be impractical by reason of the child's weight, physical fitness, or other medical reason.

Don't Forget



Each time a child is placed with your family, please call the VEFC Central Office at 1-800-756-6167 to advise them of the placement. *Thank you!*

Gala News

The 11th Annual VEFC "Give Your Heart to a Child" Gala & Auction will be **Saturday, May 5, 2007, from 6:00pm - Midnight** at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The black-tie optional event will be a festive culmination to VEFC Week. VEFC Host Families can purchase discounted tickets of \$75 per person, and we hope to see you there! Please call 800-756-6167 for additional information.

Hometown Hero Anne Caulkins

Commerce Bank's Alexandria-Van Dorn store awarded VEFC host family volunteer, Ann Caulkins, with their "Hometown Hero Award" on February 24, 2007. This award was given at the opening of its new Alexandria store to advance the bank's longtime commitment of giving back to the communities it serves. As the Hometown Hero, Caulkins designated Volunteer Emergency Families for Children (VEFC) as the charity to receive a cash donation from Commerce Bank.

Commerce chose Caulkins because of her commitment to children in the local community. Caulkins has been a volunteer with VEFC for more than 12 years. She also served as a volunteer at Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia from 1995 until 2001 when she became a full-time employee of the organization. Caulkins, who resides in Alexandria, is married to Scott and has two children, Leigh Ann and Zach.

Community Council Update

VEFC's Alexandria/Arlington Community Council members help VEFC recruit, train, and support volunteers who open their homes to children & youth in crisis. We are currently recruiting for the following council members:

Civic Coordinator:

Contacts local civic and other community groups regarding VEFC

Media Coordinator:

Sends out press releases and public service announcements (*Content provided*)

Newsletter Editor:

Prepares a quarterly local newsletter highlighting local program news, accomplishments, and volunteers (*Layout and content provided*)

Recognition Coordinator:

Plans and coordinates volunteer appreciation event

Please contact Marybeth Miller if you or someone you know might be interested.

Welcome New Families

Welcome to our newest families!

*The Walsh's of Alexandria
and
The Meek's of Arlington*

VEFC Contacts

NoVA Metro Program Coordinator
Director of Programs
VEFC Central Office

Marybeth Moran Miller
Kym Ludwig
www.vefc.org

703-969-3795
703-606-8853
800-756-6167

mmiller@vefc.org
kludwig@vefc.org
centraloffice@vefc.org

City of Alexandria Department of Human Services Contact:

Becky Tavenner

703-519-3318, ext. 210

Becky.Tavenner@alexandriava.gov

Arlington County Department of Family Services Contact:

N'Dorah Tarawally

703-228-1576

Ntarawally@arlingtonva.us