



Volunteer Virginia

A newsletter for the service and faith community

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | June, 2015

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Information is Good



Tell a friend or colleague about this issue.

View Past Issues

Miss an issue of *Virginia Volunteer*? View the [archives](#).

Contribute

Have a news item or

Registration Opens Soon for Volunteerism Conference

Nationally-recognized speaker, author, and humorist [Ron Culberson](#) has been named as this year's keynote speaker for the [2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference](#), September 30-October 1, in Roanoke. The hilarious Culberson uses his experience as a hospice social worker and leader to create insightful and practical messages that help his audiences become more successful. **Early bird registration for the conference opens June 15 and is \$95 per person (June 15-August 14)**. Registration will increase to \$115 per person August 15. Group rates are available for the conference at the [Sheraton Roanoke Hotel](#). Don't miss it!



Make it a Summer of Service!

Spread the Word About Summer Meals Programs

Organizations all over Virginia are working to provide summer meals to children this summer through the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Virginia's SFSP operates in schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks and churches. Resources are available from No Kid Hungry, including a free texting service to help families find information about summer meal sites near them. Families in need text 'Food' to 877-877 and receive a text back with the address and program information for sites closest to them or information about how to find food resources in their area. Get the word out so that no child goes hungry this summer.



- [Search for SFSP Food Sites](#)
- [Download Flyers](#)
- [Spread the word on Social Media](#)
- [Host a Cookout Fundraiser for No Kid Hungry](#)

FeedMore Summer Meals Program

[Feedmore](#) is once again participating in the SFSP program beginning June 22 and running through August 28 at 50 sites throughout Central Virginia. Approximately 154,000 meals were served over the course of last summer through the program (approximately 2,300 breakfasts and 2,300 lunches per day). **Call for Volunteers: More than 300 volunteers are needed to help pack breakfast items for this program!** Volunteers must be 18 years and older and shifts run from 9am-noon June 17, 18, 24, 25; July 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30; and August 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20. Teams of 16 volunteers per packing day can sign up for this program.



15 Summer of Service Ideas

Youth Service America has compiled a list of 15 ways you or your organization can serve in your communities this summer. From providing summer meals to kids to hosting a fundraising lemonade stand to promoting summer preparedness and safety -- there are national efforts going on all summer long to make this a summer to remember! [Check it out.](#)



Gearing Up for Day to Serve

Join organizations throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, as they participate in [Day to Serve 2015](#)! Service events will take place this year September 11-October 10, 2015, as a regional community service blitz uniting people of all faiths, races, cultures, and backgrounds. Last year there were 339 Day to Serve projects in Virginia with more than 12,000 volunteers serving more than 50,000 service hours. **We've committed to grow those numbers by at least 10 percent this year and we need your help.** We encourage you to



calendar event you want to see on *Virginia Volunteer*? Send comments to info@vaservice.org

register your events NOW. Contact Cathy Walker at catherine.walker@dss.virginia.gov if you have any questions. Check out [video highlights](#) from last year's Day to Serve events!

Plan Now for Annual AARP Food Drive

AARP is gearing up again for its annual [Community Food Drive](#), September 11-20, 2015! Last year, hundreds of volunteers, staff and partner organizations collected 161,383 pounds of food to help feed hungry Virginians. The food was donated to numerous regional food banks, local pantries and assistance programs. The sign-up period for volunteering for the 2015 Food Drive has begun and the deadline to participate is July 30. The Food Drive is an excellent opportunity as 9/11 Day of Service event! Sign up to work in teams at your local grocery store during the drive or organize your own effort.



Resources to Combat Senior Isolation

Whether many of our seniors become isolated due to injury or illness, the loss of their ability to drive, or the death or illness of a spouse or partner -- social isolation is a devastating problem for our aging population. Combating and preventing isolation involves multiple approaches and strategies. Introducing social media to seniors and creating new community connections through service are just some ways we can make a difference in the lives of those struggling to live alone. Check out the following resources:



- [Blog: 20 Facts About Social Isolation That Will Stun You](#)
- [How Social Media Can Combat Isolation](#)
- [Video: How Social Isolation Can Hurt and How to Fight It](#)
- [AARP Resources](#)
- [Senior Centers in Virginia](#)
- [Senior Corps](#)

Get to Know Elizabeth Childress

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Elizabeth Childress currently works as Government Affairs Specialist for Spotts Fain Consulting. She begins law school in the fall at the University of Richmond TC Williams School of Law where she hopes to specialize in compliance and regulatory affairs so that she may serve nonprofits as in-house counsel or as a pro-bono advisor. Elizabeth grew up in Central Virginia and graduated magna cum laude from Lynchburg College in 2012, where she majored in philosophy and French. She began volunteering as a tutor in third grade, and has been committed to volunteerism ever since. She is also an active volunteer and fundraiser for Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) and serves on the Young Professionals committee for several nonprofits, including Virginia Public Access Project and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. She also currently serves as Vice Chair of the Virginia Service Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes volunteer involvement, civic engagement, and citizen participation in programs to serve the needs of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its communities.



Community Action Counselors Honored

[New River Community Action's](#) Jeanne Curtis and Gabe Martin were recognized at the Virginia Association of Housing Counselors (VAHC) Conference in Hampton in May. Curtis was named Housing Specialist of the Year and Martin accepted the Rising Star of the Year award. Curtis, Homeless and Housing Programs (HHP) Prevention Counselor, was recognized for many accomplishments including working to expand the Housing Counseling program. Martin, HHP Rapid Rehousing Counselor, was recognized for his work assisting the homeless. The VAHC is a group of housing counselors or those in related fields, who have joined together for the purpose of strengthening housing counseling as a profession and assuring that all low and moderate income families and individuals are offered the opportunity to live in safe, decent and affordable housing.



National Service in Virginia

Funding Opportunity for National Service Research Projects

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) available funding for the [2015 National Service and Civic Engagement Research Competition](#). CNCS will award grants to institutions of higher education for the purpose of:



- Promoting research on national service, civic engagement, and volunteering among researchers and practitioners
- Broadening the evidence base for programs using national service and volunteering
- Increasing the availability of innovative research methods used to study to national service and volunteering

The deadline for applications is July 16, 2015 at 5pm EST. Successful applicants will receive awards of between \$30,000 and \$300,000 per year for three years.

Virginia AmeriCorps Alum Continues Heroic Feats

AmeriCorps Alum J.C. Morton recently proved he's continuing to shine as a true American hero by helping to save individuals from a burning building in Charlottesville. Fire officials report that Morton and James Watson were nearby when they saw smoke and didn't hesitate to begin knocking on doors and working to get people out of danger. Officials say that without their bravery, the incident could have been truly tragic. [Full story](#).



AmeriCorps Members in New Orleans for Build-a-Thon

Virginia Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps members -- along with Habitat organizations from Richmond, Northern Virginia and Fauquier -- traveled to New Orleans, May 24-31, to participate in the annual Build-a-Thon event in honor of the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. During the event, New Orleans-Area Habitat for Humanity hosted more than 400 current and alumni AmeriCorps members from across the U.S. The group, along with local volunteers, worked to build 10 new homes. The 2015 AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon celebrates the 20-year partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Corporation for National and Community Service. [More](#).



Virginia Veterans Corps Blood Drive

The [Virginia Veterans Corps AmeriCorps](#) team hosted a successful blood drive last month! Members exceeded their goal and collected 28 units of blood for those in need. With each pint of blood saving up to three lives, this effort has the potential to save 84 lives!



AmeriCorps NCCC Team Deployed

AmeriCorps NCCC and FEMA Corps teams are deployed across the U.S. supporting national service efforts and disaster relief for countless Americans. In Virginia, a NCCC team has been deployed in the Suffolk area through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To contact the Suffolk team, offer encouragement or visit a project site, contact the NCCC Deployment team at NCCCDeployments@cns.gov or 202-606-6868.



AmeriCorps Performance Measures: Healthy Futures

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides a Performance Measurement framework as a common focal point for the work of national service programs and initiatives. This focused set of agency-wide Priority Measures is derived from the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. With the summer months finally here, national service programs are encouraged to pay special attention to those measures relating to making our communities stronger by encouraging healthy lifestyles.



- [Healthy Futures Performance Measures](#)
- Download the entire [Performance Measures Instructions](#)

Nonprofit Resources

Grants, Scholarships & Awards

- Apply as for the [National Child Awareness Month Youth Ambassador Program](#), a year-long program for young leaders ages 16-22 to create change around issues facing youth.
- [Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Y Street Grants](#) provides funding for the recruitment of youth throughout Virginia to be trained as youth activists for issues related to tobacco and

childhood obesity.

- [Virginia Health Care Foundation Safety Net Grants](#) provides funding for projects that increase access to primary care for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to healthcare.

[More Funding and Grant Opportunities](#)

Training and Events

- [The 2nd Annual Virginia Family and Fatherhood Symposium](#), June 23, in Richmond. Feature speakers will include Dr. Ronald B. Mincy, Columbia University School of Social Work, and Dr. Allison Sampson-Jackson, City of Richmond Department of Social Services. [Register now](#).
- Registration is open for the [2015 Greater Richmond Association for Volunteer Administrator \(GRAVA\) Conference](#), July 9, in Richmond. The event is one of the largest gatherings of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, corporate, and local government sectors.
- Save the date for the [2015 Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness \(VCEH\) Conference](#), August 26-27, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Midlothian.
- A three-day training event entitled [Investigation of Sex Crimes for Campus Police and Public Safety Agencies](#), June 8-10, will be presented by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General.
- Sign up for a free webinar entitled [Funding Rural America - Finding New Grants for Small Communities](#), June 18, 3pm.

[More Special Events and Training Opportunities](#)

Resources and Data

- You can now utilize [Virginia Community Capital's new Food Access Mapping Tool](#) to highlight food access and limited supermarket access issues throughout the Commonwealth.
- Check out the latest [Children in Poverty and Income Inequality Measures](#) from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. Want to know how you can impact income in your community? Sign up for the free [webinar](#) June 9, at 3pm.
- The White House Conference on Aging has compiled a [List of Federal Resources for Caregivers](#).
- [Building a Grad Nation Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic](#) reflects on the progress working to end the high school dropout problem.
- The CDC's new [Community Health Improvement Navigator](#) website offers tools and resources for improving community health.
- [Help Your Patients Quit Tobacco Use: An Implementation Guide for Community Health Centers](#) is a new guide for Tobacco Cessation Community Centers.
- Download Points of Light's [Volunteer Management Guidebook](#) for information on everything from volunteer recruitment to retention to recognition.
- VolunteerMatch has published a new book, [Volunteer Engagement 2.0: Ideas and Insights Changing the World](#), which brings together tips and best practices from the top volunteer engagement experts in the field.
- [Join The Crew: Inspirational Stories of Young Adults in America's Service and Conservation Corps](#) is a new book authored by The Corps Network offering first-hand accounts of the challenges and benefits that come along with service and corps work.
- Check out [5 Citizen Engagement Trends You Need to Know About](#).
- [6 Questions About Social Media Monitoring You Were Too Embarrassed To Ask](#) spells out ways to make educated decisions on the tools you need to fully utilize and leverage the power of your listening technology.
- Download these helpful [Social Media Cheat Sheets](#) as you plan your marketing efforts.
- Brush up [Hurricane and Storm Terms](#) with the start of Atlantic hurricane season (June 1-November 30).

- Download [How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#) to help with storm preparations.

Upcoming Events

June

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

[Let's Read. Let's Move.](#)

[National Great Outdoors Month](#)

6 - [National Trails Day](#)

13 - [National Get Outdoors Day](#)

15 - [Virginia Volunteerism Conference Early Bird Registration](#)

19 - [Corps Network Great Outdoors Day of Service](#)

20 - [World Refugee Day](#)

July

[Parks and Recreation Month](#)

9 - [GRAVA Conference](#)

August

14 - Deadline for Volunteerism Conference Early Bird Registration

REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 15!



[Virginia Volunteerism & Service Conference](#)

September 30-October 1, 2015

Sheraton Roanoke Hotel, Roanoke, VA

Theme: Volunteers Are Everyday Heroes:

Serving Locally & Globally

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[Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service](#)

801 E. Main Street, 15th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

Toll free in VA: (800) 638-3839

Direct: (804) 726-7065