



INVESTING IN FAMILIES.
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Northern Virginia
Family Service





WE LIFT **FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS** FROM **POVERTY TO HOPEFUL FUTURES.**

For more than 90 years, **Northern Virginia Family Service** (NVFS) has been a catalyst for community action, addressing the complex challenges faced by more than 34,000 families and individuals in our area.

We deeply believe community well-being starts with a solid foundation for everyone — access to affordable housing, healthcare, nutritious food, and clothing. Our unique wrap-around approach allows our most vulnerable neighbors to achieve stability and strengthen their capacity to thrive in our area community.

To better amplify our impact, we partner with a growing network of engaged donors, foundations, and community leaders to effectively leverage valuable resources and collectively ensure our Northern Virginia home remains vibrant for everyone.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100
Oakton, VA 22124
571.748.2500

SERVE CAMPUS

10056 Dean Drive
Manassas, VA 20110
571.748.2600

PROGRAM CENTERS AND OFFICES

Alexandria
Arlington
Falls Church
Manassas
Sterling
Woodbridge

TRAINING FUTURES

Manassas
Vienna

THRIFT SHOPS

Clock Tower – Centreville
Clock Tower – Falls Church
Save 'N' Serve – Manassas

[Click here to watch the 2015 Gala Video!](#)

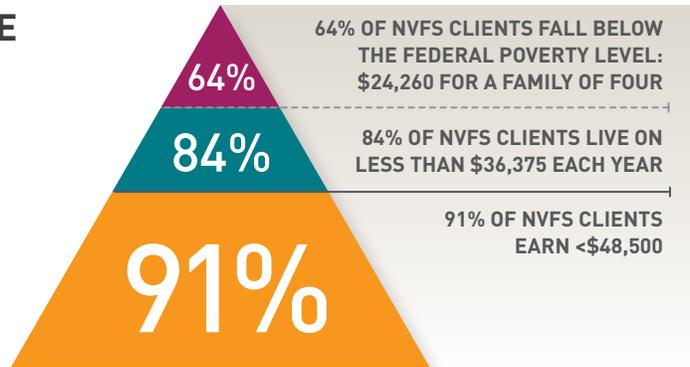
OUR WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Northern Virginia Family Service offers programs and services in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and in the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

PROGRAM SERVICE AREAS

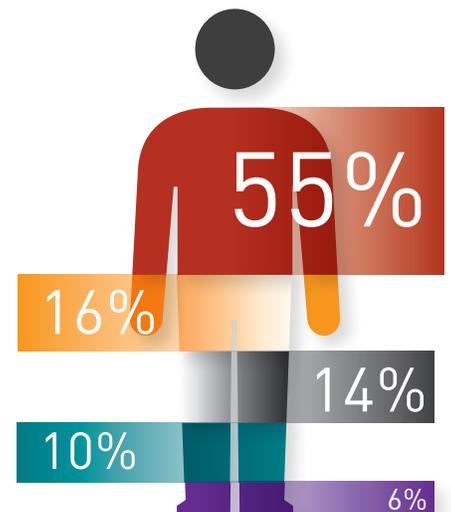
- Anti-Hunger Programs
- Child Placement
- Early Childhood
- Health & Mental Health
- Healthy Families
- Housing & Homeless Services
- Legal Services
- Multicultural Center & Youth Initiatives
- Workforce Development

INCOME



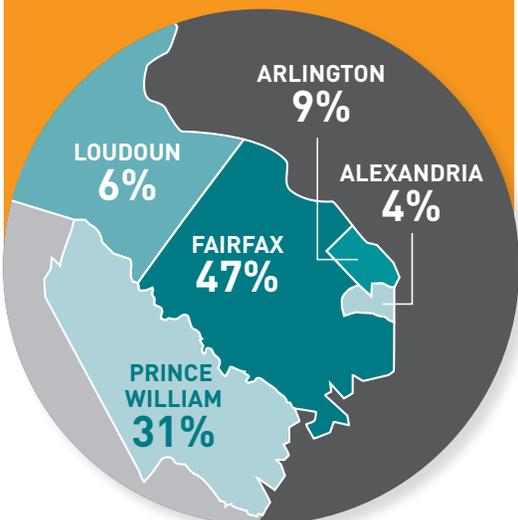
RACE AND ETHNICITY

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Hispanic/Latino | 55% |
| African-American | 16% |
| Caucasian | 14% |
| Multi-racial/-ethnic | 10% |
| Asian | 6% |



GEOGRAPHIC

Percentage of clients served in Northern Virginia



VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU!

MORE THAN **4,500** VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TIME AND TALENTS TO NVFS IN 2015

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED **72,000+** HOURS, VALUED AT \$2 MILLION



" I have a safe home and new future with my father. "

NAME: Mateo
AGE: 16 Years Old

BACKGROUND: Fled his home in Central America to reunite with his father. Captured by drug traffickers upon arrival in the U.S. Escaped and found by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Physically and emotionally traumatized. Father uncertain about his ability to care for his teenage son.

More than 2,600 miles, 53 hours, and four countries. Mateo fled from life-threatening conditions in Central America in hope of building a safe and secure life with his father. NVFS's Family Reunification Program ensured their second chance at a lasting relationship and brighter future.

Establishing a new sense of safety and stability were critical first steps for Mateo's recovery, which began with rebuilding his relationship with his estranged father. Through our **FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM**, a therapist worked with Mateo's father to recognize trauma symptoms and parent with positive reinforcement. Their caseworker assisted with acclimating Mateo to his new community and registering for school. This opportunity also paved the way for NVFS to help establish best practices for transitioning other new students. Working in collaboration with school officials and teachers, we raised the school district's capacity to proactively respond to the unique needs of recently immigrated youth and families fleeing violence.

An additional key milestone for Mateo was securing a life-long opportunity to succeed in his new community. Our **LEGAL SERVICES** expert helped Mateo obtain a T Nonimmigrant Status Visa, a humanitarian status set aside for victims of human trafficking. And because Mateo was a minor, family members in Central America were also able to obtain status.

"Many families from war-torn countries struggle with the personal and physical trauma of human trafficking and gang violence; particularly children and teenagers," explains Meredith McKeen, Director of the Multicultural Center and Youth Initiatives. "By effectively leveraging our expertise in family reunification, trauma-informed mental health services, and legal advocacy, we set the path for life-long skills and opportunities that transform the well-being of every family member." ■

2015 IMPACT: FAIRFAX COUNTY

SERVING 16,276 INDIVIDUALS IN 9,019 FAMILIES

A skilled workforce drives the vitality of our region. From career training to small business development, **our nationally recognized Workforce Development programs increase wages, create new jobs, and contribute to local economies.**



Health Services

6,011

people received health services

600

obtained health insurance

\$10.8M

leveraged for prescription medication assistance



Housing & Homeless Services

\$4.6M

provided in housing assistance

More than

790

families served



Workforce Development

58%

increase in wage earning for Training Futures graduates

9

new businesses started by Escala clients, with

34

new jobs created



Multicultural Center & Youth Services

68%

of youth who were involved in gangs reduced gang involvement

95%

of legal cases prepared by NVFS were approved in the client's favor, including

50

family reunification cases

33

clients became citizens



DONOR PROFILE

As a business woman, community advocate, and NVFS donor, **JESSICA CLARK** fulfills her charitable giving goals by supporting our broad-reaching Workforce Development programs. Her work as a volunteer writer and editor for our Training Futures e-newsletter helps prominently spotlight our program graduates and their valuable administrative training to area businesses interested in hiring motivated and skilled employees.

"Northern Virginia Family Service is stellar in its stewardship, agility, and capacity to create and lead innovative initiatives in response to one of our communities' most pressing needs – ensuring the underemployed and unemployed have the professional training necessary to thrive in our community," explains Ms. Clark. "As a donor and volunteer, I'm proud to work with NVFS to improve the lives of our most susceptible neighbors, and open new pathways to lifelong stability."

— Jessica Clark, NVFS donor and volunteer



"I found my self-worth and independence."

CHRISSIE WENT FROM FOSTER CHILD TO SINGLE PARENT ALL BEFORE THE AGE OF 25. IT WASN'T UNTIL SHE AND HER INFANT DAUGHTER ARRIVED AT OUR SERVE CAMPUS THAT CHRISSIE FOUND A LASTING PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE.

"At first it was a hard situation for me. I was kicked out of my boyfriend's house and scared. I heard all kinds of people went to shelters, and I was nervous to go there because I had a baby daughter." After one meeting with her shelter case manager, Chrissie felt for the first time that she had the confidence and resiliency to take steps toward independence.

Through our [HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES](#), Chrissie quickly transitioned out of the shelter and into her own apartment. She learned how to budget for household expenses and was introduced to our [VEHICLES FOR CHANGE](#) program for reliable transportation. To assist with services closer to her home, Chrissie's case worker successfully leveraged health care services, parenting resources, and job search assistance programs through area nonprofits and agencies working collaboratively with NVFS. As Chrissie progressed toward her goals — living on her own, employed and paying her bills, and raising her daughter — our dedicated

NVFS team maintained weekly and monthly contact to ensure she remained diligent and confident with her new responsibilities.

Chrissie's personal transformation is remarkable and she proudly recognizes how far she has come in this journey. "I always wanted to become independent and save money. This has been the hardest time in my life, but I realized there are good people in the world. I was able to get a job, start saving up money, and learn how to do things on my own. Now my goal is to go to school to help people and raise my daughter as best as I can. I want to keep my independence." ■

2015 IMPACT: PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

SERVING 10,726 INDIVIDUALS IN 5,944 FAMILIES

Addressing the root causes of poverty is key to ensuring our clients' success. By uncovering and eliminating barriers to independence, **our wrap-around approach ensures everyone thrives.**



Housing & Homeless Services

27,653

nights of shelter were provided to

573

individuals; over

40%

were children

80%

of clients obtained permanent housing after exiting the shelter



Anti-Hunger

9,512

people received nutritious food through SERVE

3%

increase in county residents seeking food assistance



Health Services

\$6M

worth of medications secured at reduced cost provided to

900 clients

406

received dental care

93

received mental health services



Workforce Development

54%

increase in wage earning for Training Futures graduates

22

new businesses started by Escala clients, with

43

full-time jobs created



DONOR PROFILE

VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY — From repainting the Hunger Resource Center and snow plowing the 100-space parking lot at our SERVE campus to generously sponsoring special events and major fundraisers, Vulcan employees generously commit their time, talents, and financial resources to NVFS.

"As the largest aggregate supplier in the nation, we still operate our business in localized markets supplying essential building materials. But as a local company we also look for other ways to build up our communities. For more than 25 years, Vulcan employees have proudly supported NVFS at its SERVE campus as part of our ongoing commitment to our Northern Virginia home."

— Christopher Carroll, Plant Manager - Manassas Quarry



WHEN MARIA'S HUSBAND FELL CRITICALLY ILL AND LOST HIS JOB, THEIR HARD-EARNED STABILITY CRUMBLLED. SHE KNEW SHE COULDN'T SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER FAMILY'S WELL-BEING WITHOUT HELP.

"I can support my family now."

Maria felt confident that Northern Virginia Family Service's Escala small business program offered her family the greatest opportunity to rise above this crisis.

Through our [ESCALA ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS PLAN COURSES](#), Maria acquired the acumen necessary to leverage her network of independent clients and start her own house cleaning service. From legal structures, insurance, and taxes to administration, sales projections, and marketing strategies, Maria developed the expertise needed to build a family-owned company in Northern Virginia. To help fund her ambitious goals, Maria participated in [NVFS' CROWD-FUNDED MICROLOAN PROGRAM](#); structured in partnership

with Kiva Zip – an online microfinance loan program. "Many of our Escala graduates find it difficult to borrow money through customary channels. As new business owners, they typically have fewer than five employees, lack credit history, or they previously worked in an all-cash job position," explains Julie Mullen, Director of Workforce Development at NVFS. "Working in partnership with Kiva Zip, we help close a critical lending gap for low-income entrepreneurs."

With new found confidence and a sturdier foundation for income independence, Maria is fully realizing her potential as a successful business owner. "I've surprised myself with how much I've done and am grateful to Northern Virginia Family Service for their tremendous amount of help and training." ■

2015 IMPACT ARLINGTON COUNTY

SERVING 2,979 INDIVIDUALS IN 1,651 FAMILIES



Workforce
Development

58% increase in wage earning for Training Futures graduates

2 new businesses started by Escala clients, with **4** new jobs created



Early
Childhood

252 children enrolled in Head Start program;

100% of Head Start graduates met school readiness standards

95% of Health Families children met or exceeded developmental milestones



Health Services

588 received health and dental services

123 obtained health insurance

76 received mental health services

2015 IMPACT LOUDOUN COUNTY

SERVING 1,934 INDIVIDUALS IN 1,072 FAMILIES



Health Services

73% of clients came to NVFS without health insurance

430 obtained free or reduced-fee prescriptions, valued at **\$2.3M**



Early
Childhood

100% of Early Head Start graduates met school readiness standards



Legal Services

100% of legal cases prepared by NVFS were approved in the client's favor; including **10** family reunification cases

2015 IMPACT CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

SERVING 1,271 INDIVIDUALS IN 705 FAMILIES



Multicultural Center
& Youth Services

68% of NVFS youth participating in this program reduced their gang involvement

More than **75%** of them maintained or improved their school performance



Healthy Families

51 adults and children received mental health services

252 people obtained access to medical insurance and health care, including dental services



Housing &
Homeless Services

40 households received housing assistance

\$116K was provided in housing assistance to prevent evictions

DONOR PROFILE

ARLINGTON WOMEN'S CIVIC ALLIANCE — For more than 20 years, the Arlington Women's Civic Alliance has kept an eye on the contemporary issues affecting their growing community. So it was no surprise when they championed the needs of unaccompanied minors from Central America enrolled in area schools. "While many young people reconnect with family or are transferred to the custody of sponsors, adapting to a new home life and cultural can be overwhelming. When Northern Virginia Family Service shared the depth of their Family Reunification program, we knew they were our ideal nonprofit partner," explains Sheridan Collins, AWCA's Community Support Co-Chair.

Thanks to AWCA, our Multicultural and Youth Initiatives team implemented intervention counseling and support groups at Washington-Lee High School. The program resonated so well that AWCA's investment now supports another NVFS Family Reunification program at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

PROVIDE GENERAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We depend on your financial support to help us operate effectively throughout all seasons of need. Consider an Honor or Memorial Gift to celebrate a colleague or family member, honoring their legacy of service to the community. You can also become a member of the Family Legacy Society by making a gift through your estate plan. To make a donation online, visit give.nvfs.org.

We are also proud to partner with influential foundations and corporations who share in our goal to lift families and individuals from poverty to hopeful futures. NVFS has a proven reputation for quality and sustainability in our community and we are happy to discuss how your business can fulfill its Corporate Social Responsibility goals through NVFS. Connect with us at nvfs.org/corporate for more information.

SHOP BARGAINS THAT BENEFIT NVFS

When you shop at our Centreville, Falls Church, or Manassas Thrift Shops, all proceeds benefit NVFS. We welcome your donations of gently-used clothing and household items at any of these locations. Your donation helps provide critical programs and services to vulnerable families in our community. For hours and directions to our Thrift Shops, visit nvfs.org/thriftshops.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of NVFS's rich history of permanently lifting families out of poverty. We are committed to engaging volunteers in meaningful opportunities that encourage innovative ideas, unique perspectives, and specialized expertise. Families are the heart of our community, and volunteers are an essential resource in guiding them on the path to self-sufficiency. Visit nvfs.org/volunteernow to learn how your time and talents can make a lasting difference.

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Many children in our community need a loving and safe home. Our experienced caseworkers carefully match each child to a trained foster family to ensure each child reaches his/her full potential. As a foster parent, your family receives 24-hour professional assistance, support groups, ongoing training, and special event programs designed to bring everyone together. Learn more at nvfs.org/fostercare.

SPREAD THE WORD

Become a fan, friend, or follower through your social networks. Join the conversation!

Facebook - facebook.com/nvfs.org

Twitter - @nvfs

YouTube - NoVAFamilyService

LinkedIn - Northern Virginia Family Service

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

STEPHANIE BERKOWITZ
President and CEO

ANN MCNERNEY
Chief Development Officer

CHUCK SZYMANSKI
Chief Operating Officer

LAURIE TARPEY
Chief Financial Officer

JACQUELINE DENDIEVEL
Vice President, Human Resources

ANDREA ECK
Senior Vice President, Programs

MALINDA LANGFORD
Senior Vice President, Programs

JEN MCCOLLUM
Vice President, Development & Communications

LAURENT POIROT
Vice President, IT

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TORI ANDREA BABINGTON
Director, Legal Services

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Director, Research, Evaluation & Quality Assurance

KATHY BRIDGEMAN
Deputy Director, Housing

BETH DARGATIS
Director, Finance

SHARON FROST
Director, Child Placement Services

KAREN HOROWITZ
Director, Volunteer & Internship Engagement

NITA LESCHER
Director, Early Childhood Education

MEREDITH MCKEEN
Director, Multicultural Center & Youth Initiatives

JULIE MULLEN
Director, Workforce Development

NANCI PEDULLA
Director, Healthy Families

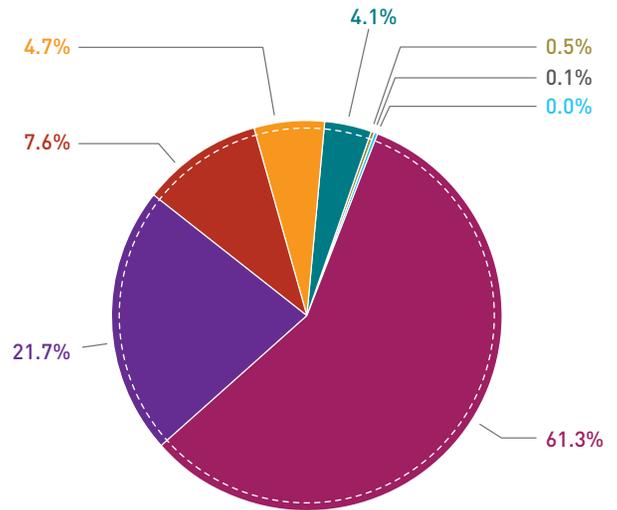
PAM RYAN
Director, Anti-Hunger Programs

NVFS FINANCIAL REPORT

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS! WE ARE FIRM IN OUR COMMITMENT TO INVEST YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE WAYS THAT ADDRESS THE MOST CRUCIAL NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND TO DO IT EFFICIENTLY. WE CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR PROGRAM OFFERINGS BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS.

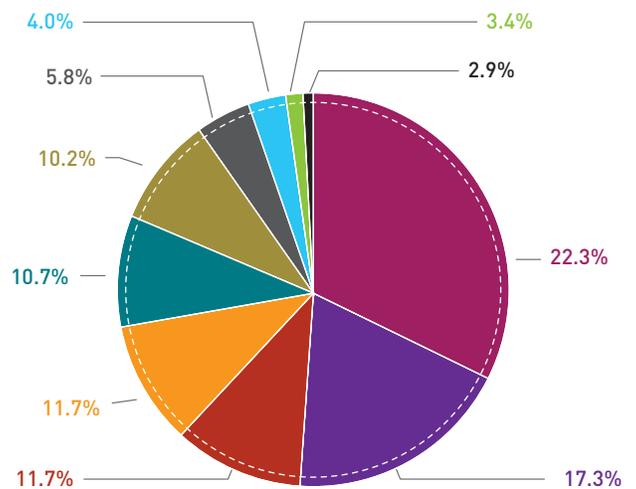
FY 2015 OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| GOVERNMENT GRANTS | \$20,718,176 | ● |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | \$7,350,546 | ● |
| PROGRAM SERVICE FEES | \$2,580,089 | ● |
| FOUNDATION GRANTS | \$1,602,429 | ● |
| THRIFT SHOPS | \$1,389,298 | ● |
| RENTAL INCOME | \$169,113 | ● |
| INVESTMENT GAINS | \$41,149 | ● |
| OTHER | \$9,787 | ● |
| TOTAL | \$ 33,860,587 | |



FY 2015 OPERATING EXPENSES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| HOUSING SERVICES | \$7,421,246 | ● |
| EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES | \$5,783,025 | ● |
| HEALTH SERVICES | \$3,903,963 | ● |
| GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE | \$3,901,466 | ● |
| ANTI-HUNGER SERVICES | \$3,558,700 | ● |
| INTERVENTION & PREVENTION SERVICES | \$3,396,504 | ● |
| WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES | \$1,948,629 | ● |
| CHILD PLACEMENT SERVICES | \$1,328,735 | ● |
| THRIFT SHOPS | \$1,132,712 | ● |
| INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT | \$977,377 | ● |
| TOTAL | \$ 33,352,357 | |



THANK YOU, COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

NVFS IS GRATEFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015.

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTORS

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ACT for Alexandria | Children and Family Legacy Fund of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region | Kaiser Permanente Fund for Community Benefit of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region | Gordon V. and Helen C. Smith Foundation |
| Adopt A Family Foundation | Children's Charities Foundation | Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States Fund of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region | TASC GiveBack |
| AmazonSmile Foundation | Clifford Chance Foundation | KBR Foundation | TB Charitable Foundation |
| Anonymous | Consumer Health Foundation | Katherine Pollard Maddux Memorial Mental Health Foundation | Tides Foundation/Google |
| Apple FCU Education Foundation | Devotion To Children, Inc. | The Maple Tree Fund | The TJX Foundation |
| The Applied Materials Foundation | Ernst & Young Foundation | Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation | John and Nina Toups Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia |
| Becker Family Foundation | ExxonMobil Foundation | Micron Technology Foundation, Inc. | Virginia Health Care Foundation |
| Beerstecher-Jaquet Family Fund of Triangle Community Foundation | Freddie Mac Foundation Employee Giving Program | The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation | Walmart Foundation |
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| The I.J. and Hilda M. Breeden Foundation | Gencorp Foundation | The Neall Family Charitable Foundation | Washington Area Women's Foundation |
| The Business Bank Fund of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia | Philip L. Graham Fund | Northern Virginia Health Foundation | Washington Forrest Foundation |
| The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation | Cecil & Irene Hylton Foundation, Inc. | Peterson Family Foundation | The Waters Foundation |
| CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Foundation | Ivakota Foundation | Potomac Health Foundation | Wells Fargo Foundation |
| CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation | The Johnson Family Charitable Foundation | | |
| | The Joy Foundation | | |

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| \$10,000+ | Freddie Mac | DataSync Technologies, Inc. | AOL |
| AMERICAN SYSTEMS | General Dynamics Information Technology | Dauber's Inc. of Washington D.C. | ATCO Fasteners, Inc. |
| Booz Allen Hamilton | Google | General Dynamics AIS | Atlantic Machinery |
| Capital One | Graham Holdings | Hogan Lovells US LLP | Baja Fresh |
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| WGL Holdings | Cassidy Turley Washington, LLC | QMT Associates, Inc. | Deval, LLC |
| | Clifford Chance US LLP | Royco, Inc. | Dewberry - Gainesville |
| \$5,000-\$9,999 | Dimension Data | Summit Consulting LLC | Dycio & Biggs, Attorneys at Law |
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| Comstock Partners, LC | \$1,000-\$2,499 | | Federal Home Loan Banks |
| Consumer Electronics Association | A-Advantage Heating & Air Conditioning | \$100-\$999 | FirstGiving |
| Copper River Information Technology | Aerojet Rocketdyne | Acumen Solutions Inc. | First Virginia Community Bank |
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| CustomInk | Atlantic Telecommunications Corporation | Alex and Ani, LLC | Francis O. Day Company, Inc. |
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| Ernst & Young | Concur Global Technologies | American Striping | Horizon Data Corp. |
| | | | HR Advisors Group, LLC |

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Uniwest Management Services, Inc.
Virginia Contractors Supply, Inc.
Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Wiley, Rein & Fielding
WSH Consulting, LLC

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

\$10,000+

Marjie and Steve Alloy
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney O. Dewberry
Mr. Alan Einhorn and Ms. Vicki Cooper
Ms. Cynthia D. Frye and Ms. Karen Lalicker
Ms. Maryann Hirsch and Mr. Jim Oliver
Mr. and Mrs. Hal Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Katz
Mr. Knox Singleton
Mr. and Mrs. John Toups

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Mr. and Mrs. Earle C. Williams

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Mr. John Andelin and Ms. Virginia Geoffrey
Mr. Howard N. Bierman and
Ms. Jill E. Coleman

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Ms. Judy M. Wine

\$1,000-\$2,499

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2015 ANNUAL REPORT CEO/BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Stephanie Berkowitz, NVFS' President and CEO, and **Joe Fay**, Board Chair, are resolute in leading efforts that invest in families and strengthen our community in Northern Virginia. They are committed to working alongside diverse allies throughout the region to raise awareness of and respond to our community's most pressing human service needs.

In this Annual Report message, Stephanie and Joe exchange insights for amplifying the organization's impact and plans for leveraging resources, knowledge, and partnerships to maximize NVFS's impact.

APPROACH AND EXPERTISE

Joe: "Achieving real results means everything, both to our supporters and beneficiaries of our services. At one time or another we've all gone through a crisis. But few of us really recover from a bad situation without help. This is where NVFS excels. We target the real problems and not just the symptoms. We build families back up again so they can thrive."

Stephanie: "Our approach is complex yet simple. A family struggling with hunger needs more than groceries. When a hungry family walks through our doors, we provide them with food to mitigate their immediate hunger, and then we look holistically at what caused them to be hungry in the first place."

Joe: For many what stands out as a significant barrier to independence is the need for job training.

Stephanie: Right. Along with quality childcare, and safe and appropriate housing that is affordable, these essentials are out of reach for many living in Northern Virginia. Without the skills to secure a living wage job, it becomes harder to afford housing and childcare. At NVFS we provide opportunities so that individuals and families can prosper in our community and achieve their highest potential. For example, we know that the right job skills can create opportunities to succeed in a career and set a person on a whole new path.

ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Joe: "Knowing where our resources have the greatest value is key. By analyzing our data we ask ourselves 'what is working and where

should we be investing our resources?' For example, when a child enrolls in our Head Start program and her mom graduates from Training Futures (our Workforce Development program), we can better understand how these two components work together to impact the family's long-term stability."

Stephanie: And in this example, we can see our multi-generational impact. By equipping mom with the tools, skills, and community of support, she can secure a living wage job and advance in her career. We are also changing the trajectory for her child by taking steps to permanently break the cycle of poverty for that family.

DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS

Joe: "Corporate social responsibility is on the rise. We've been fortunate to partner with companies that care about their impact in our diverse communities. Often the conversation between us evolves from 'We want to help' to 'How can we make the biggest impact with our time?' With nearly 5,000 volunteers last year, an exceptionally strong Board of Directors, and a wide array of corporate partners, we are so fortunate to be doing our work in the Northern Virginia community."

Stephanie: “Partnerships are a critical part of our business model. We partner with every facet of this community to deliver high quality services, to reach people in need, and to ensure we are innovative and current in our approaches. Hundreds of businesses across the region donate food and school supplies; provide skills-based training to our clients and pro-bono support to our staff; and send teams out to our sites to help keep operations running in our thrift shops, our Hunger Resource Center, and our homeless shelters. Art enthusiasts share their passions with children in our Early Head Start and Head Start classrooms, and book-lovers bring characters to life when they read to the children in our shelters. With cross-sector partnerships such as these, we are deepening the impact of our work — more so than any one of us can do alone.”

Joe: “I am thinking about the example of the family we helped recently who was living in their car. That was a great example of how we work together with area schools. The family had been doing well — both parents were working, earning good salaries, and the kids were excelling at school. Then mom became ill and dad was laid-off, and they used up all of their savings trying to manage on their own. In the process they lost their home and

ended up living out of their car. When it got too hot to stay in the car, they moved to a tent in the woods and stayed there all summer. When school started in the fall, the school counselor noticed the children’s clothes were dirty, the kids were hungry and were having trouble focusing on their schoolwork.”

Stephanie: “That’s right. And then the counselor reached out to the family and to NVFS. Together we were able to provide some immediate relief with shelter, food, and other basic needs. In a short amount of time and with the help of some short-term rental assistance, the family moved into housing that was affordable. Dad got a new job, the kids were safe in their new home, and mom continues to regain her health and strength.”

These are the moments of impact that make us pause and take note. It is a privilege to help more than 34,000 families and individuals each year on their journeys from crisis to stability to independence. And at the end of the day, this work is possible only because of our committed and exceptional staff, volunteers, donors, and corporate, government and philanthropic partners working alongside us to strengthen our community.”

“We build families back up again so they can thrive.”

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