

Summer 2012

# Family Focus

A publication for the friends, partners and supporters of Northern Virginia Family Service



Northern Virginia  
Family Service

*Help • Hope • Here*

## OUR MISSION INITIATIVES

*In this issue >* **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**SAFE & STABLE HOUSING**  
**EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**CHILD & FAMILY ENRICHMENT**  
**HEALTH ACCESS**



## Merger News

The Boards of Directors of NVFS and the Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCVA) have agreed on a merger between the two organizations, effective July 1, 2012.

“Northern Virginia Family Service is proud to lead the HCVA clients and supporters through a period of transition, as the agency moves to uphold the vital community programming of HCVA while ensuring its efficiency and sustainability,” said Mary Agee, NVFS President & CEO.

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia was established in 1967 to enable Hispanic immigrants in Northern Virginia to more fully participate in, and thereby, contribute to American society. Since that time, its programming has grown to include career training, small business development, immigration legal services, housing services, financial education, and case management for social services. The organization has paved the way for thousands of Hispanic immigrants to participate and contribute to the health of their community.

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia has core services in the areas of housing stability, case management, financial literacy, immigration legal assistance and small business development. Integrating HCVA into NVFS will create a continuum of integrated services designed to more fully support families on their paths of greater independence.

“What’s most important is that families in our community continue to receive help in their moment of greatest need, and that they are supported as they establish their own independence,” said Agee.

“We at HCVA have committed ourselves to serving the Hispanic population in northern Virginia for the last 45 years. We are pleased to be stewards of this transition to ensure that our effective and innovative programs can reach even more people in our community,” said Jose Trujillo, President of HCVA’s Board of Directors.

*NVFS employees know that our work doesn't end when we help a child achieve at school, place a family in a stable home, or secure prescription drugs for a chronically ill person who can't afford them. The final touchpoint that we often have with families takes place within our workforce development programs.*

*In over 15 years operating our nationally recognized Training Futures program, we have forged a new path forward for over 1500 client-students. With visionary leadership from NOVA Community College and its president, Bob Templin, our program serves as a premier example of nonprofit collaboration with a community college to advance the educational prospects of underserved populations.*

*As part of our merger with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, we are thrilled to be expanding our workforce development initiative to include a small business development program aimed at new entrepreneurs. We couldn't be more excited at the excellent work that is being done, and honored to pick up the torch of this program and carry it forward.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Agee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary Agee  
President & CEO





## MISSION SPOTLIGHT

## Workforce Development



To provide opportunities for advancement within the workforce, economic mobility and educational enrichment.

### Training Futures: A Documented Success

A recent white paper authored by the Aspen Institute has once again raised the profile of our Training Futures program as a national leader. We can point to overwhelming successes by over 1500 graduates who have completed the training, but it's the integration and collaboration with Northern Virginia Community College that helps to set this program apart.

While completing the 25-week office skills training curriculum, Training Futures trainees are co-enrolled in Northern Virginia Community College, earning up to 18 college credits and launching their college career as well. Graduates include adults recovering their livelihoods after being laid off, single moms and TANF recipients looking to achieve self-sufficiency and self-pride, young high school grads trying to escape dead-end jobs for a professional career track, and immigrants looking to achieve the American dream for their families. Many work and have family responsibilities in addition to attending the daily 9:00-2:00 program.

Training Futures has been making a real difference in helping low-income adults turn their lives around through skills training and new jobs since 1996. Training Futures bridges the gap between low-income neighbors who yearn for a brighter future for their families through better jobs, and area businesses who need technology-ready administrative staff. With a 80-90% historical employment rate for our grads, and average



As the proud faces in these pictures testify, these Training Futures graduates have just achieved a new milestone on their path to achieving their dreams. All 5 graduated from Training Futures back in July 7, 2011. In less than one year, they walked across another stage at Northern Virginia Community College's Graduation to accept their hard-earned Career Studies Certificate in Business Office Technology.

In the picture with Dr. Robert Templin, President of NOVA, Refan Melad is whispering that she is from Training Futures. These words have personal meaning to Dr. Templin because it was his original vision to forge the partnership between TF and NOVA that made this day possible for Refan and her fellow grads.



Northern Virginia  
Family Service

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

*Help • Hope • Here*

*(continued on next page)*

*(Training Futures, continued)*

wage increases of 29%, Training Futures is one of the top-performing community-based training programs in the country and the co-enrollment model with NOVA has been studied and documented by the Aspen Institute. In addition to its national impact, NOVA has replicated this model locally with five other workforce development programs.

Training Futures graduates have a dual track for their path of achievement through hard work. Not only have they achieved a career-launching office position, but they pursue additional college courses and ultimately a college degree.

The NOVA/Training Futures model has just been featured in the latest issue of Aspen Work Studies Initiative Update, entitled Training Futures: A case study of a nonprofit-community college partnership. Key findings of the study included:

1. 94% of Training Futures participants successfully complete the program, which is offered twice a year to about 50 participants each session.
2. 85% of graduates obtain jobs in entry-level administrative positions.
3. 84% of graduates earn 17 credit hours from NOVA during Training Futures.
4. Employed graduates enjoy a 29% or greater wage gain after training.

*(Source - Aspen Work Studies Initiative Update)*



As Dr. Robert Templin, President of Northern Virginia Community College, said in a 2010 visit to Training Futures: “You are living proof that the American dream can work, not just for you but for your children and others in the community.

They are all watching you. Because if you can do it, so can they. You are my heroes. Many of you have overcome significant life challenges to succeed. You are limited in how far you go only by your own imagination.”

In the words of one recent Training Futures graduate, “Before, it was like looking through binoculars. Now, I have a larger vision ... I see new chances.”

---

*Contributor: Susan Craver, Training Coordinator,  
Training Futures, Northern Virginia Family Service*

## Small Business Development Program

As a result of our merger with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, NVFS is proud to carry forward its Small Business Development program. Designed with entrepreneurs in mind, this program aims to assist those who already have enough capital to start a business, but might not know all the regulations or best practices for operating one.

The early stages of launching a new business are crucial, and that’s where good advice can make a lasting impact. Our counselors work closely with entrepreneurs to build a business plan and walk through the registration process. The services offered are:

- Individual Counseling
- A 4-week basic course on starting a business
- A 10-week advanced business course
- Contests, incentives, and other events

Northern Virginia Community College offers CEU’s for the 10-week NxLevel Business Development Training classes.

“Muy buena organización y explicación del curso, con muchas prácticas y buenos invitados. Estoy muy agradecida por las clases, y me sirven mucho para mi proyecto.”

This is a great organization and course of study, with many best practices and good guests. I’m very grateful for the classes, and they will serve my project well.

*- Student feedback*

At NVFS, we recognize that a strong community is bolstered by economic opportunity, and that the best opportunities often arise for people who are able to start their own businesses. We applaud the efforts of the Hispanic Committee in building this program from the ground up, and we’re excited to continue to build it. In addition to the regular courses and services listed above, we will be helping small business owners with marketing and county licensing.



Our plan is to integrate this program with various other partners and referral programs, in order to better serve the needs of these clients wherever they may arise. For some, the decision to start a small business might be enabled by finding affordable health care. For others, secure housing close to their business is a challenge to maintain.

At NVFS, our expertise in providing efficient, timely and affordable care will help bolster the efforts of these visionary entrepreneurs, benefiting the entire community.



See how our Small Business Development program has made a difference for two award-winning business owners. View the YouTube video by scanning the barcode on the left with your smartphone.

## Around the Agency

In addition to our **Workforce Development** programs highlighted in this edition, here are some other important updates from around the agency:

### Emergency Assistance

The summer heat doesn't make it easier for people who don't know where to turn for their next meal. Our food distribution center at SERVE needs your donations. Help children who are fighting hunger to stay healthy this Summer.

### Safe & Stable Housing

Our Family Emergency Shelter expansion at SERVE will be completed this Summer! We look forward to reaching more people in need, with 32 additional beds and new work/study and common areas.

### Health Access

This Summer we hosted the 2nd Annual Torture and Trauma Survivors' Network conference, bringing together survivors and professional counselors and case managers to focus on rebuilding a life after torture.

### Child & Family Enrichment

We want to issue a special message of thanks to Arlington and Fairfax Counties, as well as the City of Alexandria, for recognizing the impact of our Intervention, Prevention & Education program in keeping kids out of gangs.



## One Entrepreneur's Story

"Antes de comenzar el curso ya había empezado con el desarrollo de mi negocio, por lo que el curso me sirvió para reforzar lo que ya había avanzado y me ayudó sobre todo con el desarrollo de la estrategia de marketing y publicidad. Antes del curso no sabía muy bien como dar a conocer mi marca, ni cuales eran todas las opciones con las que contaba que estuvieran al alcance de mi presupuesto."

"Before I began the course, I had already started developing my business. The course helped me reinforce what I had already developed and above all helped me to develop marketing and publicity strategy. Before the course, I didn't know how to build my brand, or what kind of easy and affordable options I never knew I had."

## About NVFS

Northern Virginia Family Service is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping vulnerable families and children. Each year, NVFS helps nearly 33,000 people through our programs in **safe & stable housing, child & family enrichment, health access, workforce development** and **emergency services**. NVFS is an innovator of efficient and comprehensive service methods, and has been recognized nationally for its effectiveness in creating sustained financial and social independence for its clients.



Safe & Stable  
Housing



Emergency  
Assistance



Health  
Access



Child & Family  
Enrichment



Workforce  
Development

# Good Works

*People can reach out in many unique ways to support the communities in which they live. All of these efforts, in one way or another, have a profound effect upon families and children in our region.*

## SAIC Makes it Count

A small, but mighty, group of SAIC employees based in Tysons Corner is helping to train our future workforce. This past year, SAIC housed the Training Futures program in its Tyson's offices. Not content to merely let the Training Futures program be tenants in their facility, SAIC employees decided to also volunteer their time in the program as Practice Interviewers, Internship Supervisors, and Workshop Presenters.

Their workshops are always highly interactive and dynamic. They also work one-on-one with the students doing mock job interviews. During these practice sessions, SAIC volunteers review the student's answers with them and provide tips and feedback to refine the student's answers. Not only does it improve the students' interviewing skills, but it also helps them build

their confidence so they feel better prepared when they go on their real job interviews. SAIC also hosts two students for a 3-week internship in their Human Resources department.

Going even further, SAIC recently committed its professional video production team to work with NVFS to create high quality videos describing different aspects of our programming. Their commitment of equipment, talent, direction, editing, and post-production has resulted in our best video presentations yet!



The SAIC production team and NVFS Board Member, J. Douglas Koelemay, accept a volunteer appreciation award at our 2012 Annual Meeting.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Tam Do is an exceptional front desk volunteer at our Multicultural Human Services program. She has become an integral part of the MHS team.

At the top of Tam's long list of responsibilities is processing clients who come to the facility. Tam also answers a constantly ringing phone, makes outgoing calls and helps generate client psychiatry appointment schedules. She performs financial transactions with impressive accuracy and detail. In fact, we are so confident in Tam's ability that she covers the front desk single-handedly during MHS staff meetings.

On one notable occasion, Tam conducted research to locate food and shelter for clients in crisis. Her efforts prevented a young family from becoming homeless. Also, she recently accepted a volunteer position as an interpreter for Vietnamese clients in one of the NVFS housing programs. She helps to ensure that clients fully understand the steps needed to remain in their homes.

With Tam interpreting, we are confident that there is effective communication between the case manager and the client.



Pictured above, Tam Do stands with Paulos Yacob, our Front Office Coordinator, at the front desk of our Multicultural Human Services program in Falls Church.

Tam recently had to scale back her hours at MHS because of an exciting development. She heard about our Training Futures program and decided to enroll. Now, in addition to her volunteer work for NVFS, she is attending our full-time, 25-week curriculum with the goal of further improving her career prospects. We fully support Tam, and are grateful to still have her on our team.

We salute you Tam, for proving yourself an invaluable asset to NVFS, and for taking positive steps to move to the next level of your career.

To become a volunteer for NVFS, visit [www.nvfs.org/VolunteerNow](http://www.nvfs.org/VolunteerNow)

# NVFS News & Events

## 4K for \$50K

NVFS is pleased to once again participate in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program which helps support our homelessness prevention programs. If we reach our goal of 4K registered walkers, NVFS would be eligible for a \$50K bonus from Fannie Mae in addition to all other funds raised. We are actively recruiting walk groups and sponsors to participate in the NVFS Community Walk on September 22nd at Harris Pavilion in Manassas. Register now online at [nvfs.org/communitywalk](http://nvfs.org/communitywalk).

Can't make it on 9/22? Join us in spirit by registering as a "virtual walker." Virtual walkers count toward our 4K goal! We are also looking for corporate sponsors, which will be featured on our website.

We still need groups to organize their own mini-walks, so consider your child's school, your business or your neighborhood. NVFS staff is ready to help you!  
> Contact Colleen Ross for more information.

## 2012 Gala Results

Thanks to so many of you who attended, volunteered, or donated to our annual Road to Independence Gala. This year's event was a stunning success. Our live appeal for our Family Hope Fund raised 2x more than ever before. In total, our net proceeds exceeded \$350,000 to help support all of our programs!



Pictured above, NVFS President & CEO Mary Agee presents Dr. Robert Templin, President of Northern Virginia Community College with our Community Champion Award at our 2012 Road to Independence Gala.

# Creating A Legacy Gift

Did you know that there are ways to support Northern Virginia Family Service that don't affect your current lifestyle or your family's security? For those who are looking for ways to leave a lasting legacy, we invite you to join our Family Legacy Society. Members of the NVFS Family Legacy Society have expressed their commitment to Northern Virginia Family Service by naming NVFS as the beneficiary of a planned gift. Such gifts might include a bequest, appreciated securities, gifts of life insurance and/or charitable income gifts.

For more information on how you can create a lasting legacy for NVFS, please call Ann McNerney, Chief Development Officer at 571-748-2530, or visit our website at [nvfs.org/legacy](http://nvfs.org/legacy)

## Back to School Drive

The Annual Back to School drive is in full swing! NVFS is collecting new school supplies and monetary donations to purchase supplies for more than 2,000 children in grades K-12. Through a unique partnership, every \$1 contributed to purchase supplies will allow us to purchase \$4 worth of supplies—your \$10 donation becomes \$40 of school supplies. Download the donor commitment form and supply lists for your shopping trip at [nvfs.org/backtoschool](http://nvfs.org/backtoschool).

We will begin to accept donations of supplies in early August. Stay tuned for further details. Thanks for helping kids prepare to learn by giving them the tools they need.  
> Contact Colleen Ross to get involved.

## NVFS Golf Tournament

Our 11th annual golf tournament will be held on Wednesday, Oct 3 at 1757 Golf Club in Dulles, VA. Spend your morning golfing for a great cause at a challenging and beautiful course. There will be food, prizes and special challenge competitions throughout the day. Register a company sponsorship, or reserve your spot on the course at [nvfs.org/golf](http://nvfs.org/golf).

## Training Futures Graduation

The graduation ceremony for Cycle 20 of Training Futures will occur Wednesday, Aug. 22, at 11:30 am at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA.

### Your NVFS Contacts:

Ann McNerney	Chief Development Officer
Colleen Ross	Community Engagement Specialist
Pam Ryan	Development Director

571.748.2530

571.748.2532

571.748.2531

[amcnerney@nvfs.org](mailto:amcnerney@nvfs.org)

[cross@nvfs.org](mailto:cross@nvfs.org)

[pryan@nvfs.org](mailto:pryan@nvfs.org)





## Foster Parent Training

Saturdays: July 21, 28 and Aug. 4

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

NVFS Oakton Office

10455 White Granite Drive

Oakton, VA 22124

Saturdays: September 15, 22 & 29

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

NVFS Oakton Office

10455 White Granite Drive

Oakton, VA 22124

By attending you will learn about foster care, learn the difference between short term and long term foster care, gain knowledge about the experiences that necessitate removal of a child from their caregivers, and considerable information about how to help.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, visit [www.nvfs.org/fostercare](http://www.nvfs.org/fostercare)



/nvfs.org



@nvfs



/NoVaFamilyService



United Way  
of the National  
Capital Area

#8099



#79645



Workforce  
Development



Child & Family  
Enrichment



Health  
Access



Emergency  
Assistance



Safe & Stable  
Housing

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 207  
Dulles, VA

Northern Virginia Family Service



10455 White Granite Drive

Suite 100

Oakton, VA 22124

Help • Hope • Here

Family Focus