

## NVFS Volunteer Voice - Nov. 2017



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### **Volunteering: The Gift That Keeps on Giving**

With the holidays right around the corner, we often find ourselves with mile-long to-do lists, parties to attend, and presents to buy and wrap. We become immersed in the gift-giving spirit surrounded

by our friends and families and find ourselves looking around and feeling grateful for what we have.

The holiday season is also a time where we can choose to look outward and ask what we can do for others around us who are in need. NVFS offers myriad volunteer opportunities to give back during the holidays and all year-round.

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## 'Tis the Season for Volunteering!



**Thank you** to the volunteer groups from [Freddie Mac](#), [Accenture](#) and [CJM Wealth Advisors](#) for donating their time to NVFS' [Hunger Resource Center](#) (HRC) in cleaning out multiple freezers and assembling compost bins in an effort for the HRC to go a little greener.

Their efforts in ensuring the HRC's freezers are in top shape and assisting in reducing the shelter's carbon footprint do not go unnoticed for both these longtime and first time volunteer groups.

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## Providing the Gift of Giving Across the Region

Kim Nelson, a longstanding NVFS volunteer, particularly with [Healthy Families](#) Prince William, is making waves in the community through celebrating children's birthdays. What began as a simple gesture of ensuring each child in the Healthy Families Prince William program was given a gift on their birthday has morphed into providing more than 100 children with birthday gift bags full to the brim in 2017 alone.

"Bringing smiles to the faces of children not only makes them happy, but it reinforces the power of giving at an early age," Nelson shares. "I believe this reinforcement will have a positive impact on how that child sees the world as they experience the challenges of the world today."



Her success with Healthy Families Prince William has provided her with the ability to start a business called [Unity Works](#). Kim now works with three additional non-profits in the Northern Virginia area, along with NVFS, and continues on with her mission to enrich children’s lives through the power of a present.

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## Top Volunteer Needs

### **Bilingual Food Assistance Client Intake**

*Manassas, Va.*

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### **Food Recovery Driver**

*Manassas, Va.*

[Read More](#)

### **Shelter Support Volunteer**

*Manassas, Va.*

[Read More](#)

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## Transforming Our Community Through Innovative Workplaces



NVFS’ [CARE Awards Breakfast](#) is right around the corner, and we invite you to join us in celebrating [25 innovative Northern Virginia workplaces](#). These companies are on the leading edge of change in providing family-friendly benefits and policies to their employees.

This November marks NVFS’ 25th year presenting the CARE Awards. To celebrate this banner year, we’ve compiled a special panel of industry leaders to speak on what will inspire businesses and workplaces in the years ahead.

### **2017 Moderator**

[Douglas Fruehling](#), Editor-in-Chief of *Washington Business Journal*

### **2017 Panelists**

[Robert Acosta](#), CEO of Ventera Corp.

[Jennifer Aument](#), Group General Manager North America of Transurban Group

[Alisa Valudes Whyte](#), Senior Partner & CEO of Merritt Group

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## Engaging Young Minds and Supporting Our Community

**Thank you** to volunteers from [Capital One](#), who visited some of our littlest clients at Head Start and taught them all about money! The children had such a great time reading stories, playing games and decorating their own take-home piggybanks.

**Thank you** to the volunteers from BI Company and Kaiser Permanente for volunteering at [Clock Tower Thrift](#) and to FedEx and Ogilvy for volunteering at [Head Start](#).



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## Encouraging Volunteerism Throughout Northern Virginia



Thank you to Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith for joining us at our Clock Tower Thrift Store in Centreville for Volunteer Fairfax's VolunteerFest. We were thrilled to have so many volunteers come out, including students from Chantilly High School, in support of volunteerism and NVFS!

**Get Involved**

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## Top Donation Needs

Northern Virginia Family Service is happy to accept donations of all kinds, but as the seasons change, we find ourselves having more specific needs to ensure our clients are comfortable in the cooler temperatures.

Our donation requests are below:

**SERVE Family Shelter:** gift cards (Walmart, Target or CVS), toilet paper, pillows, cleaning supplies, coats, jackets, scarves, gloves, diapers, wipes, strollers

**Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center:**

bus tokens, air mattresses, sheets, pillows, kitchen items (pots, pans, small appliances), lightweight blankets, shower curtains/liners, towels, new socks and underwear (men, women, and children's), and gently used and new winter clothing for infants and toddlers



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## Events & Opportunities at NVFS

**Village of Impact  
Service Day**  
*Saturday, Nov. 4*

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**CARE Awards  
Breakfast**  
*Friday, Nov. 17*

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**Spread Holiday Cheer!**  
Operation Turkey  
Gifting for Families

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