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## NVFS Insider: Understanding Racial Equity in Northern Virginia



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### Racial Equity: A Community Conversation

Northern Virginia is a racially and culturally diverse region, as well as an incredibly prosperous one. But that wealth can mask the challenges many of our neighbors face, including access to quality housing and public resources such as transportation, and racial inequity.

The Potomac Health Foundation, a leader in our community for convening partners on issues affecting health, recently hosted a three-part community conversation for Prince William County leadership in the public and nonprofit sector entitled "Racism & Health Equity." As a featured panelist during the series, NVFS Executive Vice President of Programs Andrea Eck posed key questions for nonprofits, government or any organization to evaluate the diversity of their clients, their employees and their leadership.

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Over the past several years, NVFS has thoughtfully expanded the programs and services offered to those in need. Through NVFS offerings such as mental health services for homeless children or enrolling families into health care programs, among others — Potomac Health Foundation is able to **positively impact the lives of families in Prince William County** and fulfill the Foundation's mission to **improve the health of the community** by [increasing access to health care](#) for the medically underserved.”

— Timothy McCue, Director of Grant Programs at Potomac Health Foundation

**Tackle family-friendly service projects.**  
**Understand key social issues.**  
**Improve the lives of local families in need.**

Join us Aug. 11 to learn how you can be part of this unique giving circle.

**RSVP Now**

## School Readiness Goes Beyond the Classroom



Getting children prepared for school often conjures images of backpacks filled with binders, notebooks, pencils and more for students to start the school year off on the right foot. Although back-to-school supplies are essential — and can help reduce the anxiety for low-income children who may not always have these resources available to them — school readiness is more than just having the physical tools to succeed in the classroom.

Learn how NVFS prepares young children for kindergarten and a brighter future.

[Read More](#)

## Join Our Back2School Brigade

When you support NVFS' [Back2School Drive](#), you equip 1,800+ students with the tools to face any school-day challenge. Rather than feeling embarrassed or stressed because they don't have the right supplies, they will feel excited to learn and ready to conquer the classroom.

Even though the start of school seems far away, we want to ensure that the future leaders of tomorrow have the supplies they need when the first bell rings. You can help by planning a supply drive or donating to funds for NVFS to purchase supplies.



### *3 Steps to a Successful Drive:*

- **Plan:** What are the start/end dates? Who will you ask to participate? How will you collect donations
- **Outreach:** Distribute flyers, send emails, use social media, ask friends/co-workers to help promote, challenge others to a friendly collecting competition
- **Collect:** Snap a photo of the collection, celebrate your accomplishments with everyone, deliver to the Back2School Brigade.

## How You Can Help

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### NVFS on the Move

NVFS kicked off its new fiscal year July 1 with exciting opportunities on the horizon, thanks to the dedicated work of our staff and the strategic vision of our leadership team. Several key changes occurred at the executive level in the past year that helped drive that strategic vision:



[Andrea Eck](#) was promoted to executive vice president of programs. Andrea has been an integral part of NVFS staff for nearly 16 years, with experience across our various program areas, including housing, homelessness and youth programs, and serving most recently as senior vice president of programs. Her strategic thinking and collaboration skills are an exceptional asset to NVFS.



[Clifford Yee](#) joined the team as executive vice president, chief financial officer. Cliff has brought more than 15 years of professional experience gained in the consulting, financial services, and nonprofit sectors delivering business value and social impact to NVFS. His diversity of thought, experiences, and unwavering appreciation for and connection to our mission have been a great addition to our team.



And a special thank you and farewell to **Jen McCollum**, executive vice president of development and communications, who is returning to her home state of Michigan to oversee community relations and philanthropic efforts for the Detroit Lions! The diversity of Jen's talents and skills, her goal-driven execution and her fresh perspectives helped drive our development and communications vision to new heights. We wish Jen all the best in her new position; she will be missed here at NVFS and in the Northern Virginia

community!

Efforts are underway to recruit for the executive vice president, development and communications position. Watch our [website](#) for more information in the coming weeks. To read all NVFS executive team member bios, and those of our full leadership team, click [here](#).

### Top Volunteer Needs

**Food Assistance  
Client Intake**  
NVFS SERVE Campus

Manassas

**Greeter &  
Receptionist**  
NVFS Multicultural Center

Falls Church

**Children's Activities  
Specialist**  
NVFS SERVE Campus

Manassas

### Top Donation Needs

#### Current Needs

- **Training Futures:** Check out our Amazon wishlist [here](#).
- **SERVE Family Shelter:** Pillows, bus tokens, toilet paper, paper towels, gift cards in \$10 increments, cleaning supplies, diapers for all sizes (especially sizes 3 and 4), Pull-Ups, wipes, camp supplies (straws, water balloons, yarn, baking soda, corn starch, food coloring, borax, disposable pitchers, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, clear contact paper, popsicle sticks, keychain rings, contact lens solution)



#### Ongoing Needs

- **SERVE Campus** (non-Hunger Resource Center or Family Shelter): Diapers (baby and adult), art supplies, face paint, toiletries, sanitary napkins, new bras, summer baby clothing, board books

- **SERVE Family Shelter:** Double and single strollers, welcome home baskets (kitchen tools, cleaning supplies, sheets, and towels), air mattresses, lamps and kitchen items (pots and pans, plates, silverware, small appliances)
- **Hunger Resource Center:** Granola bars, cereal, canned fruit, canned meat, milk, eggs, sugar, salt, pepper, flour

A complete wishlist of items can be found [here](#).

[Read More](#)

## Events & Opportunities at NVFS

**Back-to-School Drive**  
Now through August

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**Village of Impact Service Day**  
Saturday, Aug. 11

[RSVP](#)

**Yard Sale Benefiting the Community**  
Saturday, Aug. 25

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