NVFS Preparers for Executive Transition
President and CEO Mary Agee To Step Down June 30, 2015

Mary Agee, president and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service, announced that she plans to step down in June 2015 after leading the agency for 27 years.

Under her leadership, NVFS has grown from an 11-person agency to a $32 million organization, expanding both its portfolio of services as well as its footprint in Northern Virginia.

“Her influence and transformational impact on Northern Virginia families has been immense and profound, and we have been the beneficiaries of her vision, her innovation, her leadership and her passion,” said NVFS Board Chair Misti Mukherjee.

Mary cites NVFS’ leadership of the 9/11 Survivors’ Fund for Pentagon families as one of the highlights of her tenure. She also takes great pride in NVFS’ workforce development initiatives, where clients are able to earn a living wage, rise above the poverty line, and no longer require assistance.

The agency’s board of directors has begun a nationwide search for NVFS’ next president and CEO, and plans to name a new leader by the spring of 2015.

NVFS Turns 90

In 1924, volunteers in Alexandria collected coats and coal to help their neighbors through the winter. From this compassion for others the roots for Northern Virginia Family Service were planted. The volunteer effort soon grew into a coordinated effort among churches, and United Charities of Alexandria was established. Money was collected from churches, organizations, and money boxes placed in public settings to be distributed to families and the unemployed to help alleviate poverty.

Each decade throughout history brought new challenges: The Great Depression, closing doors for a year during World War II, incorporating case management and counseling, fighting drug abuse, organizing tenants.

Mary Agee’s compassion for our tiniest of neighbors fueled her advocacy for families.

Inside This Issue:
- Housing “100 Day Challenge”...2
- Leveraging Volunteers and Interns to Meet Our Mission ....3
- Joe Grooming Gives ...............4
- Program News and Notes From Around the Agency ...4-5
- Road to Independence Gala...6
- 10 Ways You Can Help..........7
- Upcoming Events .................7

NVFS Helps 35 Families Find Housing During Special Campaign

Tina M., who stayed at the SERVE Shelter with her children last fall, stands in front of her home in Prince William County. NVFS case managers worked across agencies to find an affordable housing solution for this Army veteran. For more on the housing campaign, see page 2; for more on Tina’s journey, see NVFS Gala highlights on page 6.
SERVE Receives Accreditation

Congratulations to the rapid re-housing team at the SERVE Family Shelter, which was just certified by the National Alliance to End Homelessness for their work in helping families find housing solutions in 45 days or less. SERVE is one of five Virginia organizations to have these standards.

Lessons Learned Shared Nationally

With its success in rapid re-housing, SERVE staff have been asked to share best practices at many conferences this year:

• National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness - New Orleans, February
• HOME Conference panel - Richmond, April
• HomeAid Housing Forum, Northern Virginia, July
• National Alliance to End Homelessness, Washington, D.C., July

Sessions have focused on landlord engagement, succeeding in an affordable housing crisis and helping former shelter residents get and keep a home.

In addition, SERVE staff have been contacted by housing programs in San Francisco, Seattle, and North Carolina for technical assistance with rapid re-housing efforts in their communities.

Prince William County Rallies for Homeless

Churches in the Manassas area stepped forward over the brutal winter to open hypothermia shelters for local homeless residents, allowing approximately 20 individuals to find refuge from polar vortexes and snowstorms this winter.

Grace United Methodist, Manassas Baptist and Chapel Springs Church all provided warm and safe shelter for the homeless to get out of the elements, while First Baptist Church and The Life Church provided food.

A special thank you goes to Debbie Jewell, Donna Bolt and Rhonda Bolt Craighead for donating food, along with the SERVE campus kitchen staff for donating meals.

Thank you all for your compassionate spirit and for helping our homeless in the local community!
NVFS is committed to supporting the growth and development of future mental health and social service professionals. Through partnerships with area universities, NVFS currently hosts and trains about 20 students per school year with a goal to double this number in the next three years.

It’s a win-win for everyone. Full year internships are a vital part of any advanced degree program. Students must be able to demonstrate that their classroom knowledge translates into a "real life" setting before entering the workforce. These interns allow NVFS to sustain and even expand services.

“It’s in our best interest to make this commitment to train and support interns because they are the future workforce and leadership of our agency and other vital human services organizations,” said Karen Horowitz, director of volunteer and internship engagement. “With the affordable investment of time and talent, NVFS is able to serve more clients and provide more intensive and individualized support than would otherwise be possible.”

Interns are empowered to lead mental health counseling sessions with clients who have experienced trauma, domestic violence and mental illness. They provide holistic case management support for families on the brink of homelessness, helping them budget with very limited resources, gain job skills, and develop coping skills to manage the stress and anxiety of living paycheck to paycheck.

“We treat our interns like staff,” said Olivia Faries, Clinical Coordinator. “There is an orientation and training program, we assign them case loads and closely supervise them along the way to ensure they are continually improving their skills while providing quality client services.”

In addition to a robust internship program, NVFS is also expanding its skills-based volunteer program. Such opportunities allow volunteers to learn new skills and gain practical experience, helping enhance their resume or even their annual review. Some recent skills-based volunteer projects include:

- Creating a Branding Committee comprised of marketing professionals who assessed NVFS’ visibility in the community and helped us with a new tag line
- Bringing in a newly licensed attorney to provide immigration legal services to clients
- Encouraging successful Hispanic entrepreneurs to teach critical skills to the next generation of small business owners

Do you have special skills you’d like to share or know someone who does? Contact Karen Horowitz at khorowitz@nvfs.org or 571.748.2626.

NVFS Selected for Int’l Gang Prevention Program

NVFS is on the front lines combating gang involvement by providing options and support to at-risk youth. Henry Pacheco, a caseworker with NVFS’ Intervention, Prevention and Education program, recently participated in a joint FBI, State Department and White House National Security Staff gang prevention exchange program. Read about Henry Pacheco’s story at: www.nvfs.org/pacheco.

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference

At the annual meeting on June 12, NVFS honored volunteers who gave hundreds of hours to help keep the agency running this past year.

Gordon Hay, a French interpreter and front desk receptionist at MHS, was recognized with the IMPACT Award. Gordon contributes to the smooth operation of an office that sees 75-100 clients per day, and helps put French speakers at ease during a difficult time in their lives.

The Prince William County Bar Association was recognized for their work at the SERVE Shelter, buying, preparing and serving monthly meals to the residents the last two years.

Ralph Lickey received the Presidential Award, to a standing ovation from all who were in attendance. As a driver for SERVE’s Food Distribution Center, Ralph picks up donated food from area grocery stores and restaurants, a demanding job that includes loading and unloading donations with many stops per day. Ralph also employs his people skills to build relationships with store managers and happily trains new drivers. Ralph’s food runs bring in more than 300,000 pounds of food to SERVE per year. To read more about Ralph, please see The Washington Post’s June 29 article, “Manassas volunteer is honored for his service,” available on the NVFS web site at http://bit.ly/1zXY256.
Cause Marketing Program Provides Personal Care Products For Shelter Residents

Imagine if every time you bought a personal care product, a bottle was automatically donated to charity. This is exactly what happens through the GET ONE GIVE ONE program of Joe Grooming, which makes a line of personal care products for men.

Joe ONE, one of their products, is an All-In-One cleanser for men’s hair, face, and body. While convenient for any man, it is also very convenient for someone in transition staying at the SERVE family shelter of NVFS. Since fall 2011, Joe Grooming has donated nearly $7,000 worth of Joe Grooming products for NVFS clients.

The goal of the GET ONE GIVE ONE program is to raise awareness about people living in or near poverty and to promote compassionate consumerism. “When we empower the consumer to make a difference in someone’s life simply through a conscious purchase, that is powerful,” says Jean Kliska, chief of corporate social responsibility for Joe Grooming. While the business has been in existence since 2002, the charitable arm was created in the fall of 2011 with NVFS being one of the first recipients.

Kliska acknowledges that Joe Grooming is a high-end product and that this is exactly why they want to share it. “When you run a business with your heart in the right place,” she said, “you know you’ll be successful.” On behalf of our clients, many thanks to Joe Grooming for its support of NVFS!

-by Colleen Ross

NVFS Updates from Early Childhood, Training Futures, Entrepreneurship and SERVE

These events – and more – available via www.facebook.com/nvfs.org and on twitter @nvfs

Congratulations to the newest NVFS Graduates!

Above: Rising kindergartners in Arlington conclude their Head Start experience - hats off to the future Class of 2031! Right: Training Futures’ second cohort from Manassas celebrated the conclusion to six months of classes and internships as part of NVFS’ successful workforce development program.

NVFS Head Start students, who attend school year-round, were invited to join the White House in a Let’s Read! Let’s Move! event held at the Museum of the Native American in Washington, D.C., in July.

Celebrating our Stars! NVFS volunteers helped enroll more than 1,500 local consumers for health insurance coverage in the Affordable Care Act.
Foster Care Program Finds Permanent Homes for Children

NVFS placed 12 children in the span of five weeks, and three children found forever homes this spring. “We’ve had 53 children adopted by more than 25 families,” reports Sharon Frost, director of child placement, who is proud of NVFS’ track record of providing permanency for children. She attributes the recent increase to counties fast-tracking same-family adoptions.

NVFS took part in Fairfax County’s Proclamation of Foster Care month in May, and was recognized for its work on behalf of our community’s vulnerable children.

Special thanks to Comfort Cases, an incredible organization that recently provided backpacks stuffed with supplies for NVFS foster children, to help make their transitions easier.

Microloans Finance Entrepreneurs

NVFS is helping small businesses like Ladybug Landscapes get off the ground through crowdfunding. On kiva.org, lenders can help clients like Roberto Lopez (below), to launch their own business. NVFS clients have a 100 percent repayment rate, and our string of successfully funded loans has landed us at the top of Virginia and #9 in the nation to support such efforts.

SERVE Approaching Anniversary

Many thanks to all those who came out for the Strikes for SERVE Bowl-a-thon this spring. The annual event fills the entire Manassas Bowl America!

SERVE will turn 40 in 2015, and NVFS is celebrating the year with a special campaign to pay off the mortgage on the campus. Thanks to a $750,000 challenge grant from the Cecil and Irene Hylton Foundation. More information on supporting this tremendous campaign to come!

Foster Care Program Finds Permanent Homes for Children

NVFS placed 12 children in the span of five weeks, and three children found forever homes this spring. “We’ve had 53 children adopted by more than 25 families,” reports Sharon Frost, director of child placement, who is proud of NVFS’ track record of providing permanency for children. She attributes the recent increase to counties fast-tracking same-family adoptions.

NVFS took part in Fairfax County’s Proclamation of Foster Care month in May, and was recognized for its work on behalf of our community’s vulnerable children.

Special thanks to Comfort Cases, an incredible organization that recently provided backpacks stuffed with supplies for NVFS foster children, to help make their transitions easier.

NVFS Celebrates 90 Years (con’t from page 1)

expanding capacity to serve new waves of multicultural immigrants to the area and more.

Yet, the organization remained true to its beginnings of helping neighbors in need. Many of the services provided in the 1930s and 40s are the foundation of NVFS today: rent and utilities assistance, dental care, health care, and prescription medications, and legal services.

NVFS now serves more than 36,000 individuals each year in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties through one of the following service areas:

- Housing Services (The SERVE Shelter and Food Distribution Center in Manassas, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing)
- Workforce Development Programs (Training Futures, entrepreneurship program, transportation assistance)
- Child Placement Services (therapeutic foster care and respite care)
- Early Childhood Education (Head Start, Early Head Start)
- Intervention and Prevention Programs (Healthy Families home visitation, gang prevention)
- Health and Mental Health Services (Affordable Care Act enrollment, health, dental and prescription drug access, counseling)
- Legal Services (asylum)

NVFS officially commemorated its 90th anniversary at its annual meeting on June 12. A special video about the agency and its history was produced for the occasion and can be accessed via our website, www.nvfs.org/90years, or permanently on our youtube channel: www.youtube.com/novafamilyservice.
NVFS Hosts Its Most Successful Gala To Date

Record breaking, milestone making and a who’s who in attendance – that sums up NVFS’ 16th Annual Road to Independence Gala held May 9 at the McLean Hilton. More than 625 attendees helped shatter previous fundraising records for the event, with over $688,000 raised that evening.

One of the evening’s highlights was a live testimonial given by Tina M., a former SERVE resident who shared her journey of homelessness and back. “I will forever be indebted to NVFS. I had nowhere to go and because of your organization, my family had a clean, safe, and structured environment to live.” After the event, Tina later shared: “It really felt good knowing I had a part in helping someone else that may have a need.” Thank you Tina, for having the courage to come and share your story with us!

For additional coverage of the evening, please visit www.nvfs.org/gala.

Thanks to all our attendees, sponsors, auction donors, and volunteers who each had a critical role in making the evening one for the record books. Photos courtesy of Art Cole Photography except where indicated.

Gala Chair Bill Hoover, president and CEO of AMERICAN SYSTEMS; Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe; and Mary Agee, NVFS president and CEO

Mary Agee, Community Champion Honoree Lauren Peterson, and event emcee Casey Veatch

Legends of Northern Virginia Honoree Sid Dewberry and Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly, whose proclamation honoring NVFS’ 90th is in the Congressional Record.

Nancy Hulkower

The team from Booz Allen Hamilton

Tina M. shared her story of hope
Many Ways To Support NVFS Today!

• Join NVFS at Bob Evans in Oakton and Manassas on the First Friday of the month - 15% of your check goes to NVFS. Download the flyer (required) from www.nvfs.org/bobevans.

• Host a Training Futures intern or hire one of our highly-motivated administrative professionals

• Collect canned goods for the Food Distribution Center at SERVE

• See the latest volunteer ops at: www.nvfs.org/volunteernow

• Donate gently-used suits for Training Futures trainees

• Introduce us to your civic or faith-based group. Contact Colleen Ross at cross@nvfs.org to schedule a presentation

• Shop, donate or volunteer at one of our thrift shops in Falls Church, Centreville or Manassas

• Consider a planned gift for NVFS. Contact Ann McNerney at amcnerney@nvfs.org for details.

Join Us! Upcoming NVFS Events

Frames for Families: Saturday, September 27

NVFS’ newest fundraiser will be held this fall at the Bowl America in Falls Church! Enter your team of five bowlers or sponsor a lane or the event. For more information, visit www.nvfs.org/framesforfamilies or contact Pam Boyle at pboyle@nvfs.org.

Empty Bowls: Friday, October 17

The Chapel Springs Assembly of God (11500 New Life Way, Bristow, Va. - formerly Manassas Assembly of God) will host Empty Bowls, with all proceeds raised to benefit SERVE on Friday, Oct. 17, 5-8 p.m. Participants will receive a handcrafted bowl and share in soup, bread and dessert. www.nvfs.org/emptybowls

CARE Awards: Thursday, November 13

Learn how companies in Northern Virginia are providing innovative and supportive family-friendly policies, programs and services. Keynote speakers include Marc Katz, chairman and president of CustomInk, and Jodi Johnson, chairman and president of Titania Solutions. The breakfast ceremony will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 a.m., at the Fair Oaks Marriott (new location). www.careawards.net

Rain did not deter the enthusiastic participants of the first ever BB&T 5K, which benefited NVFS. Pictured left: Dan Waetjen, Group/State President; Christina James, Private Advisor; Karen Wallis, Senior Vice President; Mary Agee, NVFS President and CEO; Tim Kelly, Vice President of Insurance Services; Masha Loughlin, Vice President; Beth Morrow, Senior Vice President; and Ann McNerney, NVFS Chief Development Officer.
About Us

Northern Virginia Family Service is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to helping vulnerable families and children. Each year, NVFS helps more than 36,000 people through our continuum of programs in:

- Early Childhood Services
- Child Placement Services
- Health & Mental Health Services
- Legal Services
- Housing Services
- Intervention & Prevention Services
- Workforce Development Services

Contact Us:

10455 White Granite Drive, Ste. 100 • Oakton, VA 22124
571.748.2500 • www.nvfs.org

Ann McNerney, Chief Development Officer
571.748.2530 • amcnerney@nvfs.org

Pam Ryan, Director of Development, SERVE Campus
571.748.2531 • pryan@nvfs.org

Tonya McCreary, Director of Communications
571.748.2533 • tmccreary@nvfs.org

For the latest donations and volunteer needs, and to catch up with NVFS in the news, please follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook - and join the conversation!