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US Senator Kaine Hosts Maternal Health Discussion at NVFS



On Monday, July 15th, NVFS hosted US Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and a group of local stakeholders, including NVFS Directors Ondrea McIntyre-Hall and Nanci

Pedulla, for a discussion regarding the racial disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity. As Senator Kaine noted in his opening remarks, ***"Maternal mortality is unacceptably high for women in Virginia...to solve this, we have to understand the causes."***

The racial disparities in maternal mortality are staggering -- minority women die of pregnancy-related causes at a rate about three times higher than those of white women. The racial disparity has persisted, even grown, for years despite frequent calls to improve access to medical care for women of color.

Senator Kaine listened and learned from health care providers, community leaders, policy experts, and nonprofit leaders who are working directly with women and infants in our local communities. The dynamic conversation covered a range of related topics – including structural racism and the impact of implicit bias on health outcomes for women of color. The active participants offered possible solutions and paths forward for policies at the federal level.

The event was the second in a series of listening sessions that the Senator is hosting this summer on the topic of racial disparities in maternal health.

SERVE Summer Camp, Engaging Young Minds 5 Days a Week

Since its inception three years ago, the goal of the SERVE Summer Camp has always been twofold: engage the kids (ages 5-12) living in the shelter in a fun, constructive activity and give parents time to continue with their online classes, set up doctors' appointments, or job hunt. And for a few precious hours, the kids get to focus all their energy on having fun.

Recently, [Bach2Rock](#) brought multiple types of instruments in for the children to play. If you were walking by that day, all you heard was a cacophony of sound and the delighted screams and laughter of children rocking out. The kids were banging on the drums, shaking the maracas, and practicing their power stances with the electric guitars and amps. Rumor has it that some of the kids are talking about starting a band.

On other days the kids are focused on arts and crafts. [Abrakadoodle](#) creates mini lessons on different art concepts and then teaches the kids how to utilize that technique. For instance, they went over the concept of contrast using tape, paper, and paint. Placing various strips of tape on a piece of paper, they then painted over it. When the paint dried they ripped the tape off. Voila! Contrast.

And of course, summer camp wouldn't be complete without epic water games between the camp volunteers and kids. The only goal those mornings: no one leaves dry.



NVFS' Back2School Brigade Needs You!

We are collecting school supplies. Find out how you can get involved!



Piloting a Summer Literacy Program at SERVE

For children striving to persevere in tough environments, "summer slide" can be much worse. However, research has shown that students who engage in learning activities over the summer, can maintain or even increase their skills by the time school starts. To help combat "summer slide" among the children most in need in our community, the SERVE Campus is piloting a summer literacy program in partnership with Prince William County's Bull Run Library.



The families who utilize the Hunger Resource Center or any of the numerous programs at the SERVE Campus, often lack access to educational enrichment resources in our community. For instance, while the public library offers free, fantastic programming, many clients might lack the transportation, funds, or time to take their families there.

To help families in these situations, NVFS Community and Volunteer Engagement Specialist Navara Cannon and the Bull Run Library partnered to bring a tailored summer reading program to SERVE. For families who stop by the Hunger Resource Center or any of the other programs located at the SERVE Campus, any elementary age child receives a bingo card with various activities they can complete on-site. Volunteers devise new activities for the bingo squares and whenever a child gets 'BINGO', they receive a prize. And thanks to a partnership with the local Barnes and Noble and very generous community donations, every child walks away with two new books whenever they sign up to help them stay on track for the school year ahead.

Be a hero all year long.

Become a monthly donor for just 83 cents a day. Together, we will build a brighter future for our community.

Donate Today



Corporate Partner Spotlight: United Bank



United Bank has been supporting Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) in various capacities over the last several years. Their partnership really blossomed with us last year when they selected NVFS to be a premier partner—one of a small number of local nonprofits that they support in this capacity.

"United Bank is passionate in building and maintaining a lifetime premier partnership with NVFS through volunteerism, fundraising, board of director and committee initiatives, and corporate giving opportunities. We are blessed and honored to work with such a wonderful nonprofit that shares the same drive, vision, goals, and mission for our local community".

— Anna McDonald, Commercial Services Officer at United Bank

Their volunteer activities over the last year have ranged from one-day projects such as sorting toy donations at the holidays and assisting with event set-up to more complex activities such as developing a soft skills workshop for job trainees. They adapted their "Teach Children to Save" program to be relevant for 3-5 year olds, and reviewed applications for low-income working adults to receive a vehicle. As if this wasn't enough, for several years one of their bank branches engaged the greater community in supporting NVFS by holding school supply and food collection drives at their branch and encouraging their customers to participate.

United Bank's enthusiasm, creativity and dedication to so many aspects of NVFS makes them stand out as a stellar corporate partner—one who makes a true impact each and every time they engage with NVFS.

Top Volunteer Needs

Food Assistance Specialist - SERVE Campus

Shelter Passenger Driver - SERVE Shelter

Shelter Meals Provider - SERVE Campus

Evening Children's Activities Specialist - SERVE Shelter

Food Recovery Driver - SERVE Campus



Top Donation Needs

SERVE Campus (general): diapers, wipes, baby blankets, cereal – hot and cold, canned fruit, canned meats, pasta sauce, canned soups, no sodium canned veggies, wet wipes

SERVE Family Shelter: Air mattresses, queen sheets, bed sized blankets, diapers (size 2, 3, 4, 5), baby wipes, full size hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, deodorant), Q-tips, baby wash/ baby lotion, baby blanket, laundry baskets, laundry detergent, paper towels, all-purpose cleaner, floor cleaner, glass cleaner, disinfecting wipes, children's socks, boys/ girls underwear, men's boxers/ boxer briefs

Training Futures: Check out our Amazon wishlist [here](#).

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

Events & Opportunities at NVFS

Village of Impact 2020: [August 10](#)

Back2School Drive: [June - August](#)



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