

FURNITURE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

- April 30 Warehouse closed for Rebuilding Together Workday
- May 7 Peace Lutheran/John Calvin/Mt. Pleasant Baptist
- May 14 Ravensworth Baptist/ Annandale United Methodist
- May 21 St. Barnabas' Episcopal/Friendship United Methodist
Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church
- May 27 Closed for Memorial Day Holiday



Next ACCA Board Meeting

Tuesday May 3

Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

3901 Gallows Road, Annandale

Fellowship and Refreshments, 7:30 p.m., Meeting 7:45 p.m.



NEWS

ANNANDALE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ACTION
7200 COLUMBIA PIKE, ANNANDALE, VA 22003

March-April
2005

The ACCA Board meeting planned at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church for March was cancelled due to a forecast for bad weather. We thank our friends at Mt. Pleasant for their offer to host a meeting. In April, we gathered at Friendship United Methodist Church. Jacob Patnaik welcomed us and led the group in an opening prayer. Dorothy and Fred Dunn, Friendship Church members and long time ACCA volunteers, served the refreshments.

Home Repairs Planned for April 30. ACCA is again participating in the Rebuilding Together project (formerly Christmas in April). Six ACCA churches have signed up to sponsor or co-sponsor repair work on four houses: Annandale UMC, John Calvin Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran, Queen of Apostles Catholic, Ravensworth Baptist, and St. Barnabas Episcopal. There are still a few openings for workers and time to send support funds. Contact Marie Monsen, 703-354-9408. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross featured Rebuilding Together and ACCA's participation in the project on her April Mason Matters program, Thursday, Friday and Sunday evenings on Channel 16.

Fairfax County Board Testimony. ACCA President Chuck Woods reported on his budget hearing presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He spoke about the importance of the funds we receive from the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. ACCA receives Fairfax County funds for the food pantry and family emergency assistance. The nutrition grant supports purchase of milk, eggs, meat, fruits, and vegetables to supplement the donated non-perishable items. He concluded his testimony by saying that "in our community, the safety net works, and because it works, the quality of life is better for everybody—rich, middle class, and poor. By collaborating together, we can make life better for everyone."

Child Development Center Director Judy Falkenrath also testified before the Board of Supervisors. Her remarks urged the supervisors to fully fund (\$1.6 million) the Child Care Assistance and Referral Program, which is critical in supporting children enrolled at the CDC and other centers.



Spring Has Sprung at the Child Development Center. The teachers and the children are enjoying the outdoors. A local garden club rototilled the garden plot. Children are planting seeds indoors for transplanting to the garden. The gardening project is a wonderful learning experience. The Center is also planning field trips to farms and parks.

The Fairfax County Office For Children has been awarded a Virginia School Readiness grant. The grant will benefit all centers that are working with pre-kindergarten children. The CDC looks forward to working closely with the Office For Children to learn more about successful transitions from pre-school to kindergarten.

The Infant Center is enjoying three wonderful graduate student interns from George Mason University. ACCA is chosen as a site each spring because we serve infants and toddlers, some of whom are bilingual and/or have special needs.

A Woodson High School exchange student has organized a book collection for the CDC as a service project. Sandra Kaltenhaueser has placed boxes at a number of ACCA churches for donations of children's books. Sandra will collect the books until April 24 and will deliver them to the CDC.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

The Annandale Meals on Wheels program needs a volunteer driver coordinator and assistant driver coordinator. In addition, additional volunteer drivers are needed to deliver meals. For more information, please call Peg Frank (703-941-9128) or Mary Lee Di Spirito (703-256-9513).

NEWS FROM ACCA COMMITTEES

- **Scholarship** – George Davis is meeting with School Board staff about potential recipients of the Fred Ruffing Scholarship. The program provides assistance for college studies for students with physical or developmental challenges. The scholarship is in memory of Fred Ruffing, one of ACCA's founders.

- **Furniture/House wares Ministry:** The furniture program completed 30 deliveries and 33 pickups for a total of 63 furniture actions for the month of February. During the month of March we operated for only three weeks because of the Easter holiday, completing 44 pickups and deliveries. The furniture ministry received generous support from several sources. The Washington Hilton Hotel donated 128 mattresses and box springs. The Radisson/Holiday Inn Alexandria donated blankets and pillows. Goodwin

House also made a substantial donation including chairs, tables and linens. We thank these donors for their generous support. The house ware ministry helped 7 clients in February and 6 clients in March. Nuschka Edwards, who received calls from furniture donors for many years, has moved away from the area. We wish her well in her new home and are grateful for her service to ACCA. Until a new volunteer is found, people who want to request a furniture pickup should contact Don or Mary Lee DiSpirito at 703 256-9513.

- **Family Emergency:** In March, the Family Emergency Committee assisted 41 households. Expenses totaled \$15,053 with the majority going toward rent, utilities and medicine. In February, 25 households received assistance, with a total of \$10,495.

- **Food Pantry-** Pantry volunteers made 39 deliveries to 87 people in March, and 38 deliveries for 119 people in February. Jean Rackowski reported that several new volunteers will help with the deliveries, and said she is happy to have new volunteers.

- **Meals on Wheels:** In March, 904 meals were delivered, and in February, 689 meals were delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers. Peg Frank reported that a March highlight was a call from a 100-year old client wishing her a happy Easter.

- **Child Development Center-** The ACCA Board approved Geneva Pope as a member of the CDC Board. Two additional vacancies on the CDC board will occur in July, as terms end for CDC board members. Potential members may be recommended to the nominating committee—Judy Falkenrath, Nancy Harmon or Bill Jason.

- **Transportation-** Volunteers provided 25 rides in March and 21 in February for people who needed rides to medical care.

- **Grants** – The Grants Committee submitted an additional grant request to FEMA for \$20,000 to offset ACCA rental assistance for families with children. President Bush's proposal for the FY 2006 Federal Budget proposed elimination of the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program. This program helps fund the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, which has given grants to ACCA. Elimination of the Block Grant Program could limit this important source of funding for programs like ACCA's Family Emergency and Food Pantry programs.

- **Finance Committee** - The Finance Committee will meet April 26 to discuss the proposed ACCA Inc. budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. Proposals will be presented to the Board at the May 3 meeting.