



FURNITURE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

October 21	Ravensworth Baptist
October 28	Closed for Annandale Parade
November 4	St. Albans' Episcopal
November 11	Providence Presbyterian
November 18	St. Michael Catholic
November 25	Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Next Meeting

Tuesday November 7

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale

7:30 Fellowship/7:45 Meeting

ACCA TO RECEIVE CHALLENGE GRANT

For the fifth consecutive year, the Washington Forrest Foundation has offered a challenge grant for the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) to help the needy in our area. This year, an anonymous donor added \$5,000 to the Foundation's grant, bringing the total to \$20,000. The Challenge Grant campaign will continue until January 31, 2007. ACCA has set a goal of raising \$4 in donations for each \$1 in grant money offered, so that we can sustain the level of services now being requested. The Washington Forrest Foundation was begun in 1968 by Benjamin Smith, an Arlington realtor and developer. It funds local non-profit organizations which show responsiveness to community needs, program effectiveness, and a need for financial support.

Donations to ACCA from individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations go directly to help the less fortunate in our community. Please send checks payable to ACCA and marked "Challenge Grant" to ACCA, Inc., 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003, or give checks to your church Official Representative, who will pass them to ACCA.

CHILD CARE SUPPORT STILL NOT FUNDED FOR YEAR

Child Care Assistance was not fully funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia for fiscal year 2007. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted September 11 to fund the child care subsidies for the short term for currently funded families, while continuing to work with the state to find a solution. However, the legislature did not take any action on child care assistance at its special September session. The subsidies will end later in October if the Fairfax County Board does not act to extend the subsidy. The financial support for day care is important to low-income families with children in the child development centers like the ACCA Child Development Center. When affordable child care is not available, the parents' employment and economic independence are at risk.

Child Development Center Director Dr. Judith Falkenrath said that the CDC is fully enrolled, but will not be able to replace any children who are withdrawn from the center because of the subsidy funding issue. The Center is planning a Back-to-School night. The CDC has contracted with an occupational therapist to provide special services for children with sensory motor issues. The CDC's speech pathologist, psychologist and occupational therapist identify developmental delays, train the teachers how to help the children, and work with the children. If a child needs more



intensive therapy, he or she is referred to Child Find for further help. These special development services do much to help the children succeed in their later school years.

There are approximately 100 families whose children are enrolled in the Center who have very tight budgets. They would greatly appreciate food gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you want to participate in this Holiday Program, please send or drop off food gift certificates or checks to 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Checks should be payable to ACCA and designated CDC Holiday Program.

HOST CHURCH

Pastor Dee Pendley and Diane Strickland welcomed board members to Immanuel United Methodist Church. Among other parishioners attending were Fred and Wanda Warren, who have been active ACCA volunteers since its founding, and communications chair Janet Woods. Pastor Pendley spoke of being in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, where he was guided to his lodging in a city without power. He said that while we can be helpers though ACCA, we may sometimes need to be led by the hand ourselves.

PASTORS LUNCHEON A SUCCESS

The Pastors' luncheon on September 21 was well attended by pastors, ACCA board members, Fairfax County officials and other guests. We thank Annandale United Methodist Church for hosting the luncheon. We thank Mary Lee Di Spirito, Alice Snitzer, Sue Meekins, and the luncheon committee for their work planning the luncheon. ACCA appreciates the generous sponsorship of the luncheon by Harris Teeter supermarket. We also thank the Flower Den for the lovely flowers it donated.

HOLIDAY BASKETS

ACCA will be participating in the Holiday Basket program in a different way this year. For a number of years, ACCA has participated in the program connecting donors with families who need help. We are not able to directly participate this year because no volunteer stepped forward to serve as ACCA's coordinator for the program. However, those wanting to adopt a family at Thanksgiving or Christmas will be connected with another community based organization trying to match families and sponsors. Mary Lee Di Spirito, 703/256-9513, will help make the connection.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Family Emergency - ACCA provides emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, and medicine. ACCA cooperates with Fairfax County and other social agencies to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs, to help those moving from shelters, and to provide a safety net for individuals and families in crisis. Requests for assistance continue to rise due to higher energy costs, rent increases, and the slower construction market. Assistance payments totaled \$12,402 in September.

Food Pantry- During September the ACCA Food Pantry made deliveries to 44 families to serve a total of 159 people.

Furniture- During September, furniture warehouse volunteers completed 37 deliveries and 37 pickups. We welcome two new warehouse supervisors, Debbie Schrag of St. Albans and John Barber of Providence Presbyterian. We are grateful that the Best Western Hotel in Arlington through the American Content Liquidators donated 44 mattresses and box springs plus some tables and chairs.

Grants - ACCA will receive \$675 from the Lenten Rice Bowl project as a result of the Grant Committee's application to Catholic Charities. The committee submitted an application to Northern Virginia Community Foundation for a grant of \$1500 to the Fred Ruffing Memorial Scholarship Fund. Grants of \$15,000 and \$5,000 have been pledged for ACCA's annual challenge grant campaign.

Transportation – Volunteer drivers provided 22 rides for 17 clients in September.

Treasurer- ACCA received a bequest from the estate of Rose Blanche Shields. Ms. Shields was a member of Queen of Apostles Church, and was a long-time ACCA and CROP Walk supporter.

CROP Walk- The Annandale CROP Walk is scheduled October 21 at Lake Accotink Park. Registration begins at 8 am. For more information, please contact Camille Mittelholtz at 703 573-0074 or kmittelholtz1@cox.net.

BULLETIN BOARD

Alternative Gift Market. For gifts that empower people in crisis, protect our endangered planet, and build peace in our global village, you can honor your family and friends at the Alternative Gift Markets held at Ravensworth Baptist Church and John Calvin Presbyterian Church. Ravensworth Baptist, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will host its market November 19, 9:30-10:45 am and 12:00 -1:00 pm; December 3, 12:00-1:00 pm; and December 10, 12:00-1:00 pm. John Calvin Presbyterian, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale, will hold its Alternative Gift Market on December 9, 10:00 am-2:00 pm and December 10, 9:30-10:00 am and 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

Tax Assistance Volunteers Needed. Do your own taxes? You can help working families with their basic tax preparation using software sponsored by IRS. The program is offered through Fairfax County CASH Volunteers in Tax Assistance. Serve weekday evenings from 6 to 9pm and/or Saturdays from January 19th through April 15th. For more information, visit the web site <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/partnerships/cash.htm> or email Tom Meagher at tom.meagher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

ACCA needs a new webmaster because Jared Clark is no longer able to fill this role. We thank Jared for serving as webmaster. We also thank Helen Woods for volunteering until a new webmaster is found. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Janet Woods at jcwoods@peoplepc.com.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Please consider designating ACCA as you make your decisions about donations in workplace community campaigns. ACCA is a member of the United Way of the National Capital Area. When making a donation to the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign, please use ACCA's agency code number, 8058. ACCA's code for the 2006 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign is #8233.