

PARKS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER (PACT)



Summer Day Camp for Children Living in Homeless Shelters and Supportive Housing Summer 2017

Submitted by: The Fairfax County Park Foundation



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PARKS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER (PACT) SUMMER 2017

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

A. Purpose of Donation:

The purpose of **Parks and Community Together (PACT)** is to provide day camp experiences for up to 50-60 homeless children aged 6-17. The children, of diverse backgrounds, are all residents in homeless shelters and supportive housing facilities in Fairfax County including those listed on page 13.

These facilities provide temporary and supportive housing for Fairfax County homeless families due to domestic violence or economic deprivation. Their children will be integrated with children of paying families in the Park Authority's existing summer camp programs taking place in camps conducted at Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) facilities across the county.

B. Amount of Donation:	Traditional	Specialty
-One child for a one-week session	\$ 225	\$ 350
-One child for one month (four weeks)	\$ 900	\$ 1,400
-One child for summer (10 weeks)	\$ 2,250	\$ 3,500
-Two children for summer	\$ 4,500	\$ 7,000
-Four children for summer	\$ 9,000	\$14,000
-Before/after child care for one summer	\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Note: Child care cost in addition to camp	costs	

(We encourage sponsorship of one child for the entire summer, if possible.)

C. Number of Children to be Served:

50-60 homeless children aged 6-17 for 8-10 weeks

D. Contact Person for Program Matters:

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2. PROJECT NARRATIVE

A. Statement of Need and Benefits: The problems of homelessness, acute for everyone who experiences them, are compounded for children because they are totally dependent on others to provide for them. The pain of being socially excluded – not belonging in a society comprised of people with homes – and the insecurity of an uncertain future can be relieved for the children who participate in the PACT project. At least for a time, they can be like other children who go to camp for a summer of fun.

Supportive housing providers include but are not limited to FACETS in Alexandria; Cornerstones in Reston; Shelter House in Falls Church; Bethany House in Fairfax; Homestretch in Falls Church, and Family PASS in Vienna, and other supportive housing organizations provide housing for families of diverse backgrounds who are homeless in Fairfax County due to domestic violence or economic deprivation. The PACT program will allow as many as 50-60 homeless children from these shelters to participate in up to 8-10 weeks of summer camp programs.

Benefits of the project will extend not just to the campers, but also to their adult family members and the sponsoring organizations. **Dean Klein, Director of Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness**, stated that "The PACT Camp Scholarships are a critical support for children and families who are homeless in our community. Through this support, children are able to benefit from fun and enriching activities that leads to healthy development and the strong self-esteem necessary as they grow into strong adults."

The children will benefit from a structured community and group recreation experience designed to enhance motor development, promote independence and social interaction, and foster a positive self-image. <u>Before-camp and after-camp care will also be provided for those children who need it.</u>

The family members will have the reassurance that their children are receiving quality care, and will benefit from a respite from childcare responsibilities, giving them freedom to make arrangements for a more stable future for themselves and their children.

The sponsoring organizations will benefit from the community good-will created by their contributions. The Park Authority and Park Foundation will publicize the PACT project and sponsors on their websites and Facebook pages. The sponsors will also be featured in the FCPF e-newsletter that reaches more than 22,000. A feature recognition ad thanking sponsors for their support will be published in spring *Parktakes*, the Park Authority's quarterly magazine (circulation of more than 200,000.)

- **B. Project Description:** The PACT project for homeless and supportive housing families is a component within an on-going Park Authority program.
 - i. Goals and Objectives. Specific goals of the PACT project are to:

- (1) provide a safe environment where children can grow emotionally, socially and physically through developmentally appropriate recreational experiences;
- (2) provide a summer camp experience for 50-60 homeless children of diverse backgrounds residing in temporary homeless shelters and supportive housing, and
- (3) provide supportive housing parents or caregivers with a respite from childcare responsibilities and the freedom to make the arrangements necessary for a more stable life for their families. Objectives and strategies to accomplish these goals are detailed in the PACT Project Plan seen in the Addendum.
- **ii.** Plans to Accomplish Goals and Objectives. The experience and resources of the Park Authority's existing summer camp program, described in the "Camp Types, Locations and Costs" in this packet, is the basis for this special project. Camp staff will be selected from applicants with characteristics desirable in those who work with children, including an ability to communicate effectively with parents and children.

Over 300 counselors will participate in a training session on behavior management, building self-esteem, program planning, administering medications, supervision, emergencies/injuries and health screening. Counselors will undergo an intensive background check and health screening to assure the Park Authority and parents that a safe environment will be provided for campers.

The success of PACT will be determined by monitoring the project to assure that the objectives are met. Additionally, the entire summer camp program will be evaluated through analysis of written response surveys completed by camp counselors. Other indicators of the program's strength are the high rate of return participants and the growth of the program.

- **iii. Time Frame.** The PACT project will take place in June–August 2017. Community financial contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals will cover the costs of one or more two-week camp sessions *for 50-60 homeless children*. The timing of each child's camp participation will vary within this time period according to the needs of the family, camp space and funding.
- **iv. Provider Responsibilities.** The Park Authority will work with OPEH and housing providers to advise resident families of the availability of the PACT program. The facilities will select children to participate and will be responsible for their transportation to camp sites. For the first time, FCPA is exploring providing transportation for limited sites due to the lack of public transportation and that many low-income families do not have personal transportation. FCPA will partner with Fairfax County Neighbor & Community Services to provide this transportation benefit.

2017 PROJECT BUDGET

The Fiscal Year of the Park Foundation and the Park Authority's is July 1 to June 30. The following budget covers July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, or FY 2017. The summer camp program operates under the Park Authority's revenue fund and receives no tax support. PACT revenues include contributions from local corporations and foundations and are used to send up to 50-60 children residing in homeless shelters and supportive housing homes to summer camp programs of their choice. Project revenues anticipated include the request in this proposal and the balance of the in-kind commitment to be received as daily user fees accrue.

Item	Expenses	Revenue
Salaries: 14 Counselors, 1 Coordinator (salary and fringe)	\$ 70,770.00	
Consultants and Professional Fees	\$ 1,500.00	
Field Trips	\$ 4,400.00	
Telephone, Utilities and Facility Maintenance	\$ 6,500.00	
Postage and Delivery	\$ 500.00	
Other: Licensing and Background Checks	\$ 1,286.00	
Foundations Grants and Contracts		\$ 35,000.00
Corporations Grants and Contracts		\$ 30,000.00
Individual Donations		\$ 2,500.00
Other		
TOTAL	\$ 84,956.00	\$ 67,000.00

FCPA Provided In-Kind Revenue and Expenses

Item	Expenses	Revenue	
Payroll Taxes	\$ 4,956	\$ 4,956	
Fringe Benefits	\$ 6,066	\$ 6,066	
Equipment & Supplies	\$12,553	\$12,553	
Printing & Copying	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
FCPA Total In-kind Expenses &	\$24,575	\$24,575	
Revenue			

Project Budget does not include the portion of the parklands used by this project because of the difficulty in measuring its value.

4. ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

A. **Organization Information:** In 1950, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Park Authorities Act, which permitted counties to establish individual park authorities to preserve open space and to acquire and develop park facilities throughout the state. On October 5, 1950, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution officially creating the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Authority owned 9 parks on 92 acres of

land in 1955. Through the support of the Board of Supervisors and the foresight of the county citizens, 13 park bond referenda were approved between 1959 and 2016, and today the Authority has 427 parks on more than 23,500 acres of land.

- i. Mission. The mission of the Fairfax County Park Authority, an agency of the Fairfax County Government is to:
 - "Set aside public spaces for, and assist citizens in, the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations; and to create quality facilities and services that offer citizens opportunities for recreation, improvement of their physical and mental well-being and enhancement of their quality of life." -- Park Comprehensive Plan
- **ii. Mission.** The mission of the **Fairfax County Park Foundation** is to support the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) by raising private funds, obtaining grants and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet our community's needs for programs, scholarships, services, parkland and facilities. The Park Foundation inspires philanthropy and a passion for parks in Fairfax County that help bridge the gap between identified needs and available public funds for our parks and open space.
- iii. Current Programs, Activities, and Accomplishments. In addition to summer camps for children and leisure programs for people with disabilities, the Park Authority provides facilities and services in the following areas: aquatics, boating, camping, crafts, exercise and physical fitness, farming, fine arts, fishing, gardening, golf, hiking, history programs, horseback riding, ice skating, lectures, nature activities, performing arts events, running, sports and sport leagues (tennis, football, basketball, racquetball, softball, and soccer), trips and tours. A brief chronology follows:
 - 1950 Park Authority created
 - 1951 First park created
 - 1979 Summer camp program initiated at 3 sites with 1,800 children
 - 1985 Parktakes magazine initiated to promote classes and programs
 - 1988 Indoor recreation centers increased to 9 sites
 - 1994 Summer Camp program expanded to 14 sites serving 4,644 children
 - 1995 Summer Camp program licensed as a childcare program through Virginia Department of Social Services, becoming one of the first licensed camp programs in Fairfax County
 - 1996 Summer Camp Program received the Partnership in Excellence Award for participation in the Kids' Traffic Safety Program
 - 1997 Summer camp project for homeless children (PACT) initiated
 - 2010 Received Gold Medal Award from The Sports Foundation for Excellence in the field of parks and recreation management
 - 2014 Partnered with Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to better assist in child placement and coordination of services to the families.

In 2016, PACT provided 92 week of camps and 50 extended care at 11 county facilities for 18 children at a cost of \$27,322. More than 650 children have participated in a total of over 2000 PACT-funded camp-sessions since 1997. The lower number of children enrolled in PACT 2016 resulted from several situations: 1) the County contract held by a housing provider for more than 15-20 years was given to another provider. The prior provider had traditionally sent 20-30 children from the Rt. 1 corridor to PACT and they provided transportation. The new provider had to quickly set their program into motion and was not able to send the same amount of children as before; 2) The "Housing First" housing assistance approach adopted by Fairfax County requires that families living in shelters are moved into supportive housing as soon as possible. This resulted in 7 registered PACT campers from shelters dropping out of PACT when their families found permanent housing. To increase the camper numbers in 2017: 1) FCPA and FCPF are working closely with OPEH to establish solid working relationships with the housing providers' case managers; 2) assigned a FCPA/PACT Housing Provider Liaison who will work closely with all the case managers to identify children who will benefit from PACT; 3) FCPA and FCPF will attend several OPEH Housing Providers meeting to solidify the case manager relationships. The FCPA/PACT Liaison is bilingual (Spanish) which will improve communications with many families.

iv. Structure.

The Park Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and staffed by an Executive Director with a lean and efficient staff. The Board is comprised of community and business leaders and holds regularly scheduled meetings. Contributions to the Park Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The Park Foundation and the Park Authority Board meet regularly and jointly select fundraising projects. The Park Authority provides the Foundation's staff salaries, office space and most of its operating expenses. This assures donors that contributions to the Foundation go directly to benefit valuable park projects and services.

B. **Current Board of Directors:** The Fairfax County Park Foundation is governed by an 11 member board responsible for the policies and fundraising priorities of the Foundation. The 11 members are appointed by the Park Authority Board. The Board meets in public session every other month at the Park Authority Board Room, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927, Fairfax, Virginia. Current members are:

Stephen C. Thormahlen, Chair John E. Osborn, Vice-Chair Harrison A. Glasgow, Treasurer Lane Brooks, Secretary Michael Gailliot, Director Rich Harpe, Director Janyce N. Hedetniemi, Director William Won K. Hwang, Director Gary W. Kirkbride, Director Bruce D. McLeod, Director Tim Eakin Walsh, Director



5. PROJECT PLAN, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES & TRACKING

Goal 1: Provide a safe and enjoyable environment where children can grow emotionally, socially and physically through developmentally appropriate recreational experiences.

Objectives A. Offer over 250 summer camp programs in Fairfax County at more than 50 RECenters, outdoor parks and schools for children aged 6-17.	Strategies 1. Select facilities to meet the needs of the camps offered, considering factors such as accessibility, space and demographics. 2. Organize and implement age-appropriate activities including art, swimming, games and sports. 3. Conduct parental customer satisfaction surveys.	Tracking Goals Track required documents to be sure they are obtained: • Staff Training and
B. Maintain state Social Services childcare license, County Health Dept. permit, and fire inspection documents.	 Complete documentation for licenses/permits. Prepare facilities to comply with state and county standards. Post all necessary documents in the facility. 	Development Tracking Sheets (staff- signed documents of each training
C. Provide qualified camp staff to meet the social and physical needs of children.	 Conduct staff training on behavior management, building selfesteem, program planning, administering medications, supervision, emergencies/injuries, and health screening. Select applicants with desirable characteristics including ability to communicate well with parents and children. 	session). • Licenses and permits. • Records of periodic site
D. Meet required staffing qualifications to obtain licenses and provide the highest level of service.	 Hire applicants age 18 and up with a minimum of 6 months experience with groups of children. Conduct 2 reference checks and 1 criminal check on each applicant considered. Require all staff to have negative TB test results. Provide staff with first aid and CPR classes and require up-to-date training and certifications. 	inspections by Park Authority supervisors and state Social Services licensing staff. Confidential
E. Provide a safe camp environment for children.	 Maintain ratios of 1:10 for school age children and 1:8 for preschool children. Maintain facility, equipment, and grounds in good condition and immediately report necessary repairs. 	personnel documents for all staff.

- 3. Train staff in emergency procedures and conduct periodic fire/evacuation drills.

 4. Include Safety Awareness in camp curriculum.
- Goal 2: Provide a summer camp experience for 50-60 homeless children of diverse backgrounds residing in local supportive housing and homeless shelters.

Objectives

- **A**. Establish partnerships with local housing providers.
- **B.** Housing providers refer 50-60 children aged 6-17 who can benefit from a summer camp program.
- **C.** Integrate children from supportive housing into Park Authority's camp programs.

Strategies

- **1.** Inform housing providers of the number of openings for campers and their locations.
- **2.** In cooperation with providers, review the list of children and their camp preferences.
- **3.** Select campers using the recommendations of shelter officials.
- **1.** Register children for the summer camp.
- **2.** Send parents of the registered children the information needed to start camp.

Tracking Goals

Track required documentation to be sure it is obtained:

Records of meetings and conferences to ensure close liaison with providers.

Goal 3: Provide supportive housing adults with a respite from childcare responsibilities and the freedom to make arrangements for a more stable life for their families.

Objectives

A. Select families from supportive housing who are in need of and can benefit from structured recreational day care for their children.

Strategies

- **1.** In consultation with housing providers, create a list of families with children in the camp age ranges who need camp services.
- **2.** Review donations to determine how many children can be placed and determine locations.
- **3.** Along with housing providers, match the children with the camp program that best meets the needs of the children.

Tracking Goals

- Obtain and maintain records of eligibility requirements and by-laws of each shelter.
- Conduct evaluation conferences with housing providers' representatives.



6. GENERAL INFORMATION ON CAMP LOCATIONS, FEES AND TYPES OF CAMPS

Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, Virginia

Our summer camps cover a wide variety of activities that offer options that will appeal to any child. These range from sports type camps to performing arts, science camps to those that have a special focus.

In addition, the camp facilities are scattered throughout the county, making the commute to camps readily manageable.

Camps are held Monday – Friday at all Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters, lake front parks, historic parks and nature centers. Camp hours vary by locations.

Camp registration details will be available in the spring edition of *Parktakes*, the Fairfax County Park Authority quarterly publication, which is available in January in both hard copy and at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps.

7. KEY PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES & QUALIFICATION

Youth Services Coordinator -- Ellen Werthmann

<u>Job Responsibilities</u>: Coordinates and supervises Park Authority camp programs

Education: BA in Early Childhood Education, Radford University

MA in Education, George Mason University

Experience: Child Care Administration - 25 years

FCPA PACT/Housing Provider Liaison – Luis Velasquez

Luis Velasquez is the Youth Services assistant for the Parks Services Division and has worked for the Park Authority for 5 years, assisting people with program registrations, scholarships and camps. Mr. Velasquez began his Architecture studies in Lima, Peru, studied 2 years at Northern Virginia Community College and will enroll at George Mason University in the summer of 2017. Mr. Velasquez is fluent in Spanish and participated with various projects in his local bilingual community.

Camp Counselors - Seasonal Positions (to be hired in camper-counselor ratios needed to meet objectives)

<u>Job Responsibilities</u>: Plan and implement daily camp operations; supervise children and ensure state social services standards are met; communicate with parents and campers; prepare daily plans and distribute session calendars to parents; document all accidents, injuries, incidents, and complaints; maintain equipment and supplies.

Qualifications: Minimum age 18; high school diploma; a minimum of 6 months age-appropriate program experience in group child care; a clean criminal background check; negative TB test results; 8 hours of staff training annually; current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certifications; 2 or more references; and one of the following: a B.A. degree in a child related field, or a Child Development Associate credential, or 48 hours of college credits with 12 hours in a child related field and 3 months group child care experience.

Camp Coordinators - Seasonal Positions (to be hired in camper-coordinator ratios needed to meet objectives)

<u>Job Responsibilities</u>: Assist counselors in planning and implementing camp program; obtain proper training to administer medications to children; maintain staff and children's files; ensure state social service standards are met; handle parent inquiries and requests; document all injuries, accidents, incidents and complaints; handle behavior problems; substitute for counselors when needed.

Qualifications: Minimum age 21; a high school diploma; a clean criminal background check; negative tuberculosis test results; 8 hours of staff training

annually; current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certifications; 2 or more references; and one of the following: a bachelor's degree in child related field plus 6 months experience in group child care, or 48 hours college credits with 12 hours in child related field plus 1 year experience in group child care and 3 years age- appropriate programmatic experience in child care.

8. SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION LEVELS & BENEFITS

Gold Traditional/Specialty	Gold Traditional/Specialty	Silver Traditional/Specialty
Sponsor 5 children for the summer \$11,250/\$17,500	<i>Sponsor</i> \ <i>5 children for one month</i> \$4,500/\$7,000	Sponsor 5 children for one week session \$1,125/\$1,750

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Sponsor 4 children for the summer \$9,000/\$14,000	Sponsor 4 children for one month \$3,600/\$5,600	Sponsor 4 children for one week Session \$900/\$1,400

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Sponsor 3 children for the summer \$6,750/\$10,500	Sponsor 3 children for one month \$2,700/\$4,200	Sponsor 3 children for one week session \$675/\$1,050

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Sponsor 2 children for the summer \$4,500\$7,000	Sponsor 2 children for one month \$1,800/\$2,800	Sponsor 2 children for one week session \$450/\$700

Silver	Bronze	Bronze
Sponsor 1 child for the	Sponsor 1 children for	Sponsor 1 child for one
summer \$2,250/\$3,500	one month \$900/\$1,400	week session \$225/\$350

Note: Before and after child care for each child for the full 10 week summer is \$1,000. This cost is in addition to the cost of the camp. Traditional camps are those that offer a variety of activities throughout the day. Specialty camps are single-focused camps in sports, performing arts, technology, science, etc.

9. SPONSOR BENEFITS & PUBLICITY PACKAGE

Parktakes Magazine - Gold

Fairfax County Park Authority's Magazine published in the spring has a distribution of more than 200,000 each season throughout Fairfax County and the Metropolitan area. Sponsor Recognition ad appears in the Fall *Parktakes*.

FCPA Summer Camp Web Page - Gold and Silver sponsors

Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Camps web page and the Park Foundation website will recognize sponsors with names and logos. Sponsors are also recognized on FCPF's Facebook.

<u>Press Information Release and Press Package</u> - Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors

Media PSAs will include sponsor's name. The PSAs will appear in more than
600 different media resources throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

Parent Welcome Packet - Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors

More than 21,000 Welcome Packets containing camp forms are emailed to parents. Sponsors are recognized in the packet.

10. PACT PARTNERS – OUR PARTICIPATING HOUSING PROVIDERS

The following shelters and supportive housing providers have been our partners for the PACT Project.



1997 to Present – New Hope Housing, Alexandria

1997 to 2004 - Shelter House, Falls Church 1998 to Present - Cornerstones, Reston

1998 to Present – Cornerstones, Restor

2000 to Present – Bethany House

2001 to 2005 - Lutheran Social Services

2001 to Present – Nova Family Services

2002 to Present - Department of Family Services

2007 to 2012 - **NOVACO**

2007 to 2012 – United Community Ministries

2011 to Present – Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter

2011 to Present – FCPS Homeless Program

2012 to Present – Family PASS

2014 to Present – Good Shepherd Housing

2014 to Present – Homestretch

2015 to Present - FACETS

11. 2016 CONTRIBUTORS – a Summer Success Story

The Fairfax County Park Foundation acknowledges and thanks the 2016 contributors for their generous support of Fairfax County children living in homeless shelters and supportive housing.

In 2016 donations from the community-minded businesses, organizations and individuals below made it possible for 18 children from local homeless shelters and supportive housing to participate in 92 weeks of camp and 50 extended-day care weeks of camp at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters. When PACT was initiated in 1997, we sent just three children to camp. Thanks to their outstanding support, we have grown the program to meet the demand.

This is an exceptionally important project for homeless providers as well as for the children and their families. It gives the providers a quality program with which to serve their clients, and provides a respite for parents in need of summer activities for their children. It gives children the chance to enjoy summer fun just like their counterparts who go to camp from home, and the opportunity to learn social skills in a structured and safe environment. And, PACT provides an important resource for parents who are struggling with severe financial problems; freeing them from summer child-care concerns, it gives them an opportunity to seek employment or get the training they need to progress towards financial self-sufficiency.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR SPONSORS!

Claude Moore Charitable Foundation George Preston Marshall Foundation GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club

Mars Incorporated

Volkswagen Group of America

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Michael Jaeger **Doug Hoskins**

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John P. Opitz

Amy E. Painter

Elizabeth Rayle

Maria Roushan-Borkheili

Laura R. Schmid

Whitney Shaffer

Greg Sieber

SPONSOR DONATION FORM PARKS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER (PACT) SUMMER 2017

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Thank you for your support!

www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org