



## 5th Annual Prince George County Back to School Fair

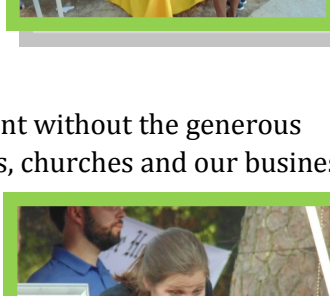
On August 25th, 2016, Prince George County Department of Social Services joined forces with their community partners to host the 5th Annual Prince George County Back to School Fair. The agency collected monetary donations and school supplies all summer to be able to give out free back packs and school supplies at the fair. The fair also boasted a community resource fair and family fun night.



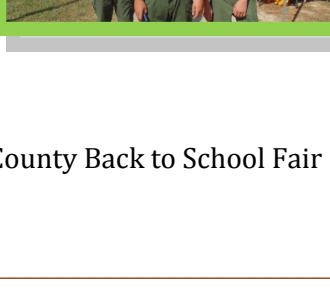
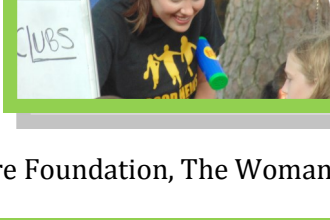
The 2016 Back to School Fair resulted in the distribution of 1,055 back packs to county school children. Police Officials estimated over 3,000 participants attended the event which included local emergency vehicles and a school bus for children to explore, animal adoption services, free hot dogs, bottled water and popcorn. Musical entertainment was provided by the Prince George High School Marching Band and Dance Team as well as Unity Baptist Church. The Community Resource Fair had 52 community partners providing information to families. Community partners included scouts, the faith community, child care service providers, sports and recreation, health and emergency service providers.



Special thanks to: Prince George Public Schools, Community Policing, Parks & Recreation, Prince George Library staff of the Appomattox Regional Library System, BBQ Bliss and Beth Lipp.

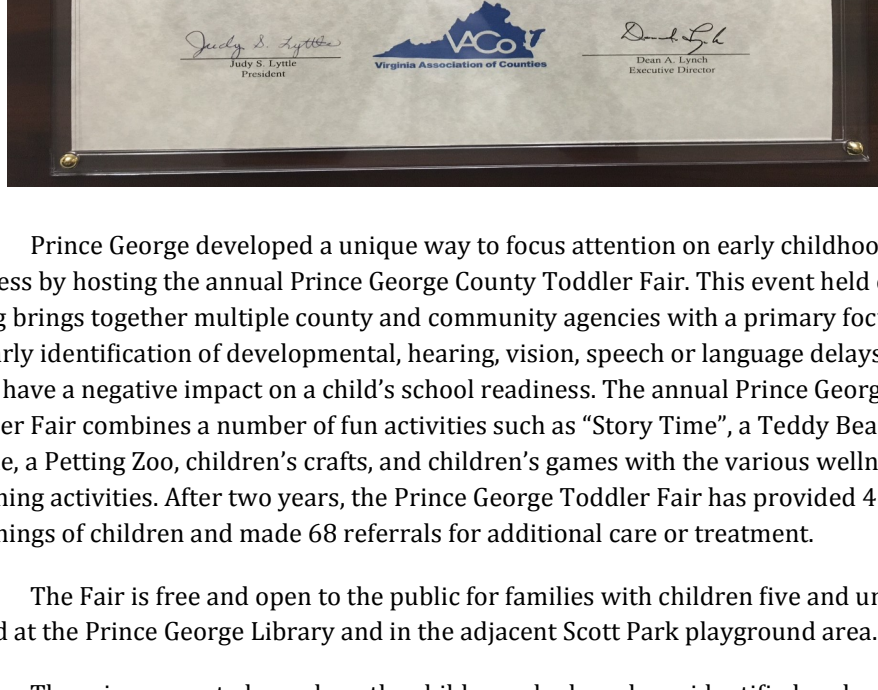


We could not have this event without the generous donations from the citizens, churches and our business community who support us in helping children and families have a successful start to the school year. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event: The John Randolph Foundation, Joint Logistics Managers, Inc., Titus Foundation, James River Genco, Jessica Ann Moore Foundation, The Woman's Club of Prince George, members of the Rotary Club of Prince George, the United Way of Hopewell/ Prince George, Clarke's Auto Care Center, and numerous citizens and churches throughout the county.



Plans are underway for the 6th Annual Prince George County Back to School Fair set for August 24, 2017.

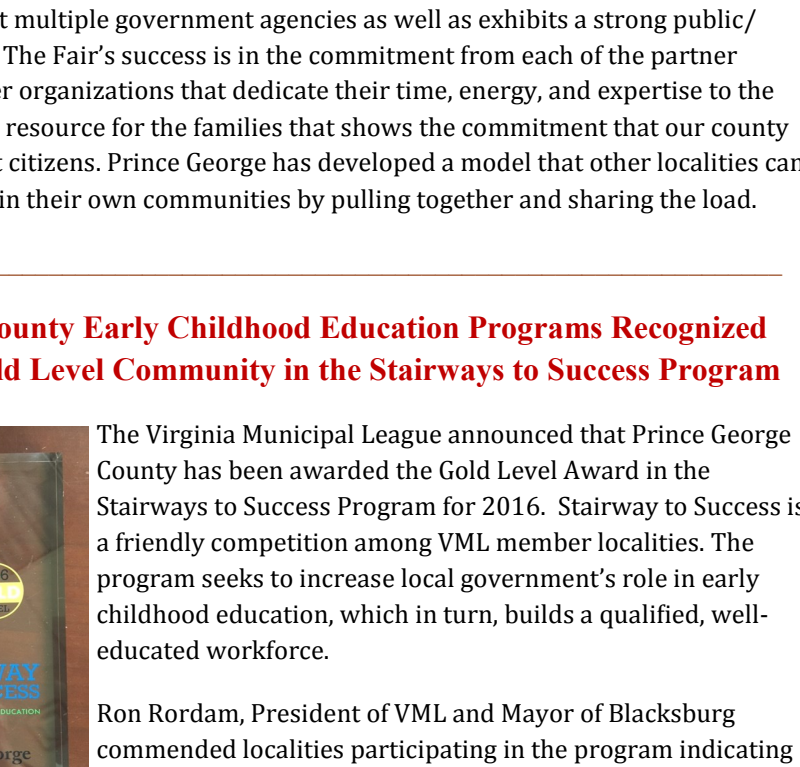
## Prince George County receives the 2016 Achievement Award from the Virginia Association of Counties



Prince George developed a unique way to focus attention on early childhood wellness by hosting the annual Prince George County Toddler Fair. This event held each spring brings together multiple county and community agencies with a primary focus on the early identification of developmental, hearing, vision, speech or language delays that could have a negative impact on a child's school readiness. The annual Prince George Toddler Fair combines a number of fun activities such as "Story Time", a Teddy Bear Parade, a Petting Zoo, children's crafts, and children's games with the various wellness screening activities. After two years, the Prince George Toddler Fair has provided 472 screenings of children and made 68 referrals for additional care or treatment.

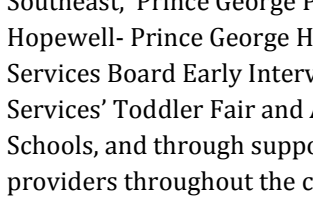
The Fair is free and open to the public for families with children five and under and is held at the Prince George Library and in the adjacent Scott Park playground area.

There is no way to know how the children who have been identified early on as needing additional assessments or referrals might have fared when they arrived in kindergarten if the Toddler Fair had not been available to them, said Zetta Ethington, Director of Student Services for Prince George Public Schools. Our hope is that with the early assessments and referrals, their kindergarten experience and the many years after that will be a more positive experience for them and their families. Planning is underway for the 2017 Prince George Toddler Fair.



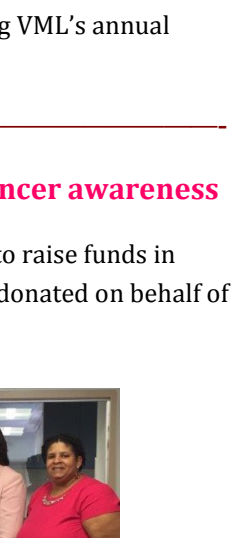
The Prince George Toddler Fair is an innovative plan for engaging families in early childhood wellness and addressing the importance of early identification and referrals for children who are presenting with developmental, vision, speech, language, hearing, or dental concerns. The Toddler Fair approach promotes the partnership amongst multiple government agencies as well as exhibits a strong public/private partnership. The Fair's success is in the commitment from each of the partner agency and volunteer organizations that dedicate their time, energy, and expertise to the project. The fair is a resource for the families that shows the commitment that our county has for our youngest citizens. Prince George has developed a model that other localities can replicate easily within their own communities by pulling together and sharing the load.

## Prince George County Early Childhood Education Programs Recognized by VML as a Gold Level Community in the Stairways to Success Program



The Virginia Municipal League announced that Prince George County has been awarded the Gold Level Award in the Stairways to Success Program for 2016. Stairway to Success is a friendly competition among VML member localities. The program seeks to increase local government's role in early childhood education, which in turn, builds a qualified, well-educated workforce.

Ron Rordam, President of VML and Mayor of Blacksburg commended localities participating in the program indicating that "Stairways to Success recognizes initiatives, tailored to our communities that will allow our children to have a better chance of entering the school system on an even playing field, it is designed to give all children the tools to be successful."

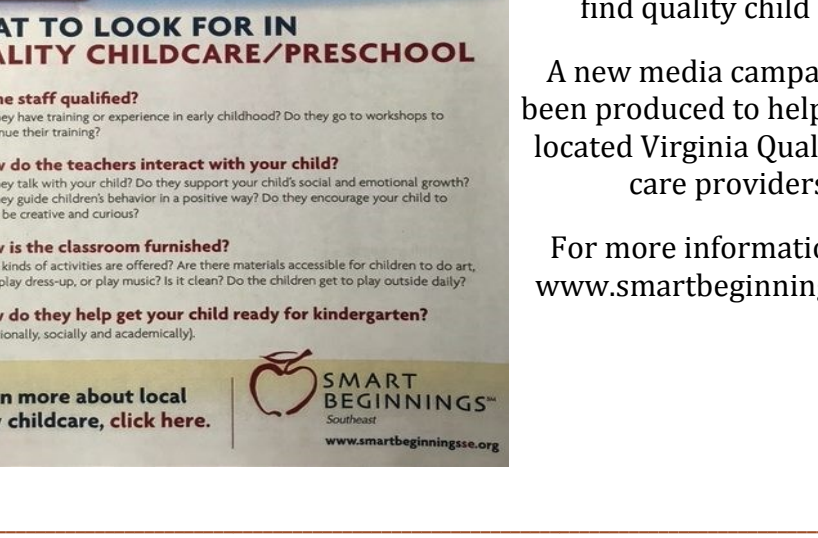


Prince George County offers a number of services designed to enhance early childhood through the Prince George Library's numerous reading and story time programs, Smart Beginnings Southeast, Prince George Parks and Recreation's programming, Hopewell- Prince George Healthy Families, District 19 Community Services Board Early Intervention Services, Prince George Social Services' Toddler Fair and ASQ screenings, Prince George Public Schools, and through support of quality child care and pre-school providers throughout the county.

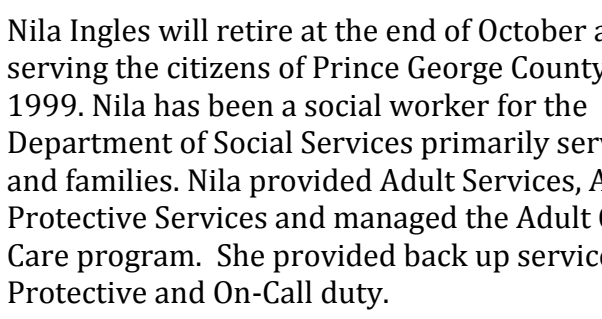
The awards for the Stairway to Success Program were given out during VML's annual conference in October.

## Prince George DSS team raise funds to support Breast Cancer awareness

Prince George Social Services staff held a "wear PINK day" in October to raise funds in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. A total of \$75.00 is being donated on behalf of the staff.



## Choosing Quality Child Care



Smart Beginnings Southeast partners with Prince George, Hopewell, and Dinwiddie Social Services to help families find quality child care.

A new media campaign has been produced to help families located Virginia Quality child care providers.

For more information visit [www.smartbeginningsse.org](http://www.smartbeginningsse.org)

## Nila Ingles to retire after 17 years with Prince George Social Services

Nila Ingles will retire at the end of October after serving the citizens of Prince George County since 1999. Nila has been a social worker for the Department of Social Services primarily serving adults and families. Nila provided Adult Services, Adult Protective Services and managed the Adult Companion Care program. She provided back up services for Child Protective and On-Call duty.



Nila's cheerful disposition and relentless commitment to advocating for her clients has garnered high regards from the individuals and families she has worked with. She and Frank, her husband of 41 years, are making plans to spend their retirement in the Philippines trying their hand at farming.

Nila, you will be missed but we wish you years of health, happiness, and good crops.

## Science Museum of Virginia announces access program for low income families



By Katherine Calos, Richmond Times Dispatch

The Science Museum of Virginia will discount its admission fee to \$2 per adult and \$1 per child for low-income families who show an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

The program reflects a new partnership with Museums for All, a national initiative to make quality museum learning experiences available to everyone.

Guests with an EBT card, which normally used in grocery stores to access SNAP benefits, also can opt to watch a movie in The Dome theater for an additional \$1 per person.

"It is our fundamental role to use science to inspire the greater community", said Richard Conti, museum director. "Joining the Museums for All initiative strengthens our commitment to making our experiences more accessible."

Museums for All was developed by the Association of Children's Museums and Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information, visit [www.smv.org](http://www.smv.org) or call (804)864-1400.

To apply for any benefits program : SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, or Energy Assistance :

[WWW.COMMONHELP.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://WWW.COMMONHELP.VIRGINIA.GOV)

## Prince George Social Services Office Closings:

Prince George Social Services will be closed for the following holidays during the next quarter:

- Friday, November 11th– Veterans Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 24th-25th– Thanksgiving
- Friday & Monday, December 23-26th– Christmas
- Monday, January 2– New Years