



Social Services Currents

~A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Prince George County Dept of Social Services~

Back to School Drive

Celebrating Foster Care Month

May is Foster Care Month. We want to thank all the families who have chosen to become foster families. What you do is important in the life of a child.

***Foster Families...
Change a Lifetime***



Prince George County will hold its 3rd annual Back to School Fair on Wednesday August 27th from 4p.m.-7p.m. at Scott Park. Donations are now being accepted for school supplies by the Prince George Social Services:

Supply List

- Pocket Folders
- Glue Sticks or Elmer's glue
- Backpack or Book bag (with **NO** wheels)
- Safety Scissors
- Spiral Notebooks
- Standard Size clipboard
- Highlighters
- Divider Tabs (with 8 categories in a package)
- Plastic Index card Boxes
- 3"x 5" index cards
- Scotch Tape
- Pack of Page Protectors
- Boxes of Tissue
- Small Plastic School Box
- Washable Markers (wide tip and tin-lined)
- Crayons (8 or 24 count)
- Erasers (small/big)
- Art Gum Eraser
- #2 Pencils
- Package of Dry Erase markers
- Notebook paper
- 3 Ring Binder (½ in -3 inch)
- Flexible Binder
- Colored pencils (12 count)
- Notebook Paper
- Zippered Pencil pouch for binder



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Benefits Division

Division Responsibilities:

- ♦ SNAP
- ♦ TANF & VIEW
- ♦ Families and Children Medicaid
- ♦ Long Term Care Medicaid
- ♦ Energy Share
- ♦ Cooling Assistance & Fuel
- ♦ Crisis Energy Assistance
- ♦ IV-E Foster Care Medicaid

What is the Cooling Program?

The Cooling Program is a program that assists low-income households with their cooling needs.

Cooling Help Available:

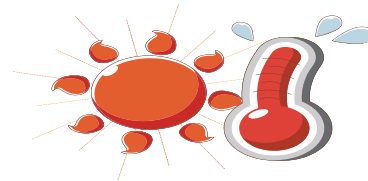
- One portable fan
- One air conditioner unit or heat pump
- Electric security deposit
- One ceiling, attic, or whole house fan
- Pay electric bill to operate cooling equipment

Cooling assistance will run June 15, 2014-August 15, 2014.

Note: *If the 15th of either month falls on a weekend the program will begin or end the first business day of the following week.*

Things to remember:

- ♦ Applications can be mailed, faxed, or returned in person
- ♦ Only one member of a household may apply
- ♦ Applications must be signed to be valid



Virginia EBT can be used at local Farmers Markets!!

The Farmer's Market: EBT

Customers can buy fresh, local foods with SNAP Benefits. EBT card holders should locate the market manager and he/she will swipe their EBT card for the amount requested. Card holders will receive \$1.00 wooden tokens.

These tokens act like cash in the market. The wooden tokens can be used to buy fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, baked goods, herbs, honey, jams, preserves, wrapped baked goods to be consumed at home, plants that produce food, and cheese.

Note: *Hot prepared foods, alcohol, and non-food items cannot be purchased with EBT, same as the grocery store.*



Hurricane preparedness sales tax Holiday
May 25-May 31, 2014

Hurricane Preparedness

The 2014 **Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday** is May 25-May 31, 2014. Items with a selling price of \$60 or less may be purchased tax exempt during this time frame. This includes:

- ♦ Smoke Detectors
- ♦ Carbon monoxide detectors
- ♦ Fire extinguishers
- ♦ 9 volt batteries

For the 2014 Tax Holiday, chain saws less than \$350 are included.

For more information on Emergency Preparedness, please visit www.vaemergency.gov.

Adoption and Foster Care

Currently, there are over four thousand children in Virginia's foster care system. Of those 4,000, over 1,000 children are ready for adoption right now. For every 100 children who age out of foster care, more than half will have unstable housing or become homeless and 94% of foster youth will not graduate from college.

Is foster parenting a good fit for you?

There are some questions

you may want to ask yourself before taking the next step to becoming a foster parent:

- ♦ Can I love and care for a child who comes from a different background?
- ♦ Can I help a child develop a sense of belonging in my home even though the stay is temporary?
- ♦ Am I secure enough in my parenting skills while at the same time being willing to learn new parenting skills?

- ♦ Can I tolerate major failures and small success?
- ♦ Can I accept assistance and guidance from trained social workers?

Little known facts:

- ♦ There is no income requirement to be a foster parent.
- ♦ Single individuals as well as married couples can become foster parents.
- ♦ Over 80% of Virginia's foster parents adopt a child who they fostered.

Services Division

Responsibilities:

- ♦ *Child Protective Services & Prevention*
- ♦ *Adult Services & Adult Protective Services,*
- ♦ *Foster Care*
- ♦ *Childcare Assistance*
- ♦ *CSA*



"May is Adult Abuse Prevention Month"

How to Become a Foster Parent

Contact your local department of Social Services. Each local department works with new families in somewhat different ways but all prospective foster parents experience the following: A one-time orientation meeting to learn what foster parenting is all about. Working with a foster family recruiter to discuss your interest in being a foster parent and the types of children who

need foster families. Completing a mutual assessment process which includes several meetings with you and other family members to: make sure you have ample space, enough beds and space for the child to keep his belongings, meet basic fire and safety rules, make sure you are physically and emotionally capable of caring for a child and have no substance abuse problems, be

able to pass a criminal history check, attend training to help you develop, and make enough money to provide for your own family so you do not have to rely on the foster care reimbursement.

May is Adult Abuse Prevention Month

Last Year in Virginia, more than 20,700 incidents of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of elderly persons and adults with disabilities were reported to adult protective services (APS). Over 1,000 reports of financial exploitation were substantiated. Most cases of abuse were perpetrated by family members or others whom the victim should have been able to trust. Victims

of adult abuse come from all income levels, abilities, races, and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to the exploitation of an adult's financial resources or property, adult mistreatment may include physical abuse, sexual assault or neglect of essential health or personal needs.

Adult protective services is the system operated by local depart-

ments of social services to investigate allegations of adult abuse and provide services to stop or alleviate the mistreatment. With consent of the victim or his legal representative, APS can arrange assistance such as adult day care, counseling, in-home support, and residential services.



Report Adult Abuse:
1-888-832-3858

24 hour toll free hotline



The staff of Prince George Social Services expresses their best wishes to Anita Squire. Mrs. Squire has accepted a position providing outreach education with the Department of Aging and Rehab Services (DARS). Mrs. Squire has worked for Prince George for nine years providing citizens with assistance in the Adult Medicaid and Long Term Care programs. We look forward to working with Mrs. Squire in her new role.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Prince George Promise Grant Applications due June 1, 2014 for Grants up to \$1500 (www.pgpromise.org)
- Prince George Farmer's Market open each Saturday through the fall
- Memorial Day Holiday – Offices Closed 5/26/14
- Special Olympics Torch Run & Walk 6/5/14
- National Night Out Celebration 8/5/14
- 3rd Annual Back to School Fair 8/27/14 from 4–7 pm @ Scott Park

The Mission of the Prince George Department of Social Services is to work collaboratively with other community agencies in order to promote self-reliance and protection of citizens in our community. Our commitment is to provide quality services and assistance that acknowledge our clients as part of a system and empowers them by building on their competencies.



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