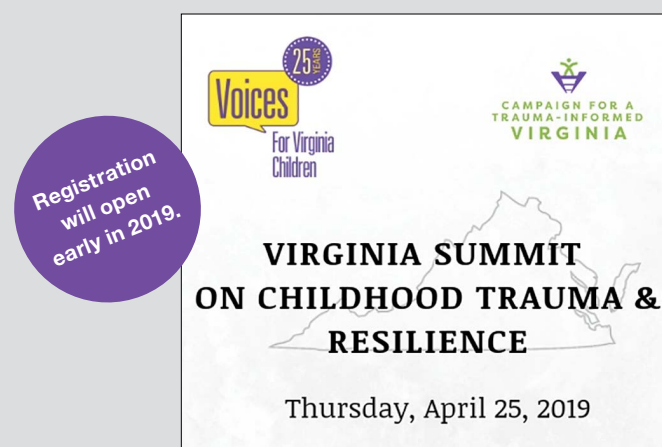


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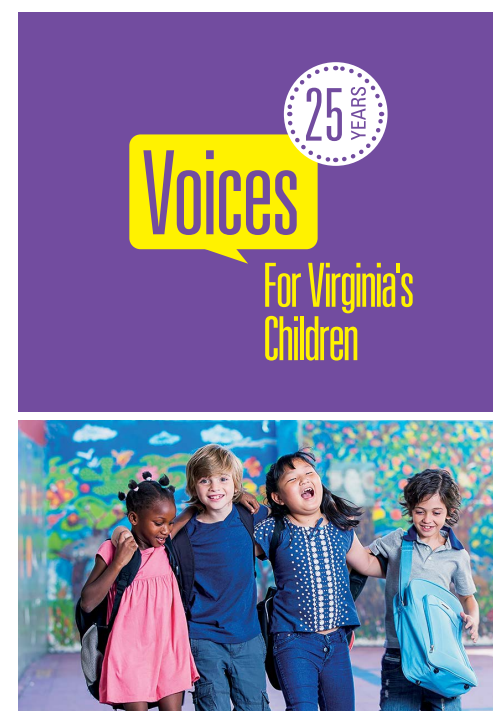


Voices is thrilled to announce our Executive Director, Margaret Nimmo Holland, has been named a 2018 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Person of the Year honoree! She is being recognized for shaping Richmond and for her achievements helping children. Margaret is featured in the December edition of the RTD's Discover Richmond magazine. She and the other nominees were honored at a luncheon in Richmond on December 10, 2018.

To mark the milestone of its 25th anniversary, Voices for Virginia's Children will host the **Virginia Summit on Childhood Trauma and Resilience**, in partnership with Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), Family & Children's Trust Fund (FACT) of Virginia, and Families Forward Virginia. The summit, on April 25, 2019 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, will focus on policies and practices that need to change to prevent adverse childhood experiences and promote resilience. Nationally renowned pediatrician Dr. Nadine Burke Harris is the keynote speaker.



visit us at vakids.org



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018 – 2019



Dear Friends,

What an exciting year! Voices for Virginia's Children is celebrating its 25th Anniversary and is thrilled that Virginia's First Lady, Pamela Northam, is joining us as our Honorary Chair.

For nearly 25 years, Voices has been fulfilling its mission to champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia's children. We celebrate the foresight and determination



Margaret Nimmo Holland with Virginia's First Lady Pamela Northam, 25th Anniversary Honorary Chair

of our founders, who ensured that children are represented by an independent, nonpartisan voice in the state capitol and beyond. We also look to the future with excitement and a commitment to expand our efforts to shape policies that create a brighter future for Virginia's youngest residents.

In 1994, with the support of the Freddie Mac Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, concerned citizens, including former First Ladies

of Virginia Jinks Holton and Jeannie Baliles, founded the Action Alliance for Virginia's Children and Youth to champion legislation benefitting children and families. In 2002, we changed our name to Voices for Virginia's Children. Today, our work focuses on child well-being in the domains of early care and learning, foster care and adoption, health, mental health, and family economic security.

To mark the milestone of our 25th anniversary, we are hosting a statewide Summit on Childhood Trauma and Resilience on April 25, 2019. It will feature nationally renowned trauma expert Dr. Nadine Burke Harris as the keynote speaker, a panel of state policymakers, and breakout sessions for child- and family-serving professionals. We will also invite our key supporters through the years to a celebratory reception that evening with Dr. Burke Harris.

In gratitude for our first 25 years of improving the lives of Virginia's children — and in preparation for our next 25 years of having an even bigger influence — we ask you to invest in the future of children with a year-end gift to Voices for Virginia's Children.

Here's to the next 25 years!

Sincerely,

Margaret Nimmo Holland
Executive Director

25TH ANNIVERSARY HONORARY COUNCIL

Chair

First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam

Ms. Jeannie Baliles

The Honorable James Dyke, Jr.

Mrs. Carol Fox

Mrs. Margaret Freeman

The Honorable Eva Teig Hardy

The Honorable William A. Hazel, Jr.

The Honorable Anne Holton

Mrs. Jinks Holton

The Honorable William C. Mims

Ms. Renette Oklewicz

Mrs. Deborah Oswalt

Mr. Xavier Richardson

Mr. David Robinson

CAROL S. FOX MAKING KIDS COUNT AWARD RECEPTION

On Oct. 4, 2018, Voices for Virginia’s Children hosted the seventh annual Carol S. Fox MAKING KIDS COUNT award reception. The event, held in Richmond at the John Marshall Ballrooms, honored one individual and one organization for exemplary efforts to improve the lives of the commonwealth’s children. Those honored were national child health advocate, Linda Nablo, and Children’s Home Society of Virginia. More than 200 people attended the event, which supports Voices’ mission to champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia’s children.



First Lady Pamela Northam shares a laugh with speaker Sophia Booker while Voices board member Annie Kasper looks on.



Longtime Voices board member, Carol Fox, attends the festivities with her husband, Carter.



Debbie Oswalt, Voices board member Sandy Bowen, and board chair Keith Hare (far right) celebrate with Bruin Richardson, Chief Advancement Officer of organizational honoree Children’s Home Society of Virginia, and individual honoree Linda Nablo.

Welcome!

Voices adds new board and staff members



Voices has some new faces! Please help us welcome our newest board members, **Terry Thompson** (left) and **CC Clark**. CC Clark moved to Arlington after stints in California, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, and growing up in New York City. In Arlington, she is involved in school committees, church leadership, and has been a supporter of efforts that benefit families and civic

organizations that house the homeless. CC is self-employed as an industrial and organizational psychologist. She holds a Ph.D. from Penn State, an MS in general experimental psychology from Villanova, and a BA in psychology from Wesleyan University.

Terry Thompson also lives in Arlington. She is a National Trustee of the National Symphony Orchestra. Terry is a retired human resources consultant. Her specialty was compensation and benefits strategy and design; she also managed large client accounts. Terry graduated from the College of William and Mary with an A.B. degree in

philosophy. She obtained an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Tennessee. She was a member of William and Mary’s women’s basketball team and recently established a women’s basketball scholarship.

In addition, Voices’ staff is expanding! Development Director **Katie Ferguson** (left), joined our team in October. Katie comes to Voices with extensive experience in higher education and nonprofit development, most recently from the University of Virginia’s McIntire School of Commerce.



Outreach Coordinator **Chloe Edwards** (center), came to work for Voices in her newly created position in early summer. Chloe’s previous role was Director of Connecting Hearts, a nonprofit that strives to find permanent, loving homes for children living in foster care.

Christina Feerick (right) has been serving as our new Communications Director since the end of August. After nearly 20 years of local television news, her passion for children’s issues prompted her to use her journalism and communications talents to help the underserved across the commonwealth. We welcome them to our team!

ADVOCATING FOR VIRGINIA’S CHILDREN: NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The 2019 legislative session provides exciting opportunities to improve policies impacting Virginia’s children and families. Many opportunities are the result of the Northam administration’s focus on children’s issues, as evidenced by the establishment of the Children’s Cabinet, one of Voices’ key advocacy priorities last year. The Children’s Cabinet has been vetting proposals related to early childhood education and student safety that will be considered during the 2019 General Assembly session.

Other opportunities are the result of Congressional action. The federal budget passed earlier this year included the largest-ever increase in child care funding and the first transformation of the child welfare system in nearly 40 years. Virginia legislators will decide how to implement these proposals in 2019.

Some opportunities are in response to tragedy. The House Select Committee on School Safety and the governor’s workgroup on this topic have made recommendations to prevent school shootings from occurring, including proposals to identify student mental health needs and bolster systems to respond.

Until now, Voices has never had the chance to advocate for transformational policy proposals across all of our issue areas in one session! While we have an overall policy agenda for our organization (available at vakids.org), we are also — for the first time — bringing together partners across the commonwealth to advocate for a Unified Policy Agenda for the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia. These priorities are:

- 1. Increase support staff in schools such as counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses to help schools recognize and respond to trauma and implement trauma-informed interventions.
- 2. Provide training in trauma recognition and trauma-informed approaches to all school personnel, including school resource officers.
- 3. Support the initial steps to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act by increasing evidence-based and trauma-informed services to prevent children from being placed in foster care.
- 4. Improve access to children’s mental health crisis services through the continued implementation of STEP-VA.
- 5. Provide support for communities to build trauma-informed networks.



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Visit our website, **vakids.org**, for more information and to sign up for our emails so that you can stay up to date during session and take action on these and other priorities!

Trauma Campaign

The Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia

Over the last two years, Voices has championed trauma-informed policy at the state level, including introducing the concepts of trauma-informed care and making recommendations to look across state agencies to create a definition of trauma-informed care.

Research shows how to counteract adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by designing our systems to better serve our children. 19% of children in Virginia have experienced two or more ACEs. These ACEs can shape the course of children’s health and development over a lifetime. Responsive relationships and strong communities can buffer the effects of ACEs. Our systems, programs, services and staff should become trauma-informed to recognize children who have experienced trauma and to help foster resiliency.

Trauma-Informed Care Initiatives

Initiatives are taking shape at the state and local level to help communities become more trauma-informed. Legislators are working



to improve the safety and climate of schools, transform our behavioral health system, shift child welfare toward prevention, and expand early learning opportunities. In order to promote resiliency, Voices believes our laws and funding decisions should support trauma-informed systems and communities.

Goals of the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia

The goal of the Campaign is to influence state policymakers to adopt trauma-informed approaches by increasing investments in prevention of trauma and adopting trauma-informed and evidence-based practices across state agencies.