



# Annual IMPACT FY REPORT 24



# ABOUT

Volunteer Fairfax has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1974. **For the last 50 years, we have been engaging people and organizations to amplify their community impact.**

Volunteer Fairfax is dedicated to achieving its mission through a diverse range of programs, special events, and services. By engaging in these activities, we enhance the capabilities of local nonprofit organizations, facilitate connections between for-profit resources and community needs, pair volunteers with impactful service opportunities, help government programs, and offer volunteer opportunities suitable for youths, seniors, families and corporations. Together, we are making a significant difference in our community by fostering collaboration, empowering individuals to give back, and creating a more vibrant and connected society.



## our mission

*Volunteer Fairfax engages people and organizations to amplify their community impact.*

# LETTER FROM THE CEO



*Fred Rogers - “Look for the helpers...because if you’ll look for the helpers, you’ll know that there’s hope.”* This is the vision that motivated me as I embarked on my new role as CEO of Volunteer Fairfax (VF) a year ago and the sentiment embodies the spirit of the organization perfectly. **For 50 years, connecting helpers to those in need is what we do best.** VF has learned that to build a strong community, we need to mobilize nonprofits, public agencies and corporations to address critical needs through intentional volunteer engagement projects. VF entered its 50th year with the goal and momentum to engage more people and organizations and to amplify their impact within our community, more effectively than ever before.

Fiscal Year 2023-24 saw a significant resurgence of interest in in-person volunteer activities; **we had over 20k hours of volunteer time, provided over \$700k in service value, and engaged with 650 nonprofits and agency partners.** Our programs and signature events excelled and grew tremendously.

The **Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** provides opportunities for our older residents to use their experience, expertise, and passion on behalf of the most vulnerable among their neighbors. This program alone with 193 active volunteers, engaged with 40 nonprofit partners to provide 10,000 hours of service.

Through our **Corporate BusinessLink services**, we connected companies with nonprofits to complete community projects that provided meaningful engagement and teambuilding opportunities for our corporate partners while providing much needed volunteer labor and resources to our nonprofit partners. Almost 600 staff members from 6 companies completed 19 projects and provided 2,015 volunteer hours through this program. VF is a connector and capacity builder.

We deepened our **Emergency Response** preparedness and partnerships with Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax. In the event of a major disaster, Volunteer Fairfax will support response and recovery efforts through volunteer and donations management. The entire staff of Volunteer Fairfax is up to date on our emergency response training. As CEO, I personally have received over 100 hours of FEMA and emergency response training to ensure we will be ready to respond in the event of an emergency.

I was deeply moved seeing over 400 dedicated volunteers in action during October's **VolunteerFest** where I had the privilege of personally visiting four of the 21 projects happening on this day of service. I was particularly moved by my experience at Emmanuel Baptist Church supporting FACETS in their food distribution to over a thousand families experiencing food insecurity.

Volunteer Fairfax then kicked off 2024 with our annual **MLK Jr. Weekend of Service** event featuring a family-friendly day of service designed to engage families with children ages 5–12 in service learning. This year, almost 600 volunteers completed twelve service projects for several community nonprofits supporting food insecurity, elder care, veterans, animal welfare, and other causes.

Every spring, VF honors the commitment of volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and corporate partners who tirelessly contribute to the betterment of the Northern Virginia region by hosting the **Volunteer Service Awards**. This year, VF was thrilled to honor 17 award recipients in front of a crowd of 200 attendees.

Fiscal year 2023-2024 has been one of our most transformative years yet but we are looking forward to next year with an eye towards strategic rebuilding and growth for VF. We adopted a new strategic plan that will help us focus on building capacity and fulfilling our mission.

**The key pillars of Volunteer Fairfax's new strategic plan are:**

**LEADERSHIP** - Serving as the preeminent organization for community engagement.

**COLLABORATION** – Strengthening community bonds across sectors by connecting with stakeholders (municipalities, companies, and nonprofits).

**IMPACT** - Elevating the significance and power of community engagement.

I am wishing you a year of progress and hope as we strengthen and unite our community through volunteerism.

Sincerely yours,

**Jennifer Williamson**

# GROWTH



**650**

Nonprofits and agency partners



**+8k**

Volunteers engaged



**+20k**

Hours



- **8,223 volunteers** engaged
- Volunteers contributed **20,984 hours**, with an estimated value of **\$700,446** to the community
- More than **650 nonprofits and public agencies** served

# ENGAGEMENT/programs

## ACS

Alternative Community Service (ACS) is an option that enables court-referred and pre-trial (attorney referred or recommended) clients to perform community service in lieu of a fine or jail term and to enhance their reputation with the Court. We actively work alongside probation officers, attorneys, and court officials to provide the best possible service to achieve a successful outcome for the client.



**27**

Agencies served



**180,419**

Value for hours served



**5,405**

Hours

## WEBINARS

In our commitment to support Volunteer Directors, Managers, Coordinators, and other volunteer engagement leaders, Volunteer Fairfax offers volunteer management educational opportunities at no cost.



**37**

Trainings/Orientations



**2720**

Attendees

# ENGAGEMENT/programs

## BUSINESS LINK

Through our proprietary program, BusinessLink, **we customize service events that are purposeful, engaging, and fun.** Building teams that feel connected, recognized, and supported in today's workplace often means finding new experiences to engage in together. Volunteer Fairfax's BusinessLink team is uniquely qualified to support your employee engagement and community impact goals. **As a Points of Light affiliate, our team specializes in developing customized service projects for partners across the country.**



*Volunteering at Covenant House D.C. has truly been an enriching experience. I am grateful for the chance to make a difference in our community. I look forward to continuing my journey with Volunteer Fairfax and furthering a shared mission of community betterment. Thanks Andrew and Maya!*

**- Yolanda Moore, Fidelity Investments Volunteer"**

*"This group's contributions have had a profound and lasting impact on Covenant House Greater Washington. Their selfless efforts have improved our facilities, supported our programs, and, most importantly, uplifted the spirits of the youth and families we serve. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and generosity."*

**- Covenant House**

# ENGAGEMENT/programs

## RSVP



RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) is part of AmeriCorps Seniors, which focuses on making public service a central part of the American experience.

At RSVP, we link volunteers aged 55 and older with nonprofit organizations throughout the community. RSVP serves as a gathering place for older adults to socialize, participate in group service projects, and work toward the common goal of making Northern Virginia stronger, more resilient, and empowered.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer **Robbie Mosley** was recently honored at the annual Volunteer Service Awards event, when Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay selected him as the 2024 Community Champion for the County at Large. Over the past four years, **Robbie has given nearly 1,500 hours of service** to local nonprofits. He performs two types of volunteer work – the physical, as a truck driver and loader/unloader/organizer for United Communities’ food pantry, and the intellectual, as a financial educator for eighth graders at Junior Achievement and financial coach for clients of Britepaths’ Financial Empowerment Center.



Robbie volunteers because, recognizing faith and service as cornerstone attributes in his daily life, *“the call of giving back is a direct reflection of the many people over time giving/pouring into me.”* Further, *“with the diverse RSVP portfolio, I can utilize my personal skills and interest areas in supporting the needs of the community.”* As Chairman McKay said, *“Robbie is a shining example of true community service. He works tirelessly to help ensure that our residents have access to basic necessities as well as the tools they need to achieve long-term financial stability.”*



**40**

Nonprofit partners



**193**

Active volunteers



**10,000**

Hours

# ENGAGEMENT/signature events

## VOLUNTEERFEST

VolunteerFest is a county-wide initiative fostering volunteerism. Volunteer Fairfax has been mobilizing people and resources to meet regional community needs. We have partnered with a lots of area nonprofits to provide a variety of projects serving diverse community needs and mission areas including food insecurity, learning garden maintenance, park clean-ups, encouragement cards, emergency response, animal welfare and more!

In 2023, over 400 volunteers participated in 21 unique projects serving a variety of local nonprofit partners and supporting mission areas from grounds beautification and liter collection to food collection, packing and distribution, card making and caring projects. In addition to in-person events, volunteers also worked at-home to support donation needs for nonprofit partners.



Volunteers

**425**



Projects

**21**



# ENGAGEMENT/signature events

## VSA

The Volunteer Service Awards (VSA) serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. Each year, Volunteer Fairfax honors the commitment of volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and corporate partners who tirelessly contribute to the betterment of the Northern Virginia region. These individuals are nominated by community members, local nonprofits, and government agencies for their unwavering dedication to the community.



Honored Individuals

**17**



Attendees

**200**



nominations received

**68**

# ENGAGEMENT/signature events

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Families (children ages 5-12) come together to complete service projects and to learn about the work of several nonprofits serving the community. Projects support a variety of mission areas, including environmental stewardship, food insecurity, caring kits, animal welfare, and more. Youth received passports that were stamped as projects were completed.



**597**  
Attendees



**1,356**  
Hours



“Donating money is easy, but donating our time is a genuine testament to our commitment to this cause... The opportunity to bring families together and get them excited about volunteering in the community through this event was fantastic. Additionally, the opportunity to have Cris Watkins, Sr. Director of Proposals, speak about giving back in the context of MLK’s life and vision was inspiring. ITC Federal was also excited to have our local congressional representative reinforce the value of this event”.

- **Greg Fitzgerald, CEO of ITC Federal** and Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend of Service Presenting Supporter.

# CONTACT US



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