



# Hispanic Committee of Virginia

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## Comité Hispano de Virginia

February 23, 2001

*Executive Director*  
Jorge E. Figueredo

*Deputy Director*  
Irma Ortiz

**Board of Directors**  
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Falls Church, VA 22041  
(703) 671-5666

**Arlington**  
2049 N. 15th Street,  
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**Herndon**  
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(703) 435-7819 or  
(703) 671-5666

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7224 Commerce Street,  
Suite T1  
Springfield, VA 22150  
(703) 644-0000 or  
(703) 671-5666

**City of Alexandria**  
1200 N. Howard Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 671-5666

[www.hispaniccommitteeofvirginia.org](http://www.hispaniccommitteeofvirginia.org)

Good morning Mayor Donley, members of the City Council of Alexandria, residents, ladies and gentleman. As Executive Director of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, I stand before you today to discuss an option that my organization proposes to better assist the needs of the Hispanic community in the City of Alexandria.

On Tuesday, February 20th, 2001, I was able to attend the Public Hearing organized by the City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission and the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee which focused on the challenges facing Alexandria's Hispanic population. As you may be aware, the Hispanic community to date represents 13.4% of the total population in the City of Alexandria. According to the 1999, Alexandria United Way needs assessment, this city's Hispanics are more likely to live in poverty, speak limited English, and lack formal education. All these challenges were confirmed by Hispanic resident testimonies at the public hearing.

**For 33 years** the Hispanic Committee of Virginia has helped Hispanic immigrants and families in Northern Virginia overcome **barriers of language, culture, isolation, and poverty** in order to access community services and gain skills that enable them to improve their **family's well being and make productive contributions** to Virginia's communities. The mission of HCV is to **enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society.**

HCV provides education, employment, immigration, information and referral and social services. Our **bilingual, bicultural staff** comes from 12 Latin American countries and the United States. HCV has offices in Fairfax County and Arlington County as well as satellite offices in Alexandria, Herndon, and Springfield that are open one or two days a week.

HCV is equipped and committed to provide **the missing link** between the existing community resources and the Hispanic residents. Recently, HCV submitted a **proposal to the City of Alexandria's Community Partnership Fund for Human Services** with the hope to expand our Alexandria satellite office into a full time service office. This office would replicate HCV's model of holistic services that has been enormously successful in Fairfax and Arlington Counties.

In order to achieve this, HCV is looking for **in-kind space** provided by the City. With this office space, HCV can implement programs that in the end will enhance the Hispanic Residents' knowledge of service systems in the City of Alexandria. This mutually beneficial relationship will also result in **more cost-effective utilization of existing services.** For example, let's take the misuse of Hospital Emergency Rooms. Hispanic families are not fully aware of community health programs and other community health services available to them. In Alexandria, our Social Service workers will help these families access appropriate, affordable health services.

Having identified these issues, I am here to engage the Council and residents of the City of Alexandria in pursuing ideas and strategies to secure **in-kind or low cost office space** so that HCV can more fully serve Alexandria's Hispanic families in need.



# Hispanic Committee of Virginia

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## Comité Hispano de Virginia



CFC  
8272

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The Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCV) is a 501 c (3) non-profit, non-partisan organization offering programs and services that enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society. Since 1967, HCV has provided a wide range of services to Hispanics and the community at-large in Northern Virginia. HCV has offices in Falls Church, and Arlington, as well as satellite sites in Alexandria City, Reston and Springfield. The bilingual staff of 25 comes from 11 Latin American countries plus the United States.

### **Education Programs**

**Goal:** To provide education services that promote learning and encourage youths to stay in school while assisting parents to participate in their children's education and expand their own potential.

#### ***Alianza Escolar*** (School Alliance)

Matches Hispanic children who attend targeted elementary and middle schools with adult volunteers for tutoring and other mentoring activities. The program works with students whose environment puts them at risk of dropping out of school.

Teachers and counselors identify Hispanic students in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grades for the program. After being selected, we match each student with a volunteer mentor.

Throughout the school year, the students meet with their mentors one evening a week for 1 hour sessions. The mentors help the students with their schoolwork, concentrate on verbal and math skills, and provide activities that promote the students' achievements.

### ***Alianza Summer Camp***

Exposes Hispanic students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to different aspects of science and technology and other health related fields in order to expand their knowledge spark their interest and excite them about all the different possibilities that exist for them in the future. During an intensive three-week summer program, we offer a combination of hands-on activities, field trips and guest speakers from the community, all designed to encourage and inspire these students.

### ***Arroz con Leche (Rice Pudding)***

Is an after school reading program targeting 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students that meets once a week at various sites in Fairfax and Arlington counties. The program is targeted to the educational and developmental needs of younger children, helping them to develop reading and language skills. Each *Arroz* session includes stories based on a Hispanic legend or folktale, traditional songs, theatrics, games and activities related to the stories. The children demonstrate their comprehension by completing activities that reinforce the stories themes. Parents are invited to participate as volunteers and are encouraged to join their children in these activities.

### ***Beginners ESL for Adults***

Adult ESL classes are taught through a Life Skills curriculum. The curriculum provides instruction that takes into account all of the roles that adult learners play in their community. The goal of the class is to better prepare each student, and improve their quality of life. The eight-week session meets twice a week, where adult students learn English dealing with health, banking, shopping, schools system, and transportation.

**Number of children and families served in FY 2000: 82**

**Number of services provided in FY 2000: 922 individual sessions with children**

The staff provide complete orientations, assist in completing all forms and applications, and in gathering supporting documents required with the applications. We maintain walk-in hour's two days a week in order to answer questions and provide advice regarding the clients situations.

**Number of clients served in FY 2000: 2,615 from 1,811 families**

**Number of services provided in FY 2000: 3,667**

### **Employment Program**

Goal: To provide employment services that give job seekers the knowledge and skills to look for, obtain and maintain employment.

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia Employment Program offers clients employment consultations, providing them with knowledge and information, which will better prepare them to develop a plan of action for employment. HCV assists clients in preparing resumes; writing cover letters and filling out job applications. We directly assist clients by educating them about job requirements; practicing interview skills; matching clients with opportunities in the in-house job bank; making referrals to specific job leads and potential employers; referring to job-training programs and other outside resources. HCV places clients with hundreds of companies such as Hilton, Canon, Merry Maids, Hechts, as well as the local government. HCV also assists clients with employment-related disputes, including worker compensation, salary problems and discrimination. We offer monthly employment seminars and workshops on how to gain and maintain employment. We also hold semi-annual job fairs, typically with representatives from up to 25 companies, such as EDS, Buhl Electric and Kelly Services and a wide range of professions.

**Number of clients served in fiscal year 2000: 2,017 including over 300 job fair participants**

**Number of services provided in FY 2000: 3,431**

## **Social Services**

Goal: To provide social services that enable clients with financial and economic difficulties to meet basic needs, obtain and access services, overcome social, cultural and language barriers, while encouraging these clients to make progress towards longer-term self-sufficiency.

HCV Community Workers (CW) help families to obtain, access and resolve issues and needs for medical care, improve housing situation, enroll their children in education programs, to pay rent despite financial crisis, consult a lawyer, to enroll in a job training program, to receive a bag of groceries, and to fill out a form. The Community Workers meet with clients for an interview and assessment of the client needs, and determine the immediate resolution to the situation; and follow-up on progress.

Additional services provided by the CWs include home and other outside visits; collaboration with government and other providers; translation and interpretation assistance; arrangements for transportation; arrangement for volunteers; in-house referrals to other HCV programs; and referrals to outside agencies.

### ***Todos Juntos***

This is an initiative of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia and the Arlington Health Foundation to improve the lives of Hispanics battling cancer. Todos Juntos is the first Spanish support group in Northern Virginia for Latinos with cancer.

**Number of clients served in fiscal year 2000: 3,705 clients from 1,811 families**

**Number of services provided in FY 2000: 8,591**

## **Information and Referral Services**

Goal: To Provide answers, information, referrals, and services that will enable the Spanish-speaking population to become more independent and self-sufficient.

Over the phone, and in person the Hispanic Committee of Virginias' Information and Referral staff assists clients in several ways: (1) Referring people in-house to HCV's Social Service, Employment, Immigration or Education programs, depending on the issue they need to address, or referring them to other agencies for assistance. (2) Answering questions and providing information of all sorts. (3) Helping clients access available community resources and services, such as finding a specific type of attorney, finding a dentist or a health clinic. (4) Providing verbal translations of letters and documents. (5) Providing over-the-phone interpretations often times between the client and other professional services. (6) Notarizations, and written translations of important records.

**Number of services provided in FY 2000: 33,879**

## **Immigration Services**

Goal: To meet the Hispanic population's need for bilingual, affordable and accessible immigration assistance in Northern Virginia.

The Hispanic Committee of Virginias Immigration Services Program provides clients with information, answers, and referrals as the means to achieve their long-term goals of becoming a citizen. The most common forms and procedures with which we assist clients are (1) becoming an U.S. citizen (2) changing their permanent status (3) Renewing their work authorizations, and (4) reuniting families.

## **Volunteer Program**

Volunteers play a vital role in the Hispanic Committee's programs and Services. In general this group of men and women provide invaluable support and encouragement to our clients in all of our different programs and services.

Volunteers assist clients with translations, transportation to appointments, visiting clients at their home or hospital, and helping tutor or mentor 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Hispanic Committee of Virginia's Volunteer Program also aids with administrative support, and as a member of HCV's Gala Host Committee.

**Number of Hours Served by Volunteers: 4,683 hours helping the community.**

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia has partnered with the following organizations and agencies to continue empowering the Hispanic community in Northern Virginia.

### ***Workforce Development Services***

Fairfax County Public Schools, Afghan Association for Solidarity and Cooperation, Boat People SOS, Center for Multicultural Human Services, Ethiopian Economic Development Council, Hispanic Committee of Virginia, Korean Community Service Center, and Northern Virginia Family Services formed a coalition to create a coordinated delivery system to better serve the population by assessing their English skills. This first time coalition of seven organizations coordinate services offered for workplace readiness, and job training in the participants' native language.

Effectively providing to participants in the program efficient and flexible service that will have a viable plan for self-sufficiency within the community.

### *Community Awareness on Domestic Violence*

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia and Boat People SOS joined in a collaborative partnership to assist Fairfax County in the implementation of the Domestic Violence Awareness Program within the Hispanic and Vietnamese communities. The group meets once a week to provide support to these clients. Here the clients find a safe location to access critical services and information that will improve their situations.

### *Culmore Day Laborer's Project*

The Culmore Day Laborers Committee (CDLC) is a coalition comprised of a number of different groups, including St. Anthony's Catholic Church, The Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCV), and the Woodrow Wilson Action Group (WWAG), as well as other area community groups, civic associations, and churches. This coalition came together in the spring of 1998 to address the needs of the large group of Hispanic men who gather near the Culmore 7-Eleven and hire themselves out as day laborers. Over the past years, the CDLC has worked with representatives from the Day Laborers. Community representatives, and representatives from the local government to document the needs of this population. As a result of interviews with 99-day laborers, the group decided to concentrate its efforts in supporting the ability of these men to enhance and obtain trade skills so that they can secure better employment for themselves and their families.

### *GEAR-UP*

GEAR-UP was enacted in 1998, and nationwide this program has services more than 450, 000 students. Glasgow Middle School, Jeb Stuart High School, Northern Virginia Community College, Fairfax County Office of Partnerships, Hopkins House, The Hispanic Committee of Virginia, Northern Virginia Health Education Center developed a combined effort to help students build and strengthen their assets and to achieve academic success. This program targets 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, which are assisted for long term periods to ensure their academic success through the years.



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**About the Hispanic Committee of Virginia**

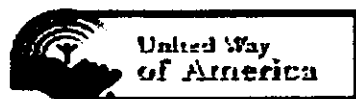
We are a community-based non-profit agency offering programs and services that enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society.

Since 1967, we have provided a wide range of services to Hispanics in Northern Virginia. *El Comité*, as we are known in the community, is where people turn when they face barriers of language or culture, or when an emergency need arises.

For more than thirty years we have been a resource and a strength for the Hispanic community, treating people with dignity, listening carefully to how we can help, and enabling our clients to become self-sufficient.

We have offices in Fairfax County, at Bailey's Crossroads, and in Arlington County, near the Arlington Courthouse. We also have small satellite offices in the City of Alexandria, Herndon, and Springfield. The bilingual staff of 24 come from 12 Latin American countries plus the United States.

United Way CFC #8272



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**Main Office -Bailey's Crossroads**

5827 Columbia Pike, Suite 200  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
703-671-5666

Fax: 703-671-2325

*Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

**Arlington Courthouse Metro**

2049 N. 15th Street, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-243-3033

Fax: 243-2297

*Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

**Herndon/Reston**

Neighborhood Resource Center  
Dulles Park Shopping Center  
1086 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170

703-435-7819 or 435-6830

*Monday & Tuesday; by appointment only*

**Springfield**

7224 Commerce Street, Suite T1  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703-644-0000

*Thursday & Friday; by appointment only*

**City of Alexandria**

1200 North Howard St.  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-671-5666

*Monday & Tuesday; by appointment only*



**City of Alexandria Community Resources**

Division of Family Services  
703-838-0700

Division of Community Programs  
703-838-0920

Joblink Division 703-838-4479

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THE  
HISPANIC  
COMMITTEE  
OF  
VIRGINIA

*The Hispanic Committee of Virginia, also known as El Comité Hispano de Virginia, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the Northern VA area.*

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### **Education Services**

Our education programs include *Arroz con Leche* (Rice Pudding), a bilingual reading program for four to eight year-olds, and *Alianza Escolar*, a tutoring and mentoring program for elementary and junior high students. We hold a children's summer program focused on medicine, science and technology, and also offer adult ESL courses for beginners.

### **Employment Services**

After assessing each client's employment situation and job search skills, our Employment Officer assists the client in preparing resumes, cover letters, and applications. The Employment Officer helps the client practice for job interviews and understand work expectations. The client's skills and experience are matched to positions and opportunities in our extensive job bank. There are also monthly seminars such as "How to Gain and Maintain Employment," as well as, biannual job fairs.

### **Immigration Services**

Our Immigration Specialists provide information, counsel, and referrals for a wide variety of issues. They also help clients complete the complex applications and follow the lengthy procedures for becoming a U.S. citizen, petitioning relatives from abroad, renewing work permits, applying for permanent residency, and pursuing most other immigration-related needs.

### **Mental Health**

A Clinical Psychologist on a referral basis provides family and individual counseling. Therapy sessions and referrals are made through the Social Services program.

### **Social Services**

Our Community Workers provide clients with direct services such as case management, information and orientation, assistance with forms and applications, mental health referrals, crisis intervention, and emergency financial assistance. Clients usually come to us with a very specific problem, need, or crisis, which is often a reflection of a broader, deeper issue. The Community Workers seek out the underlying issues. They discuss and collaborate with their clients on a plan to address those problems or needs, and encourage and support them as they make progress toward their goals.

### **Information & Referral Services**

Over the phone, and in person at the office, the I&R Assistants answer questions, provide information, help clients access community resources and services, and refer clients for further assistance to both our in-house programs and to outside agencies. At the office, I&R Assistants assist clients with verbal translations of letters and documents and with written and notarized translations of important documents such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, and medical records. They also help clients fill out simple forms and applications.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers play a vital part in all of the HCV's programs and services. Our volunteers mentor students in educational programs, serve as interpreters, drive clients to appointments, and assist with other administrative needs. They also help with special events, serve on our Board of Directors, and in general provide invaluable support and encouragement.

To find out more about how you can contribute please call our Volunteer Coordinator at 703-671-5666.

## 2000 Board of Directors

Juan M. Oyhenart, President  
Rosa Arnoldson, Vice-President  
Donald R. Finberg, Treasurer  
Rafael A. Madan, Secretary  
R. Alexander Acosta  
James Guinivan  
Patrick F. Hofer  
Roberto Lavin  
Octavio Ledon  
José A. Trujillo  
Lorraine V. Tully  
Paul Wyatt

## Executive Director

Jorge E. Figueredo, MPP

## How You Can Help

- Become a volunteer.
- Make a financial gift.
- Designate HCV in the United Way CFC Campaign - #8272.
- Join us for the annual Gala.
- Be a Gala sponsor.
- Tell a friend about our work.

Please call the Development Office at 703-671-5666 if you have any specific questions or would like more information.

CFC #8272





Comité Hispano de Virginia  
Hispanic Committee of Virginia

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HISPANIC COMMITTEE OF VIRGINIA

### Transportation and/or Interpretation Assistance

Drive clients to medical, legal, and other appointments, and/or serve as an interpreter during a client appointment. Most of the appointments are during the day, but there are no set hours. We call our volunteers as needed, and they accept or decline specific appointments as they are able. Must be fluent in Spanish and English.

### Drivers for *Todos Juntos*

*Todos Juntos* is a Spanish-language cancer support group for patients, survivors, and families. It meets Wednesday evening in Arlington. Any assistance, regular or occasional, in helping participants get to and from the group meetings is very appreciated. Volunteers do not need to speak Spanish.

### Hospital or Home Visits

A friendly smile, a kind presence, or words of encouragement can go a long, especially for those clients who suffer from cancer or other serious illnesses. We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to pay friendly hospital or home visit to clients. Spanish speaking volunteers preferred.

### Tutor-Mentors for the *Alianza Escolar* Program

*Alianza* matches Hispanic students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade who attend targeted schools in or near Bailey's Crossroads with adult volunteers for tutoring and other mentoring activities. Throughout the school year, each mentor meets with his or her student one evening a week, either Tuesday or Thursday, as part of a structured program. Mentors help students with their school work, concentrate on verbal and math skills, and provide activities that promote the students' self-esteem. They are also invited to participate in field trips and other outside activities. Mentors include both Latinos and non-Latinos.

### Site Coordinators or Site Assistants for the *Arroz Con Leche* Reading Program

*Arroz* is an after school reading program that meets once a week at various sites in Fairfax and Arlington counties. Sessions include stories, games, songs, arts and crafts, and other activities which reinforce a common theme. Volunteers can either take on the responsibility for running a new or current site, or can assist at one of the sites. A detailed handbook and lesson planner is available. This volunteer opportunity is perfect for retired or former teachers who are available during the day. Bilingual volunteers are preferred.

### Gala Host Committee

Every Fall, we hold an elegant and lively dinner and dance to raise funds for the Hispanic Committee's programs. Volunteers serve on the Host Committee for this Gala, helping to solicit sponsors, ads, and silent auction items, or assisting with decorating and other organizational tasks.

### Administrative Support

We always need volunteers who can assist any of the programs with data entry, filing, answering phones, follow-up, and other clerical assistance. Some of these volunteers come once to help with a specific need. Others become regulars.

*If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please do not hesitate to call the Volunteer Coordinator at (703)671-5666.*



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### **OPORTUNIDADES PARA VOLUNTARIOS EN EL COMITE HISPANO DE VIRGINIA**

#### **Transporte y/o Interpretación**

Llevar al cliente a una cita medica, legal, etc., y/o servir de interprete durante la cita. La mayoría de las citas son durante el dia y no hay horas fijas. Nosotros llamamos a los voluntarios en la medida que se presenta la necesidad, y ellos aceptan o rechazan de acuerdo a sus posibilidades. El voluntario(a) debe de hablar bien inglés y español.

#### **Conductor-Chofer para el Programa Todos Juntos**

*Todos Juntos* es un grupo de apoyo para los pacientes, sobrevivientes y familiares de enfermedades terminales. El grupo se reúne los Miércoles por la noche en Arlington. Agradecemos altamente todo apoyo, permanente u ocasionalmente, para que nuestros clientes puedan asistir a las reuniones del grupo de apoyo. El voluntario debe recoger y llevar al cliente a la reunion y de regreso a su casa. No es necesario que los voluntarios hablen español.

#### **Visitas al Hospital o al Hogar**

Una sonrisa amistosa, una presencia generosa, o unas palabras de apoyo pueden ayudar mucho, particularmente aquellos clientes que sufren de cancer u otras enfermedades graves. Necesitamos voluntarios que estén dispuestos a visitar a nuestros clientes en el hospital o en sus casas. Se prefiere voluntarios que hablan español.

#### **Tutor-Mentor del Programa Alianza Escolar**

El Programa Alianza Escolar empareja a estudiantes de 4to a 7imo grado que estudian en escuelas escogidas del area de Bailey's Crossroads con voluntarios adultos que sirven de tutor o mentor de actividades. Durante todo el año escolar, el tutor o mentor se reúne con su estudiantate una noche a la semana, los días Martes o Jueves como parte de un programa estructurado. El tutor-mentor ayuda al estudiante con sus tareas, concentrándose particularmente en sus destrezas verbales y en las matemáticas y facilita al estudiante actividades encaminadas a aumentar la confianza en sí mismo. El tutor-mentor también está invitado a participar con el estudiante en paseos y otra actividades al aire libre. El voluntario necesita hablar ingles.

#### **Campamento de verano para niños**

Disfrute el mes de Julio con niños. Ayude en la coordinación de nuestro campamento de verano encabezando actividades de grupo, servir de chaperon, enseñar artes manuales, jugar, visitar museos, y aprender de nuestros visitantes que dan charlas.

#### **Coordinador o Asistente del local donde funciona el Programa de Lectura Arroz con Leche.**

Arroz con Leche es un programa de lectura que funciona después del horario escolar y se reúne una vez a la semana en varios locales ubicados en los condados de Arlington y Fairfax. Las sesiones incluyen actividades como la lectura de cuentos, juegos, canciones, artes, artesanias y otras actividades que enfatizan un tema común. Los voluntarios pueden asumir la responsabilidad del manejo de un local nuevo o ya existente, o pueden asistir al coordinador de uno de esos locales. Se dispone de un manual detallado y un planificador de las clases. Para este trabajo voluntarios preferimos personas que están jubiladas o han sido maestros y que disponen de tiempo libre durante el día. También preferimos personas que son bilingue.

### **Comité Organizador del Baile de Gala**

Todos los años, en el otoño, tenemos un elegante baile de gala para recaudar fondos para los programas del Comité Hispano de Virginia. Los voluntarios ayudan en la coordinación de actividades para este baile. Las responsabilidades del voluntario consisten en solicitar de los auspiciadores fondos, anuncios, o donaciones para una subasta. Los voluntarios también pueden ayudar a decorar el local de la fiesta o con las tareas organizativas de la misma.

### **Apoyo Administrativo**

Necesitamos voluntarios que puedan apoyar cualquiera de nuestros programas en tareas administrativas como: actualizar la base de datos, archivar, contestar el teléfono, dar seguimiento a alguna tarea, etc. Algunos voluntarios vienen una vez a ayudar en una tarea específica, otros vienen con cierta regularidad.

Si está interesado(a) en hacer trabajo voluntario, o si necesita mayor información, no dude en llamar al Coordinador de los Voluntarios al teléfono (703) 671-5666.



Comité Hispano de Virginia  
Hispanic Committee of Virginia

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### ***ALIANZA ESCOLAR***

*Alianza Escolar* (School Alliance) matches Hispanic children who attend targeted elementary and middle schools in or near the Bailey's Crossroads area of Fairfax County with adult volunteers for tutoring and other mentoring activities. The program works with students who have an "average" grade point accumulation, whose environment puts them at risk of dropping out of school, but who will with the right encouragement and assistance finish high school and even go on to college.

Teachers and counselors at Glen Forest and Parklawn Elementary Schools help the Hispanic Committee staff to identify Hispanic students in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Grades who they feel will benefit from the program, and we match each student with a volunteer mentor. Throughout the school year, the students meet with their mentors one evening a week (either Tuesdays or Thursdays) for 1½ hour sessions, either at Parklawn or at HCV's Bailey's Office.

The mentors help the students with their school work, concentrate on verbal and math skills, and provide activities that promote the students' self-esteem and their sense of pride in their heritage. They also listen to and help their students deal with some of the everyday difficulties of growing up. Besides the weekly tutoring, there are regular field trips and other cultural and educational activities. At the end of the school year, the schools provide us with an evaluation of each student's academic and social progress.

Our intention is for students to continue with the program from year to year, and the number of participants has grown from six to 16 to 25 since the *Alianza* program was initiated in the 1995-96 school year. Some students have graduated to Holmes and Glasgow Middle Schools and four have begun High School.

**Students.** All of the participating students sign a contract in which they commit to (a) attending the program on a weekly basis, (b) completing their school work in a timely manner, and (c) participating in the cultural and other educational activities outside of the tutoring sessions. The students' parents are also asked to affirm their support for their children's involvement in the program.

**Mentors.** Our volunteer mentors come from all over the metropolitan area and from many walks of life. They make a commitment to working with their student on a weekly basis during the school year, and while we hope that they will continue with the program and their student from year to year, as many have done, that is their decision to make. They are invited and welcome to participate in the outside activities and trips, but it is not required. Before they begin, there is an orientation and training session, as well as a criminal background check. Although many mentors do speak Spanish, it is not required or needed.

*For more information, please contact Florencia Gonzalez (Volunteer Coordinator) or Karen Wedekindt (Education Coordinator).*



Sent to CC

Hispanic Committee of Virginia  
Comité Hispano de Virginia

(f) 2/24/01 PF



CFC  
8272

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Jorge E. Figueredo

Deputy Director  
Irma Ortiz

Board of Directors  
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Juan M. Oyhenart

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City of Alexandria  
200 N. Howard Street  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 671-5666

www.hispaniccommitteeofvirginia.org

Serving the community since 1967...

February 27, 2001

Mayor Kerry J. Donley  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Donley:

Thank you for allowing the Hispanic Committee of Virginia the opportunity to voice our comments to the City Council and for helping our Organization locate office space in the City of Alexandria. Your willingness to facilitate our search efforts is very much appreciated.

As you know, HCV is committed to help the Hispanic immigrant community overcome barriers of language, poverty, and cultural isolation in order to become productive contributors and active participants of Virginia's communities. To this end, we seek to forge collaborations and partnerships that will leverage available resources and improve the quality of life of all involved.

As a demonstration of our partnership efforts, I have enclosed two letters of support from Charles Koingsberg, Jr., Director of the Alexandria Health Department and Diane Charles with Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia. In addition, I have attached a copy of my hearing speech for your convenience.

I will be contacting the office of Councilwoman Pepper shortly to follow-up on this request as you suggested. It is my hope that we will be able to open a full time office and maintain a working dialogue as it relates the needs of the Hispanic community in Alexandria. Thank you again for your assistance in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Jorge E. Figueredo, MPP  
Executive Director

Enclosures





# Hispanic Committee of Virginia

## Comité Hispano de Virginia



CFC  
8272

February 23, 2001

*Executive Director*  
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[www.hispaniccommitteeofvirginia.org](http://www.hispaniccommitteeofvirginia.org)

Good morning Mayor Donley, members of the City Council of Alexandria, residents, ladies and gentleman. As Executive Director of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, I stand before you today to discuss an option that my organization proposes to better assist the needs of the Hispanic community in the City of Alexandria.

On Tuesday, February 20th, 2001, I was able to attend the Public Hearing organized by the City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission and the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee which focused on the challenges facing Alexandria's Hispanic population. As you may be aware, the Hispanic community to date represents 13.4% of the total population in the City of Alexandria. According to the 1999, Alexandria United Way needs assessment, this city's Hispanics are more likely to live in poverty, speak limited English, and lack formal education. All these challenges were confirmed by Hispanic resident testimonies at the public hearing.

**For 33 years** the Hispanic Committee of Virginia has helped Hispanic immigrants and families in Northern Virginia overcome **barriers of language, culture, isolation, and poverty** in order to access community services and gain skills that enable them to improve their **family's well being and make productive contributions** to Virginia's communities. The mission of HCV is to **enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society.**

HCV provides education, employment, immigration, information and referral and social services. Our **bilingual, bicultural staff** comes from 12 Latin American countries and the United States. HCV has offices in Fairfax County and Arlington County as well as satellite offices in Alexandria, Herndon, and Springfield that are open one or two days a week.

HCV is equipped and committed to provide **the missing link** between the existing community resources and the Hispanic residents. Recently, HCV submitted a **proposal to the City of Alexandria's Community Partnership Fund for Human Services** with the hope to expand our Alexandria satellite office into a full time service office. This office would replicate HCV's model of holistic services that has been enormously successful in Fairfax and Arlington Counties.

In order to achieve this, HCV is looking for **in-kind space** provided by the City. With this office space, HCV can implement programs that in the end will enhance the Hispanic Residents' knowledge of service systems in the City of Alexandria. This mutually beneficial relationship will also result in **more cost-effective utilization of existing services.** For example, let's take the misuse of Hospital Emergency Rooms. Hispanic families are not fully aware of community health programs and other community health services available to them. In Alexandria, our Social Service workers will help these families access appropriate, affordable health services.

Having identified these issues, I am here to engage the Council and residents of the City of Alexandria in pursuing ideas and strategies to secure **in-kind or low cost office space** so that HCV can more fully serve Alexandria's Hispanic families in need.





**ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
517 North Saint Asaph Street  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314



IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Telephone: 703-838-4400  
FAX: 703-838-4038

Charles Konigsberg, Jr., M. D., M. P. H.  
District Health Officer

February 9, 2001

Carol Moore  
Community Partnership Fund Review Committee  
Office of Management and Budget  
Alexandria City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

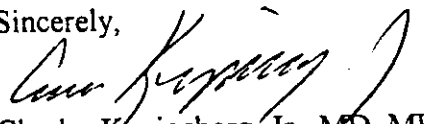
Dear Ms. Moore:

The Alexandria Health Department has been collaborating with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCV) to facilitate greater access to services for Hispanics in Alexandria. HCV's community worker meets with Hispanic individuals and families at the Health Department's Flora Krause Casey Clinic two days each week. She provides quite valuable services to our clinic, counseling families about community resources, domestic violence issues, and making referrals as appropriate. She also provides some assistance with translation and interpretation upon request.

As the number of Hispanic families in the City of Alexandria continues to expand, the bridging of resources to this population that the Hispanic Committee of Virginia is proposing to the Community Partnership Fund is crucial. The Alexandria Health Department looks forward to expanding our partnership with HCV when they establish a full-time location in the City. Joint efforts with our public health nurses and educators will help ensure healthy Hispanic-American children and families for the City of Alexandria.

We appreciate the excellent services that our partnership with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia currently makes possible and look forward to expanded collaboration with HCV as this project evolves.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Konigsberg, Jr., MD, MPH  
Health Director



February 8, 2001

STOP CHILD ABUSE NOW  
of Northern Virginia

2210 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
703-836-1820  
Fax 703-836-1248  
www.scanva.org

Ms. Carol Moore  
Community Partnership Fund Review Committee  
City of Alexandria  
Office of Management and Budget  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Ms. Moore:

I'm very pleased to write this letter of support for the Hispanic Committee of Virginia's application to the City of Alexandria's Community Partnership Fund. As a resident of Alexandria *and* as the Executive Director of SCAN of Northern Virginia, I believe their increased presence in Alexandria is an extremely positive step for our entire community and the Hispanic population in particular. I hope you will give funding of this well-respected organization very serious consideration.

SCAN of Northern Virginia has been fortunate to be involved in a collaborative partnership with the Hispanic Committee of Virginia in the Alexandria *Success by 6@* project for the last eight months. The partnership has been extremely positive on all fronts, including our increased understanding of the services the Hispanic Committee provides throughout Northern Virginia. With Alexandria's established and growing Hispanic population, there is no other organization I would recommend to provide culturally and linguistically accessible information, referral and interpretation services than the Hispanic Committee of Virginia. Their reputation, their reliability and their follow-through are top notch.

SCAN's work with families and children has been further enhanced because of the shared information and perspective we've drawn from the staff of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia. Not only do they help us with interpretation and translation, but more importantly, thanks to our working collaboration, I believe we have grown in our understanding of the needs of the Hispanic community and how SCAN's efforts can be better carried out to the benefit of this population. The Hispanic Committee of Virginia has the determination and the ability to provide services to the Hispanic population, while also helping them assimilate into American culture without losing their cultural heritage. It is an important philosophy that is integrated into all their services. SCAN of Northern Virginia plans to continue our current collaboration with the Hispanic Committee and we have high hopes that it will only increase and grow.

I hope you will give favorable consideration to the Hispanic Committee of Virginia's funding request to provide services in the City of Alexandria. I think it will be money well-invested, providing benefits for our entire community.

Stop Child Abuse Now  
(SCAN) of Northern Virginia, Inc.

An Affiliate of  
Prevent Child Abuse, Virginia

Virginia Chapter,  
Prevent Child Abuse America

Sincerely,

  
Diane L. Charles  
Executive Director