



Stafford Junction
Where Lives Connect

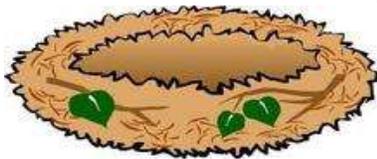
SUMMER 2016

THE JUNCTION JOURNAL

A Newsletter of Stafford Junction, Inc.

The Directors Corner

By: Carrie Evans – Executive Director



There's a wonderful Haitian proverb that says "*Little by Little the bird builds her nest*" and I love that image.

Too often we want instant gratification simply because we can't wait till payday to buy that new pair of shoes or sit still long enough to read a book (or a newsletter for that matter.)

Lately, Stafford Junction has "*little by little*" been building our nest. Take a look at all the new and exciting things our Summer Junction campers have to look forward to:

My favorite – **AIR CONDITIONING**, generously donated by the Enon Community Center after Doris Buffet purchased our building

An **ICE MAKER AND CLOSET** – Kindly gifted from Ferry Farm Baptist Church and built by our own Buck Rogers

A **SHED** for our outdoor supplies – Built and provided by Ebenezer Church members and friends

The **PLAYGROUND** from the Girl Scouts and Marie Stevenson in memory of her loving grandmother

A **PRESCHOOL** indoor play area in conjunction with our Smart Beginnings community partner

VOLLEYBALL COURT from Sara Milliken and the 30 Hour Famine Participants

STEM CAMP this summer made possible by a generous grant from AFCEA

EXTENSIVE LANDSCAPING and building improvements from the Mt. Ararat Church

And lots more to come! How exciting that Stafford Junction has so many community partners that care about the community and the work that we are doing, believe me we can't say THANK YOU enough.

"Little by little" you have made a difference here at Stafford Junction and in the life of a child. Stay tuned for more "*bits of the nest to come....*"

A garden.... New doors... Teen Fellowship Area... Painted Murals...

"Be the Change You Want to See in the World."

Ghandi

Reverend Carrie Evans

Executive Director, Stafford Junction

YOU Can Make an Impact NOW

Giving is easy—pay on-line at www.staffordjunction.org or simply mail your check to PO Box 5405, Fredericksburg, VA 22403.

Brain Builders

SUMMER 2016

By Ebonee Davis

We are excited to announce that the 2015-2016 Brain Builders has ended the school year with a marvelous bang! Our students worked diligently all year long with the encouragement of our wonderful volunteers, so of course, we celebrated their hard work with an end of the year bash. We want to give a special round of applause to all of our volunteers this year; not just our teachers who made sure our students were keeping up with their studies, but also our churches, who provided meals all year to feed all of our students within our 8 schools!

Speaking of our 8 incredible schools, we want to thank the Reading and Math Specialists as well as the Principals from the following schools, for helping Brain Builders to be a success this school year: Kate Waller Barrett ES, Hampton Oaks ES, Falmouth ES, Ferry Farm ES, Hartwood ES, Rocky Run ES, Drew MS and Stafford HS.

As we exit the Brain Builders school year, we enter into the Summer Junction kick off! Summer Junction will begin on July 5, 2016 and end on August 4, 2016. Through Summer Junction, we provide 5 weeks of an enjoyable summer Day Camp where we teach children that learning is indeed exciting! The purpose of this camp is to allow our children to enjoy their summer while preventing summer brain drain. We focus on Reading, S.T.E.M (science, technology, engineering, & math) and life skills presented in a fun environment. In addition to the day camp, Summer Junction offers 10-15 field trip experiences as well as sending our children off to Vacation Bible Schools during non – camp hours.

Summer Junction gives children an alternate to roaming around neighborhoods and helps keep them out of trouble. We are expecting 65 children in grades 1-5 and 30 children in Pre – K and Kindergarten; that's 95 amazing students! With that being said, we need our communities help; please contact us if you are able to volunteer or donate food.



We know that Summer Junction 2016 is going to be a huge success and we hope you are able to be a part of it!

Important Dates	Summer Supplies Needed	Volunteer Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/25/2016: Badges for Baseball Begins 7/1/2016: Badges for Baseball Game (Community invited to watch!) 7/1/2016: Children's play @ Riverside theater (Come out and Support) 7/5/2016: Summer Junction begins! 8/4/2016: Last day of Summer Junction 10/2016: Summer Junction Playschool will be arriving! (contact us to register your Pre – K aged child) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand Sanitizer Disinfecting Wipes Paper Plates Napkins Plastic Dining ware Small (8 oz) Water Bottles Art Supplies Snacks Children sized clothes & shoes (ages 4-12/ used is great!) Sunscreen/ bug repellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mondays & Wednesdays: 12-3pm (Pre – K & K) Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1-4:30pm (1st – 5th) Churches, groups or organizations to commit to only 1 day out of our 5 weeks where they donate prepared light lunches for our children

*****Are you Smarter than a Brain Builder?*****

Let your brain soar as you try to solve these 4 fun riddles! The first family to unravel all 4 will be featured in our Fall issue, get to choose 2 out of the 4 next riddles, as well as, receive a small token of appreciation from Stafford Junction! The answers will be revealed in the next issue so stay tuned!

1. I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
2. What goes up when rain comes down?
3. Throw away the outside and cook the inside, then eat the outside and throw away the inside. What is it?
4. In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower– everything was pink! What color were the stairs?

Email Answer to: EDavis@StaffordJunction.org

Kindergarten Here We Come!

By Greg Minor

One of the programs Stafford Junction offers in partnership with Smart Beginnings is to get our kids ready for school. Topics include basic math (number recognition), alphabet, colors and social skills. The kids had an amazing adventure at preschool this year making friends, going on field trips and learning all they could. . The kids worked hard and played hard the entire school year and are now kindergarten-ready.



Stafford Junction Play Group in Partnership with Smart Beginnings enjoyed a day of fire safety and EMT's.

Thank you to our Stafford County first responders for sharing with the kids.



Life Skills / Healthy Living

By Nicole Kraatz / Olga Escobar

Life Skills Workshops is the newest program offered at Stafford Junction. It is designed for the adults and care givers who have a family member enrolled in any of our programs or who live in one of the low-income neighborhoods we serve. Workshops cover a broad range of topics, including: computer skills, nutrition, parenting, financial literacy, women's health, and many others depending on the current need identified by our clients. The program is designed to enhance parenting skills, stabilize home life, and promote self-empowerment among our families.

On May 18, 2016, Stafford Junction concluded its 2015-2016 program year. We celebrated by having a pot luck after our final nutrition class with the Virginia Cooperative Extension. We had 51 enrolled adults this year, a 68% increase in enrollment from our first year in 2014! It is amazing to have been able to witness such amazing growth in this program. Favorite class topics for this year included cooking classes, financial literacy, and self-defense taught by the Stafford County Sheriff's Department.

With a clientele population of over 80% native Spanish speakers, language and cultural barriers proved to be a constant challenge. However, because of the perseverance and desire to constantly learn new things each and every week, these barriers were overcome and every single one of our participants has shown they were able and willing to create a safe atmosphere for open dialogue and encourage tolerance among different cultures.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35



Special thanks to Office Peters from the Stafford County Sheriff's Department who helped with the Self Defense Class

What is 5,806? Give Up? It is the number of after school meals provided to our Brain Builders!

What is 2,861? Give Up? It is the number of tutoring volunteer hours provided to our Brain Builders students!

Community Development / Volunteers Corner

By Lynn Hamilton

The Heart of Volunteering!

A heartfelt thank you go out to ALL those who helped during our Brain Builders program. Approximately 5,806 after school meals were provided by a team of volunteer angels behind the scenes all over Stafford and Fredericksburg. Joining the team of local church groups, Bible study group we want to thank Wendy's on Warrenton Road, Papa John's Pizza, Chick-Fil-A, The General Store on College Ave in Fredericksburg for helping and donating this year as well. ~ We truly could not have done this without all of you! (Next time you stop in to enjoy their food – be sure to thank them for supporting SJ)

Service Above and Beyond: We want to thank Aquia Lions Club (evening), Greater Falls Run Lions Club, Rappahannock Rotary Club, Kiwanis Service Club of Fredericksburg and Ruritan Club of Fredericksburg for allowing us to come share the great work Stafford Junction is doing and supporting us with your time, talents &/or money.



Thank you goes out to the Women's Mission Union (WMU) for their generosity of needed items for our summer program. In case you are counting, there are 12 Hula Hoops, 21 containers of wipes, 34 jump ropes, and 84 bottles of bubble. And we will use them ALL!



YOU made a difference! To the 55 donors who supported the Community Give Day on May 3 (despite the national computer program crashing) YOU donated **\$3,395.00**

Last but not least – thanks to all those who attended and donated for our April 17, 2016 Building Dedication. 50 awesome auction baskets and items were made available for the bidding. (See our list of donors on our website)

Fun was had by all and the Basketball game was a hit. SJ kids Vs Community leaders. You'll never guess who won? We are proud to announce that the SJ kids won the game. Rumor has it there is a re-match in the works!

Special Thanks goes out to the 2 local Firestone Auto Care Service centers (Jefferson Davis Hwy and Fall Hill Ave) of Fredericksburg for offering to take 2 of our SJ van's under their wings to help with preventive maintenance and some repairs, so the next time you need your car serviced at Firestone be sure to tell them you say thank you for supporting Stafford Junction



School is right around the corner and it's time to start collecting our school supplies – we typically fill ~200 backpacks with the needed items to ensure our kids are starting the school year off with all the supplies they need.

We have some items already stocked but there are several items still needed. IF you, your church group, friends or office would like to help – please email Lynn at LHamilton@StaffordJunction.org for a short list of needed items.

Also check our website: www.StaffordJunction.org /Get Involved / School Supply Locker





Stafford Junction

Where Lives Connect

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact us – we want to hear from you.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.StaffordJunction.org

***Follow our fun & like us on
Facebook!***
