

ForKids
4200 Colley Avenue Suite A
PO Box 6044
Norfolk VA 23508
(757) 622-6400
www.homesForKids.org

**There
are 7,700
compelling
reasons to
read this
newsletter...**



Dividing Bulbs

The United Way Women's Leadership Council was looking for a good story and I immediately thought of Jann. Her story was painful, but her success triumphant. I thought she'd be perfect. After dropping out of high school and experiencing horrifying domestic violence, Jann with her daughter Alexys slowly turned her life around at ForKids, earning her GED and becoming a Habitat for Humanity homeowner.

Jann agreed to share her story and I arranged

(Continued on pg. 2)

The Long Road Home

Diagnosed with schizophrenia in her 20s, with a history of abuse, 36-year old Idatria has lived a life full of challenges. Support from her dedicated father kept her anchored until his death in 2006. Then her world began to crumble.

Losing him devastated her, and she spiraled into depression. Like many people who experience homelessness, Idatria moved in with another family member and then with a friend. But ultimately she wound up shuffling in and out of homeless shelters and, left untreated, her mental illness grew more severe.

By 2008, homeless and pregnant, Idatria was accepted into a program for single women. While there, 24-weeks into her pregnancy, Idatria gave birth to a 14-ounce, severely premature daughter she named Angelique. Unequipped to deal with her

mental health issues or her newborn baby, Idatria's former shelter referred her to ForKids and she entered the ForKids permanent supportive housing program in September 2008. For the first time in several years, she received treatment for her schizophrenia. Thinking back, Idatria said, "I didn't know there was a program out there for someone like me. I had real hope for the first time in a very long time."

And yet, her daughter Angelique would spend the first 2½ years of her life at CHKD.

Idatria recalls, "I found a way to be at the hospital every single day to be with my

(Continued on pg. 2)



Long Road Home

(Continued from front page)

Angelique. I wanted her to know her Mama was there for her, no matter what." At the time, Idatria had landed a job at a fast food restaurant, trying hard to better herself and make a life for herself and her daughter. After coming to ForKids, Idatria continued to work and visit her daughter daily, all the while attending budgeting classes, life skills training and parenting classes. She wanted to be ready for the day that her daughter would be released from the hospital. And, she wanted to leave no room for doubt that the best place for Angelique was with her mom.

Idatria continues, "The people at the first shelter were suggesting I put her in foster care. They said that because of all of Angelique's health issues,

the hospital would never let me have her without having a home. I wasn't hearing any of that. God didn't bring us this far to separate us like that. I was going to do whatever it took to have my girl home with me."

After several home studies and evaluations, Idatria was approved to bring her daughter home early last spring. "That was a good day," Idatria recalls with a warm smile. "I remember being so excited when they told me my baby could come home. The night before I went to pick her up, I couldn't sleep. When I got to the hospital the next day, Angelique seemed to understand she was finally going home."

Angelique's health issues are still significant. She has a tracheostomy tube, a feeding tube and also suffers from cerebral palsy. She will likely need specialized nursing care for the rest of her life. But just as crucial to Angelique's survival is the nurturing love of her mother.

Angelique and Idatria have been together for 9 months now, and Idatria's eyes light up every time she talks about her "little angel." Even though Angelique is now three years old, she is only about six months old developmentally due to the medical complications of her premature birth. Idatria has adapted quickly to all of Angelique's cues and seems to instinctually know what her daughter needs.

ForKids' permanent supportive housing program was the only chance for Idatria and Angelique to live as a family. Without it, Idatria would likely be on the street and Angelique would be in foster care. ForKids helped Idatria maintain her treatment for schizophrenia and gain the skills she needs to succeed as a mom. And most importantly, Angelique and Idatria have stayed together as a family.

"Coming into the ForKids' supportive housing program saved my life. I shudder to think where I, or my sweet daughter, would be without it."

Dividing Bulbs

(Continued from front page)

to go to her home in Suffolk. It was as immaculate as on the day it was dedicated two years ago. The important difference is that she has made it her own. The walls are deep blue inspired by an HGTV show she saw. They contrast brilliantly with her bright red couch. Everywhere there are personal touches that make her house a home.

Jann showed me each small detail, made me a cup of tea, and once again told me her story – this time for a video camera run by ForKids staff member Ryan. It was tough to sit through. I can't imagine what it was like to live through.

As we left the house I commented on her well-tended flower beds. I knelt down next to some bright green leaves poking through fresh mulch and looked at Jann. "Tiger lilies" she said, "I got one as a house warming present and I just keep dividing the bulbs."

We talked a bit more about dividing bulbs, eradicating nut grass and other gardening chatter. But the whole time, in the back of my head, I thought, "Wow, she's dividing bulbs."

Driving back to the office Ryan observed, "She doesn't know how far she's come" and I think that is true. During our time together Jann never really embraced the enormous distance she has traveled. For Jann, and other victims of the kind of trauma she has experienced, her recovery will continue for years. But as Jann continues to patiently divide and spread her tiger lily bulbs throughout her garden, I know she will get stronger each year.

A few weeks ago Jann called to ask about going back to school again. Like her flowers, she's ready to keep growing.



With Family Homelessness on the Rise, ForKids Focuses on Education

In September, ForKids hosted the first annual ForKids Investors Forum for members of the Leadership 200 (ForKids' top 200 supporters during the year). ForKids CEO Thaler McCormick discussed the state of family homelessness nationally and locally, and examined the role of ForKids in tackling these issues.

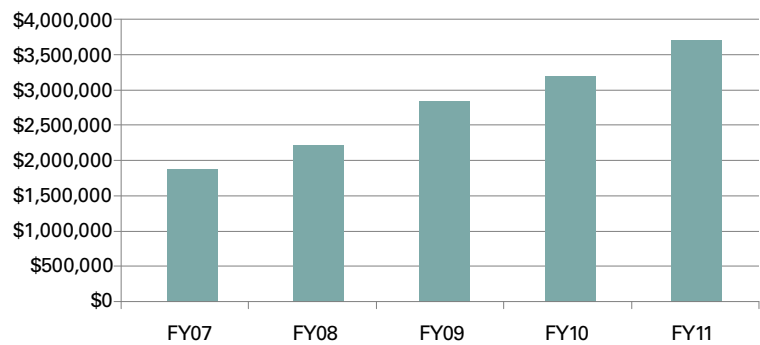
Today, one out of every five children in the United States is living in poverty. Locally, over 7,700 children will slip into homelessness this year. To address these devastating statistics, in 2010, ForKids increased its service capacity for children by 60%. Even with these dramatic increases, every month ForKids is still forced to turn away hundreds of families.

With family homelessness skyrocketing, ForKids calls on the community to serve as informed ambassadors and advocates. The word is out. Homelessness wreaks havoc on children and tears at the fabric of the community. The good news is that the data continues to demonstrate that ForKids can break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for these children in Hampton Roads if only they are given the chance.

THE PROBLEM:

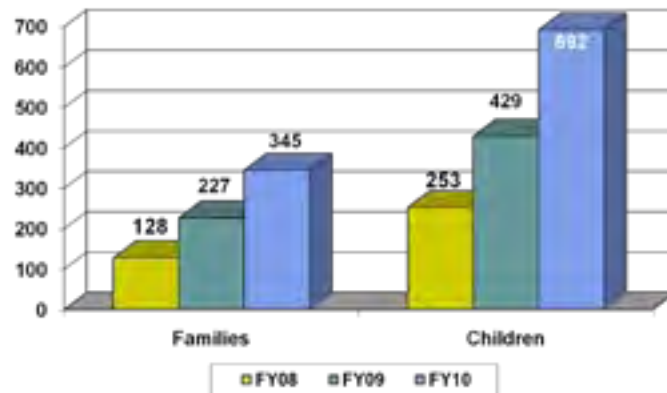
Nationally, LESS THAN ONE IN FOUR homeless children graduates from high school.

ForKids BUDGET



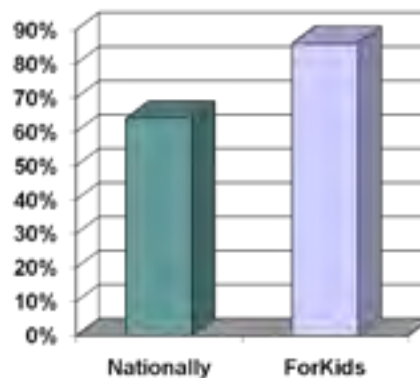
→ Government funding has declined from 80% to 48% of our total budget over the last decade.

NUMBERS SERVED



THE ForKids IMPACT

Homeless Children Advancing to the Next Grade



NATIONAL OUTLOOK:

- Approximately 45 million Americans were living in poverty in 2009. 2009 saw the **LARGEST** single year increase in the U.S. poverty rate.
- **ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE** children in the United States is now living in poverty.
- According to one recent survey, 28% of all U.S. households have at least one member who is looking for a full-time job.
- **OVER 7,700 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WILL BECOME HOMELESS THIS YEAR IN HAMPTON ROADS.**

ForKids Introduces ForTEEN Program

Remember how tough it was getting through those awkward teenage years?

Let's face it; even if you were fortunate enough to live under the best of circumstances, it was a challenge. Poverty, homelessness, and a troubled family situation only compound those challenges. Enter ForKids ForTEEN Program.

Launched in mid-July, the ForTEEN program (**F**ostering **O**utstanding **R**esilience by **T**ransforming and **E**ncouraging **E**very **T**een **N**ow) focuses on the specific needs of kids aged 12–18. The program offers much-needed guidance, life skills, coping skills and enrichment activities in a safe and welcoming environment. Josh Hollaway, ForKids Children's Case Manager, says, "It gives ForKids teens the chance to interact with each other in a safe, welcoming place where they're not going to be discouraged or ridiculed and where they can learn the skills they're going to need to get ahead."

Teens gather for one hour a week in small groups and participate in fun but educational activities that develop skills in areas such as resume and cover letter writing, budgeting and volunteerism. Recent exercises included "Budgeting for a vacation" and an interactive quiz geared to help the teens discover their individual learning styles. Each session ends with a "Take Home Challenge" to keep the teens engaged until the next session.

A points-based incentive program encourages positive participation. Points can then be redeemed for



Photo courtesy of David Schwartz Photography

age-appropriate incentives such as computer time, gift cards or the opportunity to attend quarterly outings. Exemplary participation gives teens the chance to earn recognition as "Teen of the Month."

"Billy," a ForKids teen whose family has lived in supportive housing for four years, is a great example of why we started this program. Before the ForTEEN program, case managers and volunteers had difficulty getting Billy to participate in any of the ForKids classes and activities. He would show up, but usually sat silently and kept to himself.

The ForTEEN program resonates with Billy. He is so enthusiastic about going to the weekly classes that he is often the first one to arrive and the last one to leave. The resume and cover letter writing classes motivated him to apply for and subsequently get a job. And the same Billy who refused to take part in ANYTHING before ForTEEN was the program's first "Teen of the Month."

The ForTEEN program gives Billy and other teenagers like him the chance to develop friendships, build trust, gain self-esteem and learn the valuable skills so necessary for a promising future.

**Sign up and
receive our
newsletter
and updates**

For the latest news and happenings at ForKids, make sure you're getting our monthly E-Newsletter. Please visit www.homesForKids.org to sign up.



A New Playground for Suffolk House!

The wait is over at Suffolk House. After years of loving upkeep from dedicated volunteers, the aging playground equipment is finally being replaced! Thanks to a generous grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk and Ronald McDonald House Charities, children at Suffolk House will soon have a wonderful place to play, exercise and unleash their energy. The new playground will feature a tower, a slide and various climbing structures and can accommodate up to 10 children. It's a welcome replacement of the old equipment, which has long outlived its useful life and produced painful splinters!

Volunteers will be tearing down the old playground this month to make way for the new one. The official ribbon-cutting for the new playground is slated to take place in early spring.

MAKING OUR HOUSE A HOME

Adopt-a-Room at ForKids

Having lived through trauma, uncertainty and instability, families arrive at ForKids seeking shelter. But we can give them so much more. We can give them a home!

For just \$200 each month, you can be the year-long sponsor of a ForKids room at one of our emergency shelters. Then, you, your family, your co-workers or your friends get to decorate your room, select and purchase the linens and decorations and transform the house into a home.



Suffolk House



Haven House

Adopt-A-Room Shopping Guidelines

Our guideline is to have fun! Make the room your own. Pick a theme. Pick a color. Turn our house into a home.

Recommended Basic Shopping List

- 2 sets of twin sheets (fitted and top)
- 2 pillow cases
- 2 pillows
- 2 comforters/blankets

Extra Decorations

- Decorative pillows
- Window valance and tension rods
- Framed posters/artwork
- Throw rugs
- Night light
- Alarm clock
- Mattress covers

Hot Meals and Homework Expands to Deep Creek



ForKids has added a second Chesapeake location for its after-school tutoring and mentoring program, Hot Meals and

Homework. The newest location opened its doors on November 23rd in the Deep Creek Community Center at 2901 Margaret Booker Drive in Chesapeake, next to Deep Creek High School. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 – 7 pm, children in our Prevention programs in the Deep Creek area have the opportunity to meet with volunteer tutors for one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, as well as



help with cultural arts and enrichment activities. At the end of their tutoring and enrichment sessions, each child takes home a hot meal for their entire family, thanks to our generous restaurant partners.

Are you a restaurant owner interested in becoming a Hot Meals and

Homework restaurant partner? Please join us in our mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. For more information, contact Cedrick Garrett at 757-622-6400, ext. 117, or cgarrett@homesForKids.org.

To request a ForKids speaker for your service organization, church or other community group, please contact Leila Rice at lrice@homeForKids.org or 757-622-6400 x135.

Each month, ForKids has to turn away hundreds of families who need our services. Homelessness happens 12 months a year, BUT YOU CAN HELP.



Become a **ForKids G.E.M.**

By **G**iving **E**very **M**onth, you help kids who depend on ForKids. You guarantee that they have shelter, counseling, tutoring and support.

For more information, please contact Kaitlin Robb at krobb@homesForKids.org or 757-622-6400 x112.

Kickin' it ForKids

A special thanks to all of the businesses and organizations that found their own unique way to make a difference at ForKids.

Here are some of the great events that supported ForKids over the past six months:

- The **DOMA** Charity Challenge
- The **Onelife Fitness** 5K at the Norfolk Botanical Garden
- **The Geekettes** Give Back silent auction night
- Beer and Burgers at **Bon Vivant**
- **Norfolk Academy** Jeans Day
- Belly Dancing at **The Blue Turtle**
- Charity Kicks by the **Kiwanis Club of Harbor Front**
- The **Sean A. Lovas Memorial Golf Tournament** and golf tournaments hosted by **Monarch Bank, Norfolk Sertoma, the Southeastern Virginia Community Associations Institute**, and the **Theta Chi Alumni Association** of ODU

Do you want to Kick it ForKids? Contact Aline Landy to find out how to host an event to support ForKids at 757-622-6400 x136 or alandy@homesforkids.org.

Wicked Cool! The Wicked 10K

Another mile closer to breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children...



ForKids partnered with J&A Racing and the 2010 Wicked 10K at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront on October 30. More than 7,500 costumed runners (including ForKids clients), supported by 400 volunteers, helped raise money and awareness for ForKids.



5th Annual Theta Chi Invitational Helping Hand Golf Tournament

The winning foursome of the 5th Annual Theta Chi Invitational Helping Hand Golf Tournament benefiting ForKids, from right: Rich Werber, John Herzke, Harold Winer and Denny Kendall



Sean A. Lovas Memorial Golf Tournament

Tom Atherton, Chris Zettervall and Joe Lovas

Volunteer Snapshots



Members of the Zeta Pi Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at ODU recently devoted many hours over several days to help reorganize, load and move donations out of our facility at 4000 Colley Avenue.

United Way Day of Caring 2010

On September 10th, ForKids hosted 130 volunteers from Virginia Natural Gas and Dominion Enterprises who spent the day landscaping, cleaning, painting and beautifying the ForKids properties.



Dominion Enterprises Associates at Elizabeth Place

ForKids Elects Seven New Board Members

ForKids takes great pride in its dynamic and committed Board of Directors. All of our Board members are actively engaged in our mission of breaking the cycle of homeless and poverty for families and children. We welcome our newly elected Board members who began serving their 3-year terms on July 1, 2010:

Chelsy Carter

Vice President
Gannett Media Technologies

Kim Simon Fink

Community Leader

Howard Gordon

Partner, Williams Mullen

Mechelle Lassiter

The Psychotherapy Center

LaTisha S. Owens

Partner, McGuire Woods

Brian Schaeffgen

Chief Financial Officer
Harbor Group International

Tod Smith

President and General Manager
WVEC Television

Thank you to our generous donors for this year's Day of Caring:

- AM Rental
- Bennett's Creek Nursery
- Dollar General
- Four Seasons Nursery
- Home Depot
- Knott's Creek Wholesale Nursery
- Smithfield Gardens
- Tanners Creek Garden Center
- Taylor's Do It Center
- Target
- Turf and Garden
- White's Old Mill Garden Center
- Winn Nursery

School Supply Drive 2010

To prepare the ForKids children for the 2010-2011 school year, generous donors sponsored more than 425 ForKids kids by purchasing backpacks and filling them with all the necessities for the school year. Due to your amazing support, every child received a backpack filled with supplies and had a great, positive start to the new school year.

Thanksgiving Food Drive



Thanks to the warm Hampton Roads spirit of holiday giving, our Thanksgiving Food Drive was an immense success. ForKids was able to distribute more than 200 bags of food, including gift cards to ForKids families. The response was so overwhelming that we were also able to stock the pantries at our emergency shelters and donate an additional 100 bags of food to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Aline Landy, Special Events and Corporate Relations

Becoming a ForKids volunteer was an easy decision for long-time community volunteer, Aline Landy. Aline says, "It was my interest in helping children who haven't been given a fair shake that brought me to ForKids." Aline has volunteered with a number of groups and organizations throughout Hampton Roads, including Jewish Family Services' BEAR Program (Be a Reader) and the Chrysler Museum, where she helped start the popular "Family Day."



Aline Landy

Aline joined ForKids in September to help with special events and corporate relations on a volunteer basis, and is now heavily involved in planning this year's 10th Anniversary ForKids Art Auction, "There's No Place Like Home."

Aline is putting her deep community ties to work for ForKids, giving more than 30 hours every week, combining her passion to help with her organizational talents. She is an integral part of the ForKids mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children.

Meet the Newest Members of our ForKids Development Team

Kaitlin Padden Robb has joined ForKids as its new Associate Director of Development. Kaitlin is an experienced fundraising professional, specializing in non-profit development. She came to ForKids from the Virginia Symphony, where she worked for five years as their Associate Director of Development. Kaitlin is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is a graduate of the University of

Virginia. She lives in Norfolk and enjoys spending her free time running, swimming, and hiking the mountains of Virginia.

Leila Rice is our new Community and Media Relations Manager. You might think, "Hmmm, that name rings a bell." Maybe you remember her from her days of helping you maneuver the highways and byways of Hampton Roads as a traffic reporter on the radio and at WVEC TV. Or, maybe

you remember listening to her on WAFX FM as part of the "John and Leila Morning Show." Leila is putting her experience to work to help the homeless families and children in Hampton Roads.

To request a ForKids speaker for your service organization, church, or other community group, please contact Leila at lrice@homesForKids.org or 757.622.6400 x135.

Get Ready For the ForKids Family Thrift — Coming in 2011!

There's no denying it – most of us have way too much stuff. Our closets, attics and basements are overflowing with it. At ForKids, we have wrestled with stuff for years. Who can go pick it up? Where are we going to put all this stuff? Who has a truck to haul it across town? How do we get rid of it?

Yet, our families literally have nothing. They work so hard for the day they can finally move into their own homes. They're eager to regain their independence. And yet when they get it, their children end up sleeping on towels on the floor of their new apartment. THAT is why ForKids needs a thrift store.

Thanks to the generous funding from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, and thanks to the vision and leadership of the ForKids Board of Directors, this need will soon be fulfilled.

ForKids receives many household items, but we currently lack the means to store, sort and deliver these items to families. All of that takes resources. The ForKids Family Thrift will be a store open to the public whose proceeds will fund the delivery of donated goods to families who desperately need household items and, if we are very successful, it will also fund the work of ForKids.



WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

We need your stuff! And we'll need volunteers!

Be sure to go to www.homesForKids.org for frequent updates or follow us on Twitter or Facebook. The Grand Opening is projected for mid-2011.

ForKids Announces the Planned Giving Advisory Council

ForKids is thinking about the future. With the start of the 2011 fiscal year, ForKids created a Planned Giving Advisory Council to better facilitate and coordinate the agency's estate and planned gifts. Many people think that planned giving only applies to wealthy senior citizens and universities, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Planned giving can be accomplished at all ages and income levels and can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our community's most vulnerable children for years to come.

Planned Giving Advisory Council Members:

Neal Brodsky
LeClair Ryan – Norfolk

Amy Pesesky
Amy G. Pesesky, PLC – Norfolk

Arthur Robb Jr.
Frank Sheffer & Co. – Suffolk

J. Howard Rodman, Jr.
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
– Virginia Beach

Chuck Saunders
Saunders & Matthews, PLLC
– Norfolk

Jeff Talbert
Shuttleworth, Ruloff, Swain,
Haddad, & Morecock
– Virginia Beach

Mark Warden
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas
Asset Management
– Norfolk

Randy Webb
Signature Financial Management
– Norfolk

We invite you to join the Legacy Society by making a planned gift to ForKids. For more information, please contact Kaitlin Robb at 622-6400 x112 or krobb@homesForKids.org.

The ForKids Miracle



A little-known annual occurrence here at ForKids is the “ForKids Miracle.” Each year, with little buildup or fanfare, something magical happens to help us in our mission to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. This year, that miracle came to ForKids by way of DOMA Technologies.

DOMA Technologies found ForKids in the midst of our end-of-fiscal-year budget crunch in June, caused by the skyrocketing need for our services throughout the region. After a tour of our facilities and a description of our programs, they simply said they wanted to help. DOMA came through with a significant and unexpected contribution that was instrumental in closing the budget gap. Pretty miraculous, right? That was only the beginning.

The real magic began in July with a monthly commitment through the end of the calendar year. Homelessness happens 12 months a year, so the monthly commitment made a

big difference in getting the new fiscal year off to a good start...but DOMA's generosity didn't end there.

In September, DOMA Technologies partnered with ForKids and six other local charities during the Neptune Festival's Boardwalk Weekend for the Charity Challenge. And, boy did they challenge the community! They made a \$250,000 \$325,000 gift, split among the participating charities. But wait, there's more...

With homelessness at an all-time high and a greater than ever need for our services, ForKids was dealing with an aging IT infrastructure. DOMA Technologies stepped in to fund a new virtualized server that will allow ForKids to have fully mobile technology for our regional service teams, eliminate staff downtime, utilize donated hardware and have complete disaster recovery.

DOMA's extraordinary gifts over the last year have not only allowed us to maintain service for families that would have otherwise been lost, but they have also strengthened ForKids to meet the challenges ahead. We are proud to announce that they will be the **Title Sponsor of the 2011 Children's Art Auction**. Their philosophy of giving is indeed miraculous and is making an enormous difference to ForKids.



*Pat Feliciano, President
DOMA Technologies*



Wayne Zinn, COO, DOMA Technologies

FRIENDS OF ForKids

JULY 1 - NOVEMBER 15, 2010

- | | | | | |
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| Mike & Sondra Abbott | Kelly Almeida | Peter & Janice Angelina | AvalonBay Communities, Inc. | Bay Automotive |
| Chase Abrams | Alpha Delta Kappa VA | MacKenzie Arbogust | Brent W. Averette | Bayshore Beverage, Inc. |
| Active Network | Alpha Mu | Avraham Ashkenazi | James & Barbara Baker | BBBS Realty, LLC |
| Active Wellness | Alpha Lambda ADK | Associated Development Management Corp. | Baker's Crust | Peter Becker |
| Chiropractic | Jessica Alphonse | Charles & Marcia Atherton | Michelle Barger | David A. Beloff |
| Stacy Adams | Michael & Nancy Alston | | | Bel-Star |

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ForKids Children's Art Auction & Casino Night, "There's No Place Like Home"

Dawn & Albert Myers
 Nancy Nale & Brian Kuebler
 Nationwide Mutual
 Insurance Company
 Naval Station Norfolk
 Religious Offering Fund
 William & Karla Needham
 Donna Nichols
 No Frill Bar & Grill
 Norfolk Southern Charitable
 Match Trust
 Raymond & Kimberly Norton
 Ocean View Baptist Church
 Jack & Marilyn O'Donnell
 Casey O'Hearn
 Barbara Older
 Caroline Oliver
 OneLife Fitness
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 Jose Rivera
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 Jennifer Rosenberg
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 Schick Family Trust
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 Leadership Council
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**Thank you to all who helped to
 balance the budget for our fiscal
 year ending June 30, 2010.**



MAY 1 - JUNE 30, 2010

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“Close your eyes and
tap your heels together
three times.

Think to yourself
**THERE'S NO PLACE
LIKE HOME.**”

- Genda the Good Witch



If only it were that easy.



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 2, 2011 • 6:00 PM
Norfolk Waterside Marriott

There's No Place Like Home

