



Gloucester Department of Community Education

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY NEEDS NETWORK RECEIVES AWARD

The Gloucester Department of Community Education and the Gloucester Resource Council have been recognized by the Virginia Association of Counties for a 2016 VACo Achievement Award for the Gloucester Community Needs Network communications initiative. The Community Needs Network is a collaborative effort that utilizes the efficiency of a robust e-mail network to notify organizations and individuals in Gloucester of unmet community needs. During FY16, over 40 requests were received and communicated out to the network for unmet needs such as wheelchairs, appliances, repair or donation of vehicles, a computer donation, plumbing repairs or special transportation needs, just to name a few of the many examples.

Through the services of the Gloucester Resource Council, a network of non-profit, community based organizations, requests for unmet needs are broadcasted initially to over 150 contacts who are then able to multiply the broadcast to almost 8,000 other contacts, if needed. The posting of a specific unmet need must be made by a representative of a non-profit organization who is then responsible for ensuring the need is justified and coordinates the resource being provided to the person in need.

Christi Lewis, Director of Community Education credits the caring and responsiveness of members of the Gloucester Resource Council and their representative organizations for the success of the Community Needs Network. "The Gloucester community has a long-standing reputation of being a caring and giving community. The Resource Council members and their extensive networks are just another example of working together for a better community for all."

A representative from the Virginia Association of Counties will be present at the September 6th meeting of the Gloucester Board of Supervisors to present the award.

End of Announcement