



Mt Vernon Branch AAUW



Sherwood Regional Library

Oct.16, 2025, 2 pm

Sherwood Hall Regional Library, Upstairs Meeting Room

Local Nonprofits: Coping with Federal Cuts and Changes

Join us to learn how our local nonprofits are managing and what we can do to help.

Our Panelists



Genee Hayes, Executive Director, Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services, is a resilient and dedicated leader with a master's degree in public administration and over 14 years of experience. She has carved a niche in public service, marked by her thoughtful and energetic approach. Her expertise in city management and operational excellence, combined with her innovative policy-making skills, have significantly shaped community development. Prior to joining Good Shepherd, Genee led the multi-family affordable housing portfolio at the DC Department of Housing and Community Development and established the Homeowner Assistance Fund program, aiding 2,000 low-income households avoid foreclosure.

Beyond her professional achievements, Genee's personal narrative, growing up in affordable housing with a newly widowed mother, fuels her passion for meaningful change. In her new role, she combines professional acumen with profound empathy, emphasizing the power of community support.



Leah Fraley, CEO of United Community, brings extensive experience and an unwavering dedication to protecting children and strengthening families. Her personal and professional path reflects a deep commitment to ensuring that children grow up safe, supported, and surrounded by opportunity.

Prior to joining UC she served as CEO of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, where she led efforts to prevent abuse and support healing for survivors. Leah believes that protecting children goes hand in hand with helping families become self-sufficient. By ensuring families have access to resources, support, and opportunities, she works to break cycles of hardship and create pathways to stability and independence.



Ron Fitzsimmons, ED, Alice's Kids, was raised in West Islip, New York. He and his two younger siblings had a less than ideal childhood after their father abandoned the family. They were forced to rely on welfare payments that barely paid for food and rent, but the experience gave him a unique perspective on the challenges children living in poverty face. Those experiences ultimately led to the formation of Alice's Kids.

Mr. Fitzsimmons spent most of his working years in the national political arena. Beginning in 1977, he worked for three Members of Congress, was the Director of Government Relations for a Portland-based law firm and in 1991 he formed a national organization that for 15 years lobbied to preserve reproductive rights for women. In recognition of that work, in 1994 the "Washingtonian Magazine" named him one of the "Top 50 Lobbyists" in Washington, D.C. Upon leaving the national scene, Ron served as a staff person for Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland for 5 years and as a substitute teacher. A strong believer in public service, Ron has served on many boards. In 2017 Supervisor Dan Storck named him "Mount Vernon Citizen of the Year."

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DONATIONS FOR THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

For more information:
AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

The meeting is free and open to the public.