

**Testimony to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the
Proposed FY 2018 County Budget, April 4, 2017**

Neal Mohlmann, President

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)

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Good evening, I am Neal Mohlmann, president of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, also known as ACCA. We are a faith-based Community Based Organization providing basic and emergency needs in the Central/Eastern part of Fairfax County with a very high in-need population. We serve the Annandale, Lincolnia, and Baileys Crossroads areas.

ACCA's Child Development Center is staffed by highly trained paid professionals, and serves the early educational needs of almost 300 children. ACCA also operates the Human Services Ministry (HSM) that provides critical basic support for Fairfax county citizens in need, including food, emergency rent and utilities payments, furniture, meals on wheels, transportation, housing repair, scholarships, and hypothermia prevention services. The Human Services ministry is staffed by approximately 500 repeat volunteers and hundreds of one-time volunteers. Our administrative costs are less than 4% of our budget, because of our volunteers, and we invest virtually no money on fund raising. In 2016 we served about 500 people in need, providing nearly \$500,000 worth of assistance. This included over 10,000 meals delivered; we furnished the homes of 264 families, provided rides for those in need, and provided scholarships for four underserved college students.

Fairfax County is a critical partner as we respond to the changing demands from our neighbors in need, at a time when the future of federal funding is unclear. We are pleased that County Executive Long's budget reflects the urgency to keep up with these changing demands. Special thanks go to the staff of the Coordinated Service Planning Office for screening requests and helping us respond to rent, utility, other financial

needs as well as food and furniture. ACCA values our longstanding partnership with Fairfax County.

We appreciate the challenge of the County's overall budget process, but also note that the economic recovery is still out of reach for many in our community. Many of our most vulnerable residents still need assistance in order to live safe and healthy lives. Often, those neighbors who need human services assistance require multiple services provided by a variety of agencies, both public and private. All human services are interdependent and deserve equal support in this budgetary process. We urge that you pay close attention to the Human Services Needs Survey that was conducted recently. We are pleased that the County Executive Long has proposed no cuts in human services and that his list of priority and critical items includes human services. The advertised budget provides additional funding for human services programs where demand is growing, which will help preserve current service delivery levels.

We therefore urge the Board to approve the County Executive's recommendations for human service programs.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to share ACCA's perspective on the proposed FY17 budget. ACCA Looks forward to continuing our longstanding, productive partnership, which enables us to deliver much needed help for the most vulnerable in our community.