

Updates
from
Hanover County Department of Community Resources
1/04/10
Special Notice

Reminders Regarding Hanover Social Services Assistance for Heating Needs

Crisis Assistance is intended for emergency situations. It helps eligible households when Fuel Assistance or other resources cannot meet the need. Some examples of emergencies include: lack of heat, utility cut-off is imminent, and inoperable or unsafe heating equipment. Types of Crisis Assistance may include: payment of utility security deposit; purchase of portable space heater; purchase of primary home heating fuel; payment of primary heat utility bill; repair of heating equipment; replacement of heating equipment; and/or provision of supplemental heating equipment/maintenance.

To be eligible for Crisis Assistance, there must be a heating emergency and certain income and citizenship criteria must be met. Applications for equipment-related assistance and security deposits are accepted from November 1, 2009 through March 15, 2010.

Assistance for the purchase of heating fuel and utility bills for primary residences are available from January 4 through March 15, 2010. Income eligibility for Crisis Assistance is based upon total number of household members. Maximum monthly income limits are as follows (Note: if the ONLY source of household income is Social Security Disability, income limits do not apply).

1 person- \$1,174

2 persons- \$1,579

3 persons- \$1,984

For more information on household size and limits or to request an application, contact Hanover Social Services at 804-365-4103.

Energy Share through Dominion Virginia Power is also managed locally by Hanover Social Services. If eligible, households may receive assistance to pay for the applicable source of heat (electricity, gas, oil, wood or kerosene). Call 804-365-4103 or 804-365-6641 for information on requirements and to determine if funding is available.

Hanover Adult Center hosts Caregiver Educational Forums

The Hanover Adult Center offers monthly Caregiver Educational Forums. The forums are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The Hanover Adult Center is located at 7231 Stonewall Parkway in Mechanicsville. Speakers from a variety of agencies present information on topics of interest to caregivers of aging loved ones. Light refreshments are served. Caregivers are encouraged to enjoy the company of other caregivers, network, ask questions, share ideas, etc. These forums are free and open to the public. Respite care is provided as needed. January and February sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Topic: *Accessing Resources in our Community: How to Find the Resources You Need*

Speakers: Bonnie Scimone from Senior Navigator & Tina Bessent from United Way 211

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Topic: *Partnering with Your Physician: A workshop to enhance care by becoming a partner with your physician.*

Tips will be provided to make the visit with your physician more effective.

Speaker: Nancy Lentz, Family Care Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association,
Greater Richmond Chapter

For more information, contact the Hanover Adult Center at 804-746-0743 or visit

www.hanoveradultcenter.com.

Patrick Henry High's Empty Bowls Charity Dinner Benefits WHEAT

Patrick Henry High School's Fine Arts Club invites to the community to attend its Empty Bowls Dinner to benefit Western Hanover Emergency Action Team. The event will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Montpelier Center, 17205 Mountain Rd. Montpelier. Choose a handmade bowl to fill with soup. Keep the bowl as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be obtained from members of the Patrick Henry Fine Arts Club or community sponsors such as Homemades by Suzanne, the Montpelier Center and the Iron Horse. For more information contact Jennifer Inge, Patrick Henry High School's Fine Arts Department at 804-365-8000 or email jinge@hcps.us.

Bon Secours Hospice Volunteer Recruitment Training

Bon Secours Hospice is seeking individuals interested in becoming Hospice Visitors or Helpers. Opportunities are available for those interested in working with hospice patients and their families as a Hospice Visitor. Opportunities are also available to volunteer as a Helper, providing much needed assistance in the office or with special projects.

A volunteer training will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. The training will be held at St. Mary's Hospital Education Center, Room 156, 5801 Bremono Road, Richmond, VA 23226. For more information or to RSVP contact Barbara Palmer at 804- 627-5323 or email barbara_palmer@bshsi.org or Ellen Manning at 804- 287-3527 or email ellen_manning@bshsi.org.

Hanover Social Services To Offer Free Tax Preparation

Beginning February 3, 2010, the Hanover County Department of Social Services will offer free tax preparation for people who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. EITC is a federal income-tax credit for working families whose incomes are less than \$48,279. On Wednesday evenings from Feb. 3 to April 15, 2010 volunteer tax preparers will be available between 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Social Services Department, which is located in the Hanover Human Services Center off U.S. Rt. 1 in Ashland.

Individuals seeking free tax preparation must bring all W-2 and 1099 forms, photo identification, Social Security cards for all family members and any other income and/or deductions documentation needed to file their tax return. If married, both husband and wife must be present.

Those who qualify for the EITC can get a refund from \$457 to \$5,657. Tax preparation assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Returns that cannot not be serviced locally due to the nature and complexity of the return will be referred to partner GREITCC sites in the Greater Richmond area that specialize in more difficult returns.

Hanover County is a member of the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition ("GREITCC"), a regional partnership that works to educate people about EITC and to increase access to free tax-preparation services. For more information, contact the Hanover Department of Social Services at 804-365-4109.

Free Cell Phones and Service for Individuals with Limited Incomes

Assurance Wireless, offered by Virgin Mobile, provides limited service and free cell phones to qualifying individuals. The plan offers a free phone, 200 free minutes per month for local and long distance within the United States, free voicemail, call waiting and caller ID with no long-term contracts, bills, activation fees or surcharges. Individuals who may qualify include those who participate in any of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps/SNAP, SSI, TANF, Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8, LIHEAP or National School Lunch Program. Individuals may also qualify based upon household income. To obtain more information or apply for service, contact 1-888-898-4888.