

**Testimony submitted by the
Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
on the County FY2014 Advertised Budget
April 11, 2013**

My name is Ken Mittelholtz and I am President of the Annandale Christian Community for Action, known as ACCA. From its meager beginning in 1967, ACCA has grown into a voluntary organization of 26 member churches. ACCA provides critical basic needs to low-income families including developmental day care, food, emergency rent and utility assistance, furniture, drivers for Meals on Wheels, transportation for medical appointments and other services in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Baileys and Culmore areas. These services are provided regardless of religion, race or ethnic background.

Much of our funding comes from generous individuals, the 26 member churches, and grants. One of our greatest assets is that all ACCA services -- except for operation of our Child Development Center-- are provided by hundreds of dedicated volunteers working from their homes, offices, and vehicles.

ACCA would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued interest in and support of human services and in particular your long support of ACCA. In general, ACCA supports the FY 2014 advertised budget as presented by Mr. Long and his recommendation to restore cuts that occurred in the FY 2013 budget. ACCA believes that the human services side of the advertised budget reflects Mr. Long's understanding of human service needs.

Most of our referrals for services come via the Coordinated Services Planning Department of the County. This working relationship between ACCA and the County's Coordinated Services has been working extremely well. We believe that this successful relationship clearly has benefits for ACCA, Fairfax County, and our citizens.

We appreciate the fact that dealing with a budget is always a difficult situation. This situation is not made easier with federal and state budget cuts. While Isabel Ballivian, the Director of ACCA's Child Development Center (CDC) has provided testimony specific to the CDC, let me highlight several areas of the FY 2014 advertised budget that significantly impact ACCA's other programs.

1. ACCA strongly supports maintaining the FY 2014 funding level for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP). This is the second year of the two year funding cycle. The CCFP provides support for ACCA's Family Emergency Assistance (housing, utilities and medicine), furniture (pay storage fees for large donations of furniture) and pantry operations (purchase fresh foods and other essential items which are not donated in sufficient quantities).

2. ACCA strongly supports the FY 2014 advertised budget funding level for the Housing Blueprint with its goal to reduce homelessness in the County by acquiring affordable housing units. ACCA strongly supports the Department of Family Services Rent Relief Program. Currently ACCA provides funds that are part of a package of rental assistance put together by

county social service staff. If this Department of Family Services funding is not available, ACCA will potentially be faced with more demand for rent assistance.

3. ACCA strongly supports funding for Community Health Care Network (CHCN). Since all of the CHCN programs are so interconnected with other programs, when you reduce the clinic funding it can have significant impacts on the other programs. Many of these patients are also clients of ACCA's other human services programs.

4. ACCA is concerned about the proposed cuts to the Ride-On program, which allow needy seniors to go for medical appointments and other necessities. Moving them to the "Seniors on the Go" taxi voucher program will allow flexibility, but we believe the increased cost to the participants may well stop them from using the program. The end result could be an additional strain on the ACCA Transportation program. In this ACCA program, our volunteer drivers provide needy individuals with rides to their medical appointments. ACCA's Transportation program is currently operating at capacity.

5. ACCA has looked at the various human services cuts that would be considered if the advertised budget is not adopted, and urges the Board not to make such human services cuts in order to protect our most vulnerable populations.

We welcome the continued longstanding, productive partnership between Fairfax County and ACCA, which enables us to accomplish more than we could separately to help the vulnerable people in our community.

Thank You.