

**Women's Giving Circle**  
**Overview of Progress - February 2006**  
**Success by 6® Collaboration – Arlandria**

SCAN of Northern Virginia, NVFS Healthy Families Alexandria, and Hispanic Committee of Virginia

Overview of Progress

**A. Outputs**

**Output Goal:** 1,000 bilingual flyers on Success by 6®/Arlandria are distributed throughout Alexandria (through schools, libraries, service providers, and common gathering places).

**Actual:** Approximately 1,000 flyers in English and Spanish have been distributed by SCAN throughout Arlandria to recruit families since November. On average, about 250 flyers are distributed per month. Outreach has been conducted at Duncan Library, St. Rita's Catholic Church, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, Cora Kelly Elementary School, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, Mt. Vernon Elementary School, Alexandria Division of Social Services, Tenants & Workers United, both Chirilagua grocery stores, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc., Office on Women, Campagna Center, Greenbrier Learning Center at Virginia Gardens Apartments, Alexandria Health Department, and Community Lodgings. In addition, flyers were provided for the community meeting held on January 30, 2006 at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center. This community meeting was to discuss services offered to families in Arlandria.

**Output Goal:** Through registration information collected, 30 parents and 35 children will participate in one or more weekly playgroups to learn strategies to interact in developmentally appropriate and stimulating ways with their young child through playgroup activities and modeling.

**Actual:** To date, the playgroup has met seven times at St. Rita's Catholic Church Parish Center, located at 3825 Russell Road in Arlandria. All parents attending were Spanish-speaking. Each month, the playgroup focuses on a different shape, color, number, book, and/or theme. When implementing activities surrounding these topics, parents learn about child development and how to increase positive, effective interaction with their child. In January, the playgroup shape was circles, the color was white, and the theme was snow. In February, the playgroup shape was hearts, the color was red, and the book was Counting Kisses. Seventeen parents and seventeen children have participated in the playgroup one or more times. Four children were under age 1; three children were between 1 and 2-years old; five children were between 2 and 3-years old; and four children were between 3 and 4-years old.

**Output Goal:** At least 12 parents will attend each of the 3 workshops.

**Actual:** As participation in the playgroup grows, workshops are being planned. A workshop on the importance of preschool and an explanation about the programs Child & Family Network Centers and Alexandria Head Start/Early Head Start offer to families in Arlandria will be presented on February 17th. Workshops are also being planned on community safety (with Alexandria police officer Captain Edward Reyes who has been assigned to the Arlandria community) as well as positive discipline with young children. In addition, the Reading Connection is attending the playgroup every other month, reading to the families and offering the families free-of-charge reading material.

**Output Goal:** At least 10 case management services are provided each month to participating families.

**Actual:** The Hispanic Committee of Virginia has worked with two mothers on case management since the inception of the playgroup. These two mothers sought information on health care, employment, and counseling. A case management worker attends the playgroup each week, participating with the families to be available for them and to better understand their needs. As the group grows and trust is built, the Hispanic Committee anticipates more requests for case management services.

**B. Outcome Measures**

**Measure:** 90% of the parents will become more engaged in their child's development (as reported on quarterly parent feedback surveys and/or observed by staff observational/anecdotal reports in team meetings).

**Actual:** 100% of responding parents indicated that they are learning that their children can do things they did not realize they could do. Parents responded that they are enjoying doing the crafts with their children and are getting new ideas for activities at home.

**Measure:** 100% of the parents will increase social connections and access to community resources (as documented on quarterly parent feedback surveys, workshop evaluations, and/or team meeting reports of anecdotal staff observations).

**Actual:** 100% of responding parents indicated they have met new people and made new social connections by coming to playgroup. Those parents who are starting to come regularly to the playgroup indicated they now feel more comfortable coming to the playgroup since they will know the others at the group.

**Measure:** 80% of participating children will increase appropriate social interactions with other children (according to parent report on quarterly parent feedback surveys and/or staff observations documented in team meetings).

**Actual:** 100% of responding parents, many of whom are regular attendees, indicated that their children are now into the routine of playgroup. Parents indicated that their children seem to feel more secure; that they are following directions; that they know when it's time to leave; and that they are learning to share because of participation in the playgroup. One parent observed and reported to the playgroup facilitator that another parent's child seemed to be feeling more comfortable. This mother noticed that the child had cried during the first playgroups, but was now enjoying the playgroup, participating, and sharing with other children.

### **C. Facilitator Observations**

The NVFS Healthy Families playgroup facilitator has reported that one mother and her 2.5-year-old son have attended playgroup at least three times to date. This child is also in speech therapy. The speech therapist has recently conveyed to the mother that it is obvious that her son has been engaged in a playgroup because he is more focused on the task at hand when the speech therapist is working with him. The mother plans to adjust her own work schedule in order for her and her son to attend playgroup on a regular basis in the future.

The facilitator also reported that two pregnant moms-to-be have attended the playgroup. These two young women are roommates and the facilitator is also their Healthy Families home worker. They both indicated that they loved the playgroup and that they will keep returning to playgroup each week once their babies are born. They said they feel that it will teach them a lot about how to interact with their children, child development, and they look forward to interacting with other mothers at the group.