



Hands Engaged In Local Public Service

5TH ANNUAL DAY OF CARING

NOVEC HELPS Sends Employees to Work at Two Local Nonprofit Organizations

NOVEC employees gathered in October for the fifth annual Day of Caring. Organized by NOVEC HELPS, the day of service is the culmination of months of planning, communicating, and delegating. About 40 employees pitched in to help at [Western Fairfax Christian Ministries \(WFCM\)](#) and [Choice Respect independence \(CRi\)](#).

NOVEC HELPS Chair Nan Musick said that they chose to assist two organizations in 2023 because so many employees wanted to give their time. NOVEC employees got right to work cleaning, painting, sorting and packing food, washing vehicles, and helping out with yard work needs across both locations. One team even did a little baking, which was a nice surprise for CRi residents.

“CRi and WFCM kept our volunteers busy,” said Musick.

“The volunteer service provided by NOVEC employees was invaluable as WFCM is in the midst of its busy season, including two holiday/school food distributions serving nearly 1,000 local families,” said Diane Beatley, WFCM senior manager of community engagement. “We appreciate our long-standing partnership with NOVEC and NOVEC HELPS.”

With food pantries in Chantilly and Centreville, WFCM is a community-based human services organization in Fairfax County. Services include providing food, emergency financial housing support via rent and utility assistance, laundry ministry, nutrition classes, connections to clothing, birthday cakes, financial classes, and health/vaccination clinics.

CRi offers personalized resources to people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs. For more than 45 years, CRi has provided these individuals with specialized services, and home and community support.

Yvette Perez (left) and Brigitte Adkins paint shutters at CRi.



FALL FOOD DRIVE

Throughout the month of November, NOVEC employees donated three large boxes of canned food and six bags of dry food items to [Northern Virginia Family Services \(NVFS\)](#). NVFS empowers individuals by offering financial, emotional, and physical well-being services for more than 35,000 individuals to achieve self sufficiency.

TOILETRY DRIVE

During November, NOVEC employees donated 67 pounds of toiletries to [Western Fairfax Christian Ministries \(WFCM\)](#). WFCM provides food and financial support to families at risk of hunger and homelessness across western Fairfax County.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

For the holidays, NOVEC employees donated several boxes and bags full of toys and games to [Northern Virginia Family Services's SERVE](#) campus in Manassas. This facility provides immediate assistance and programs to help our neighbors develop future success.

SINK OR SWIM AT RESTON MUSEUM CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA

NOVEC HELPS made a splash by competing in the Reston Museum Cardboard Boat Regatta on Aug. 19. NOVEC HELPS assisted with building two boats, one to compete in for itself, and donated money for a boat for [Specially Adapted Resource Clubs \(SPARC\)](#). SPARC provides daily programs for adults with disabilities throughout Northern Virginia.

NOVEC employees spent days planning and constructing the S.S. Volt out of cardboard, liquid nails, and duct tape. “The building of the boat started slowly, trying to determine the size of the boat, based on the cardboard pieces we had on hand, and then went faster with the help of all the volunteers,” said project leader Pam Rochon. “I’m really proud of how our team came together to build a water-worthy boat in about eight hours. I can’t wait until next year!”

Rhy Wiethe, NOVEC digital communications coordinator, took to Lake Anne hesitant at first, but full of competitive spirit. “I was honestly a little nervous that the boat would sink, because I didn’t know how the cardboard and duct tape would hold up,” Wiethe said. “It was so much fun, and the boat worked just like an actual kayak! Our engineering team did a great job, and I was happy to help out with this great fundraiser.”



NOVEC HELPS member Rhy Wiethe captains a homemade boat built by NOVEC employees.

DECK THE HALLS AT CHOICE RESPECT INDEPENDENCE

NOVEC HELPS Chair Nan Musick and NOVEC Administrative Scheduler Ginger Hamlin decorated one of the [Choice Respect Independence \(CRi\)](#) group homes for the holidays in the Lake Jackson Manassas area on Dec. 2. Joined by two members living in the home, the group put up two trees, hung garland, wreaths, and other decorations inside and outside the home.

CRi is a nonprofit organization providing quality services to help empower individuals with disabilities and mental health needs. For more than 40 years, CRi has provided services to the community by recognizing that all people are capable of achieving their potential.

“I am glad I was able to return to the CRi home since day of caring, which provides housing for people with developmental disabilities. It was a joy to bring them some Christmas decorations and help get their home ready for the holidays,” said Hamlin. “The most heartwarming part was helping some of the residents put ornaments on the tree.”

Ginger Hamlin decorates a tree with ornaments at one of the CRi group homes in Manassas.





CHRISTMAS TEA RAISES \$70,000 FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

On Dec. 5 [The Loudoun County Social Collective](#) hosted a Christmas tea fundraiser at Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery in Bluemont. NOVEC HELPS contributed \$2,500 and NOVEC HELPS member Pam Rochon attended the event.

This event raised more than \$70,000 for [A Place To Be](#) – an organization that provides performance-based music therapy and expressive arts to children with disabilities and medical issues. Founded in 2010, its mission is to create community, belonging, and hope through its services.

Left: Kim Tapper, co-founder & community director of A Place to Be.

Bottom Left: Student performs during the Christmas Tea Fundraiser.

Bottom Right: Senior Music Therapist/Clinical Manager Bran Hassan (left) and Medical Music Therapist/Director of Music Education Kevin Leong perform at the Christmas Tea.



JOIN NOVEC HELPS TODAY

Are you looking to give back to your community while having some fun? Join NOVEC HELPS! We are seeking new board members who want to assist the communities NOVEC serves in a variety of ways.

NOVEC HELPS is entirely run by NOVEC employees, and we want to make sure every division is represented. Join us today and make an immediate positive impact in your community. Visit novechelps.org or speak with a board member to get more information about what we do.

Applicants qualify to participate in NOVEC HELPS following six months of employment with NOVEC. You must have supervisor approval when applying. Once on the board, members commit to regular meeting attendance and participation.

If you would like to apply, [complete the application](#) and submit it to novec-helps@novec.com.

DONATE TO NOVEC HELPS

A few dollars a month can do a lot of good in our community. You can give as little as \$2 per paycheck or make a one-time donation through payroll deduction for NOVEC HELPS.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the Payroll Deduction Form.

Organizations NOVEC HELPS Donated to from August-December 2023

TOTAL DONATED: \$30,375

Organization Assisted	Type of Organization
Rapphannock Electric Cooperative Golf Tournament	Community
Brothers in Christ Motorcycle Ministry	Community
East Cobb Bullets	Youth Sports
Fallen Lineman Foundation	Community
Good Shepard Alliance	Community
Mary Walter Elementary	Youth
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9835	Community
Divine Inspirations	Youth
A Place to Be	Social Welfare
Boys and Girls Club of Fauquier	Community
Falcon Bruin	Youth
Western Fairfax Christian Ministries	Social Welfare
Choice Respect independence	Social Welfare
Northern Virginia Food Rescue	Community
Brain Injury Services	Community
Here 2 Serve	Food Pantry
10-7 at BigLand	Social Welfare
Shirley O Nelson Foundation	Community
Shelter House, Inc.	Community
Cub Run Elementary School	Youth

Organization Assisted	Type of Organization
Art of Life Charities	Social Welfare
Yorkshire Volunteer Fire Department	Community
The Compassionate Friends Fredericksburg	Community
Boxes of Basics	Social Welfare
E. Carrington Family Enrichment	Community
Battlefield High School Soccer	Youth Sports
Access Independence	Community
Step Sisters	Community
Wounded Warrior Project	Social Welfare
Christian Appalachia Project	Social Welfare
American Red Cross	Disaster Relief
Disabled Veterans	Social Welfare
National Park Foundation	Community
Action in Community Through Service	Community
Streetlight Community Outreach	Social Welfare
Haymarket Regional Food Pantry	Community
Loudoun Hunger Relief	Community
Northern Virginia Family Services	Social Welfare
ART Factory	Youth
American Cancer Society	Social Welfare

NOVEC HELPS, Hands Engaged in Local Public Service, is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization of NOVEC employees who volunteer their time to help others and engage other employees in community service projects.

The NOVEC HELPS board of directors votes on programs and events to support, whether with financial donations or with feet on the ground.



Learn more at novechelps.org

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