



News Release

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VOLUNTEER GROUP GRANDINVOLVE WINS FIRST PLACE 2019 BEST PRACTICES AWARD

(RICHMOND, Va.) — GrandInvolve, a volunteer group that brings older adults into Fairfax County elementary schools to improve the success of students, won the \$5,000 first place Best Practices Award from the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

[GrandInvolve](#) volunteers work directly with youth at public schools with high concentrations of low-income students, helping teachers and providing support to school activities aimed at involving parents and families in the school.

The council advises the Governor on issues affecting the nearly 1.8 million Virginians age 60 and older, and with its annual awards acknowledges organizations whose innovative programs can be replicated across the Commonwealth. A committee judges nominees on seven criteria, including community impact, potential for replication, innovation, outcomes and promotion of aging in the community.

“We are honored to receive this award for our intergenerational program. GrandInvolve volunteers are changing the trajectory of success for our most vulnerable populations while enjoying and benefiting from the relationships we develop with the children,” said Dorothy Keenan, founder and executive director of GrandInvolve.

The Legacy Sessions, a project by Senior Living Guide of Hampton Roads, won the second-place award of \$3,000. The effort brought together 32 theater students from Salem High School with residents from Marian Manor Assisted Living, both in Virginia Beach, to promote understanding and appreciation of the older adults. The students created monologues based on their interviews of the residents, which they then performed for them as well as the high school and public.

A \$2,000 third-place award honored Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging, for its Care Transitions Program. The program helps prevent hospital readmissions by educating and supporting newly discharged patients and their care partners. Coaches work with individuals in their homes to set up a 30-day plan and to identify questions and concerns that can avoid another hospital stay.

“Each year the committee selects from a field of outstanding applicants with programs that impact the quality of life of older Virginians, care partners and care recipients,” said Council Best Practices Committee Chair Dr. Richard Lindsay. “Support of the care partner and the care recipient are important parts of many of the awardees programs and will make Virginia’s communities more livable in the future.”

Dominion Energy supports the Commonwealth Council on Aging’s Best Practices Awards, which serve to encourage organizations across Virginia to develop and support programs and services that assist older adults to age in their community.

The following organizations received honorable mentions:

- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services for its Senior Center Inclusion Services
- Peninsula Agency on Aging for its Memory Café in Williamsburg
- The Jefferson Area Board for Aging’s Open Enrollment Insurance Counseling Mobile Unit, Charlottesville
- Generations Intergenerational Daycare Center, operated by Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens in Cedar Bluff

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.