



# Have You Heard?

A Weekly News and Events Update from the  
Director of Human Services

Norfolk Department of  
Human Services

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## Kudos, Cohorts!



FRONT ROW, L-R: Moscow Spencer, **Sherita Bovastro**, Mattie Satterfield, **Arlana Lee-Holt**, Lenora Cooke, Jill Baker and Marie Vesely. BACK ROW, L-R: Garry Cofield, Ruth McCall-Miller, **Cora Hart** and Al Steward

Cohorts not pictured: **Lakeisha McKnight, Felix Harper, Mary Frye and Wanda Smith**

Five NDHS social workers have received their Master of Social Work degrees this spring as part of the NSU Cohort program. Congratulations to Lakeisha McKnight, Cora Hart, Sherita Bovastro, Mary Frye, Felix Harper, Arlana Lee-Holt, and Wanda Smith.

Each graduate faced numerous challenges along the way - work by day, classes by night and practicums both day *and* night. The new MSWs fought back tears as they shared the joy of reaching their goal.

"I would like to thank the agency for the opportunity and flexibility to do this while we were working," said Arlana Lee-Holt as she wiped her eyes.

Congratulations to you all!

## Adult Abuse and Neglect: Raising Awareness

The Adult Protective Service /Adult Service units in "The Center for Aging" have scheduled the following Adult Abuse Prevention Month activities:

**May 6** – Opening Ceremony for the "Senior Olympics" - handed out brochures and answered questions to an audience of over 300 seniors and professionals.

**May 16**- Day for People with Disabilities at the Zoo- shared a booth with Senior Services to hand out material and respond to questions.

**May 27** – Trinity Baptist Church – will hand out brochures, bottle openers and sticky pads developed for prevention month.

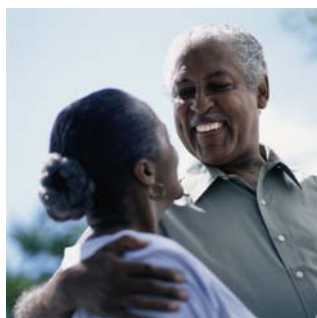
For more information about adult abuse prevention, visit:

[http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/prevention\\_month.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/prevention_month.cgi)



Also, tune in to Norfolk's TV 48 and "Human Services Forum" beginning Sunday, May 24th, when social workers Vonya Jenkins and Tonya Carroll join host Jan Callaghan to share their perspective on adult abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Human Services Forum airs twice daily, 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. on TV48 and online at [www.norfolk.gov/TV48](http://www.norfolk.gov/TV48).



## Taxpayers Receive \$729,000 in EITC Refunds

The Norfolk Department of Human Services is a key member of the South Hampton Roads Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (SHREITC) which finished its 2009 tax filing season with impressive results:

- 1400 federal returns prepared
- \$1.6 million in federal refunds
- \$728, 521 in EITC refunds (37%)  
(2008 tax filing season: \$614,370)
- \$1,459 - average EITC refund
- 15 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites
- 1400 volunteer hours

SHREITC's mission is to provide quality volunteer tax services to eligible citizens, while seeking to educate and inform and communicate the value of financial literacy to citizens of South Hampton Roads.

Members include dozens of organizations in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Franklin. SHREITC has received grant funding from the Virginia Community Action Partnership, Bank of America and the WalMart Foundation.

For more information about the EITC, eligibility guidelines, and volunteer opportunities, visit the SHREITC website at [www.shreitc.com](http://www.shreitc.com).

