



NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE ON YOUTH ANNOUNCES AWARD OF THREE-YEAR GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Office on Youth is pleased to announce it has been awarded a three-year grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) in the amount of \$90,000 to address youth obesity in Orange County.

This grant funding, which is available as of July 1, 2020, will allow the Office on Youth to spear head the creation of the Orange Healthy Community Action Team, which will consist of the following organizations and agencies dedicated to creating a healthy environment for Orange County's Youth: Darnell's Garden Patch, Love Outreach Food Pantry, Orange County Parks and Recreation, University of Virginia Pediatrics at Orange and Virginia Cooperative Extension/4-H: Orange Office, as well as local mother Robin Monaco who will serve as a community member with a like-minded goal.

The focus of the Orange Healthy Community Action Team is to create a unified effort in our community as well as an awareness to not only the youth obesity problem in Orange County, but the community's commitment to combat the problem and better serve the youth, who are our community's most valuable asset. The ultimate goal of the Orange HCAT is to provide more fresh produce options and interactive educational opportunities about healthy eating choices, as well as more outdoor/physical activity opportunities to Orange County youth. The Orange Healthy Community Action Team will start the conversation around youth obesity and begin to make policy and systematic changes which will pave the way toward environmental change.

Alisha Vines, Office on Youth Director, stated "the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth has provided Orange County with grant funding for the past eleven years, focusing on youth tobacco prevention. The expansion of grant opportunities for youth obesity prevention that has been provided to our office by the Foundation will allow the Office on Youth to further its mission to promote positive youth development and work with key community players to tackle childhood obesity and create a healthy environment for our youth."

For additional information about the Orange Healthy Community Action Team or the grant award to the Office on Youth, please contact Ashley Jacobs, Program Coordinator, at (540) 672-5484 or visit www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth. For additional information about the important work of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, please visit www.vfhy.org.

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