



FHF Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, 1.11.22

5:30 pm -6:30 pm

[Recurring zoom meeting link](#)

[Meeting recording](#)

5:30- 5:35 pm **Welcome**

- [QUICK overview of FHF](#)- we are working to **build community** & support families
- Did you know we currently have **69** different languages in our schools?! The top ten incident languages are Spanish, Chinese Mandarin, Arabic, Dari, Nepali, Pashto, Korean, Turkish, Russian and Urdu.

5:35- 6:00 pm **Community Speakers**

- **Ambha Lessard**, [ACPS ESOL Family Engagement](#) and Family Support Liaison
 - Some schools have 30% ESOL!
 - “Here is the link to the [WIDA website](#) in case anybody who is not familiar with WIDA wants to learn more. Emily Elliot is our ESOL Instructional Liaison and she, and ESOL teachers, are quite familiar with WIDA and how our ESOL students receive support, and then exit. Should there be any more inquiries feel free to pass them along. The ESOL office assesses each student with a language screener, and then schools administer yearly tests to determine language levels. (Of course this is just one tool in the entire process!)”
- **Edgar Lara**, Executive Director, [Sin Barreras](#)
 - [Job opening!](#)
 - info@sinbarrerasville.org about general information
 - volunteer@sinbarrerasville.org about volunteering
- **Cain Turner**, [International Neighbors](#) Director of Development
- **Debbie Tuler**, ESOL Specialist, NEDP Advisor/Assessor, [Thomas Jefferson Adult & Career Education](#)
 - 434-961-5464
 - “Mainly I want folks to be aware, as they are working with families, of the free learning opportunities we offer to help them meet their - the adults’ - goals. So if parents are struggling with English, for example, we can help with that. Ultimately, we would like to see more parents able to communicate with school staff without everyone having to rely on interpreters. Also, we know that when parents can help their children, children are more successful.”
 - Also works with Cherry Stewart and Heidi Gordon
 - From Heidi: “Here’s a 30-second summary of what I do:
I am employed by PVCC as an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher. I teach a low-intermediate level English class for PVCC and facilitate a weekly conversation group. Since 2002, I’ve worked on contract for the IRC. I

[FHF Website](#)

434-260-1079 | Familieshf@gmail.com | [FHF Google Group](#)



teach the IRC English classes for IRC's newly arrived clients and I conduct monthly tutor training for IRC's volunteer English tutors. I also help connect clients to our PVCC/TJACE classes at the Adult Learning Center.

For anyone working with people who need help with English or who need a GED, please note that our winter session of classes will begin on January 24. The first step in registering for a class is to make an appointment for an assessment test at the Adult Learning Center located in the IX Park. Appointments can be made with our administrative assistant, Judy Robinson by email: jrobinson@pvcc.edu; by phone: 434-961-5461 or in person at the Adult Learning Center, 935-A, 2nd St., SE. There is no tuition.

- [Kelly Eplee, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville](#)
 - “The Southwood Mobile Home Park is the single largest concentration of affordable (albeit substandard) housing in the region. Habitat purchased it in 2007 to stop the inevitable – the park being sold and 1,500 of our most vulnerable neighbors displaced. Children and youth make up 600 of these residents.
 - Since 2007, we have invested millions in deferred maintenance and operations, but the infrastructure and housing will not last. Since we purchased the park, we have partnered with more than 35 other agencies and service providers to improve the quality of life at Southwood. However, our key partners are the residents themselves. To plan for redevelopment, we have pioneered a groundbreaking, appreciative community development process whereby we help build collective capacity among the residents to be the leaders in their community’s evolution and reinvestment. Through this process, the residents have become the primary architects, engineers and developers – supported but not led by our professional team.
 - In January 2020, we broke ground on what will eventually be a 1,000-1,200 unit mixed income, mixed use development, inclusive of a neighborhood core for activities such as business incubation, early childhood education and excellent after-school enrichment. The first homes will go vertical in January 2022.
 - Southwood is a groundbreaking, national model for inclusive and non-displacing community redevelopment. Twenty million people live in mobile homes in the USA without land rights, making them vulnerable to displacement when mobile home parks sell. The nation is watching. Successful redevelopment of Southwood will demonstrate a better way to help reinvest in communities without displacing the people, the culture and the vitality that exists in every neighborhood.
 - [A 4 - minute video Southwood Trailer Park Redevelopment](#)
- [Katie Heroux, International Rescue Committee](#)
 - “IRC has a daily ESL class for new refugee arrivals. It is taught by Heidi Gordon and covers survival English. When clients outgrow our ESL class Heidi tests them into classes at the adult learning center. We also offer an ESL tutor program where we match volunteer tutors with adult clients. For this program, we have an internal referral system but if a community member has a question, they can reach out to me. Our volunteer ESL tutors undergo IRC Volunteer training and ESL training. The program typically requires the

[FHF Website](#)

434-260-1079 | Familieshf@gmail.com | [FHF Google Group](#)



volunteer to enter the client's home to remove transportation as a barrier. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with the IRC can apply on [our website](#)"

- **Kristen Clarens, [Legal Aid Justice Center](#)** (couldn't attend with sick child but shared info below)
 - Runs LAJC's pro bono program and works with Spanish speakers to find community resources.
 - Also works with other national immigrant advocacy groups.
 - kclarens@justice4all.org cell 434 249 6125

6:00- 6:05 pm **FHF Monthly Update**

- General update (Amanda/Khalilah)
 - [About Us webpage](#)- can school reps/board members take a look that all looks ok before we upload
 - [New volunteer/donation web form](#)
 - After I met with Ambha we wondered about the following and are [surveying the community this month](#):
 - School representatives, please respond to this survey for your school communities.
- Solutions Team (Miles/Latara)
 - New help form
- Finances/501c3 status (Angie)
 - CACF Balance: **\$5,520.89** (as of 1/12/22)
 - Henley Donation: \$500
 - Gnome Fund:

6:05- 6:25 pm **Discussion**

6:25- 6:30 pm **Wrap-up & Next Steps**

- **School representatives: Please respond to [this month's survey](#) by February 1.**
- Next month's focus: [Summer Camps/Enrichment options](#). Please comment directly on the planning document or [email Amanda](#) if you have any suggestions for community speakers!
- **Save the Date!** We meet the second Tuesday of every month during the school year: 5:30-6:30 pm. [Recurring meeting link](#)
 - Feb 8, 2022
 - Summer activity/camp focus
 - Mar 8, 2022
 - TBD: Literacy focus?
 - Apr 12, 2022
 - Housing Focus
 - May 10, 2022
 - Parenting Groups
 - Jun 14, 2022 05:30 PM
 - *TBD- End of Year in person meetup??*

[FHF Website](#)

434-260-1079 | Familieshf@gmail.com | [FHF Google Group](#)



- Our mission is to first connect with existing community resources. As always...are we missing any resources in our document, especially organizations that can help families who are struggling with rent, utilities, and other needs? Is there a group that you'd like us to invite to speak at a monthly meeting? [Let us know.](#)
 - [FHF Resource List](#)
- If you know a family that is struggling, send them here: [Help Form](#)
- Is there an issue that needs advocacy? Let us [know!](#)
- If you can donate to support our work, [visit our fund page at CACE.](#)
- [Upcoming Community Events that we should share in the monthly newsletter](#)
 - [CAYA Free Drumming Class in partnership with the Jefferson School](#)