



NOVACO Key Chain

My name is Elsa and I am a mother of three, a sister, a daughter and a domestic violence survivor. I am a NOVACO graduate. I would like to tell you about my life after I was rescued from abuse. NOVACO has guided me and has had a positive impact on my life and my children's lives. Through NOVACO and my church sponsors, I received a donated car and learned to drive thanks to the good people who helped. I received counseling that helped me out of my depression that I had had for a long time. Being in the NOVACO program al-

lowed me to feel safe in a good neighborhood, with good schools for my children. NOVACO offered assistance when I needed help with car repairs, buying new clothes for my kids and other basic needs each school year. I moved into a beautiful apartment that was furnished and decorated by many volunteers for my family. These things were given to me to keep when I graduated and started my new life. Please come now and celebrate my success story and those of so many other clients. Westwood Country Club will be host to NOVACO's Ten Year Anniversary

Dinner celebrating volunteers and sponsors who do so much for the NOVACO families as well as our successful graduates..

The date of the event is Saturday, September 26, when we celebrate '*Victory over Violence*.' There will be music, auction items donated from wonderful local businesses, dinners, handmade quilts, vacation packages, door prizes and wonderful people who care about survivors of abuse. Please come and I thank you.

Everything you do for NOVACO you do for our families!

Tickets can be reserved at www.novaco.org/tickets.html

Great Idea & Growing!

NOVACO would like to thank Living Savior Lutheran Church and Lord of Life in Fairfax for joining together and having an awesome Rummage Sale in April that, when matched by Thrivent, brought in more than \$6,400!

They also created a "How To" guide so any organization supporting NOVACO could follow their step-by-step outline to success!

Email for your copy of the guide—info@novaco.org.



The next rummage sale will be held on Saturday, October 3rd!

**For more information go to the link :
www.novaco.org/sale.html**

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One out of three women around the world have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her life-time. You can help stop the violence today

Sponsor Group Responsibilities:

Two sponsors from each organization serve as liaisons back to their supporting group to help the family for a period of 24 months.

- ⇒ Communicate weekly with client via calls, visits, etc.
- ⇒ Communicate back to your organization support client may need such as diapers for infant, babysitter so she can attend job training or education classes.
- ⇒ Help NOVACO locate direct support like: babysitting, transportation, donations.
- ⇒ Coordinating a Monday night meal every few months for our Life Skills classes.
- ⇒ Invite client family to special outings. Sponsors and volunteers are also invited to participate in NOVACO outings including the annual picnic and holiday events
- ⇒ Assist with the move in and move out process.
- ⇒ Help NOVACO with maintenance or repairs on units.
- ⇒ *Be a Good Neighbor:* Assist client with phone installation, coordinating daycare, registering the children at school and, in general, acclimating the family to the community. Help with small emergencies.



President's Message—Ric Fisher

I am grateful for the generosity of the churches, businesses, community service organizations, and individual donors in our NOVACO community. Whether they are gifts of treasure or volunteer time, these are very apparent gifts from the hearts for our donors to the homes of our NOVACO families. The NOVACO Board of Directors are faithfully planning, supporting, and implementing the fundraising efforts detailed in other areas of this newsletter. Also this Board joins the Staff of NOVACO in financial planning, grant preparations and strategic planning help

for this organization. We invite you to join with us at the Tenth Anniversary celebration of the ongoing mission of NOVACO, so we can see each other and celebrate, together, this vibrant ministry on behalf of the families who are becoming more secure and self-sufficient as a result of the gifts of this ministry.

May God's grace continue to shower us and may we respond with joy and gratitude.

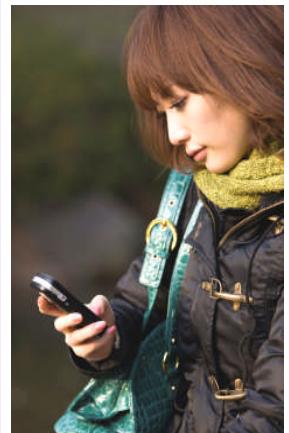
-Ric Fisher,
NOVACO President 2009

BECOME A SPONSOR

NOVACO was created by volunteers to be an organization that educated and empowered victims of abuse. Clients achieve their goals because they are not alone, they have NOVACO friends. No family is an island in the community. Victims need you to act as a good neighbor, that is why we are seeking **Sponsors** to be Good Neighbors for our families.

CALL US FOR DETAILS!

Help a Family
Achieve Victory
over Violence, call
to volunteer,
703-218-3984!



Domestic Violence Hotlines:

National Domestic Violence Hotline = **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

Victim Assistance Network = **703-360-7273 (24 hrs) / 703-799-8253 (TTY); 703-443-2810 (en Español)**

I was so impressed with the good work of NOVACO and Executive Director, Victoria Neeley and her staff that I decided to take a 6-month sabbatical from my work to volunteer. Volunteering at NOVACO was my main focus from April through October 2008 and it was an amazing adventure.

Volunteering has its advantages—rarely do you do the same thing from one day to the next. It makes it exciting to come to work! My first week, I got to help with some of the final preparations for the Gala & Auction in April. The next week I helped scoop ice cream with “Free Scoop Day” at Ben & Jerry’s . I have attended and helped with LifeSkills classes several times, including helping the kids make Mother’s Day presents. I’ve helped to clean out a unit in preparation for a new family moving in, made phone calls, attended a training class, worked with the summer interns, and “oriented” new staff.

I also supported administrative activities, since that’s where my skills are most useful. I continue to be impressed with how much gets done with so few staff. I have come to appreciate how much of the core mission of NOVACO is achieved by volunteers. So few can accomplish so much because of the dedicated churches, sponsor organizations and individuals who work with families, serve on the NOVACO Board and volunteer for projects. I have enjoyed my time at NOVACO immensely. I feel like I’ve been able to make a difference. No matter what activity I was pursuing, Victoria was always there encouraging and thanking me and that’s something you don’t get at work every day.

My favorite part of volunteering has been working with the family. I didn’t realize how much I would learn from them and the other families I met. Last summer I learned about generosity and perseverance, relationships with other people and the love of God. All of these things I learned from the families at NOVACO.

I’m so blessed to have had this experience. I thank Victoria for her patience with me, the rest of the NOVACO staff for “adopting” me and I look forward to playing a small role going on into the future when I return to my “day job”.

- Kim Hintzman

2008 NOVACO

Volunteer of the Year



volunteering with
NOVACO
Never a Dull
Moment!



Volunteer Today!

Contact our Volunteer Manager at
703-218-3984; look for new volunteer
opportunities at www.novaco.org or
email Volunteer@novaco.org

NOVACO offers counseling for our clients including the children

- ⇒ Remember this Ratio—1 in 4; One in Four women will experience Domestic Abuse in her lifetime.
- ⇒ Slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under the age of 12 years old.
- ⇒ Battered women are not the only victims of abuse—it is estimated that anywhere between 3.3 million and 10 million children witness domestic violence annually.
- ⇒ Research demonstrates that exposure to violence can have serious negative effects on children’s development.

OUR MISSION:
NOVACO helps homeless victims of domestic abuse become healthy, secure, and self-sufficient through community collaboration to provide housing, childcare, education, counseling, and mentoring.

Thanks to Virginia Run Elementary for their great group of Fannie Mae Help-the-Homeless walkers! It's not too early to schedule your youth group or school today!



Jan—May donors 2009 THANK YOU! We truly appreciate it

Colleen Adams	Margie Curia	Susan Hovey	James and Bonita Mueller	"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."
James and Marylee Adams	Marjorie Curia	Jeff Jenkins	Leanor L. Myers	~Oscar Wilde
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Simeon and Nancy Moats	Walt Cooner	Westfield High School	Rotary Club of Vienna	Falls Church Community Service Council
	Wendy Harrison & L.M. Brown Jr.	Progress Lighting	Barb's Potpourri	Bankers Insurance, LLC
	William Larson	Executive Floors	Zonta Club of Fairfax	National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund
	Hillary A. and Lou West	Miller and Smith	Daisy Troop 118	Community Foundation of Frederick County MD, Inc.
	Ric and Marie Weyrick	Peed Plumbing	Sleepy's Mattress	Falls Church Community Service Council, Inc.
	Karl Wilkerson	Cox Communications	United Way	The Community Foundation of the National Capital Region
	David and Janice Ziemba	A.C.C.A. Inc.	Zonta Club of Fairfax County	Fairfax Quilters
			America's Charities	
Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Centerville United Methodist Church	Glory Days Grill	Silverchair	SOWA Printing
Holy Trinity's Women of the ELCA	Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax	Maggiano's Little Italy	Thrivent Financial	Global Impact
Oakton Church of Brethren	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church	Red Lobster	Funk Design	Presbyterian Women
Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Outback Steakhouse		
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women	Women of Prince of Peace	Famous Dave's		
King of Kings Lutheran Church	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church	Hooters Restaurant		
St. Andrew Lutheran Church	Insarang Acupuncture and Herbs Clinic	Domino's Pizza		
Faith Lutheran Church	Women's Association of Northern VA	California Tortilla		
Church of the Good Shepherd UM	Innovative Defense Properties	Olive Garden Restaurant		
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Civitan Club of Fairfax	McCormick and Schmick's		
St. Mark Catholic Church	ACACIA Federal Savings Bank	KOL, Inc.		
Christ Presbyterian	Rotary Club of Vienna VA	IndymacBank		



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
St. Mary of Sorrows
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Christ the King Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
Living Savior Lutheran Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church



Domestic Violence - Current Statistics

- ⇒ Domestic violence constitutes the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault or other abusive behavior perpetrated by one family member, household member, or intimate partner against another.
- ⇒ Estimates of assaults on women by partners range from approximately 2 million to 4 million annually in the United States.
- ⇒ In an emergency situation, call 911 or your local law enforcement agency. If you are not in immediate danger, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-Safe (7233), which provides crisis intervention and referrals to in-state or out-of-state resources, such as women's shelters or crisis centers.
- ⇒ 72% of women going to a shelter bring their children with them and 21% of them bring 3 or more children.
- ⇒ Locally, victims should seek safety planning advice before leaving. Contact the Women's Center of Vienna, www.thewomenscenter.org or Victims Asst. Network in Virginia <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/women/van.html>.
- ⇒ Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States; more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- ⇒ Battering occurs among people of all races, ages, socio-economic classes, religious affiliations, occupations, and educational backgrounds.
- ⇒ In a single day in 2008, 16,458 children were living in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing facility. Another 6,430 children sought services at a non-residential program.
- ⇒ An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.
- ⇒ Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.

Car Donations Needed!

Thank you to everyone who donated a vehicle for NOVACO families this year! Because they go directly to clients, you receive the full Bluebook value for your tax deduction. Consider that you are giving the gift of freedom to a client so she can attend school or work. NOVACO needs vehicles for our clients, we pay the repairs. Vehicles always needed.

Donating feels better than eating ice cream! - wise old proverb

Helping those in Need

Wanted!

Youth groups; Mom's groups
Book clubs; Civic groups;
or your group of friends

Love to Cook?

Bring a Meal to Life Skills

Good at Crafts?

Lead Crafts for our kids!



United Way #9450

CFC#23349

Your Legacy could be ... NOVACO

You are a caretaker of the unique God-given gifts of life. The way you conclude your trusteeship is the way you say "thank you." Many who wish to continue their stewardship after death have provided for ministry in their wills, through simple bequests. There are lots of other ways that you can leave planned gifts, for example by assigning all or a portion of the benefits from an existing or new insurance policy.

YOU could help ensure that NOVACO continues and grows by providing a planned gift. NOVACO has established a Mission Fund to further the continuance and expansion of NOVACO as it seeks to reduce domestic abuse and to provide meaningful and significant support for the often homeless victims of such crises.

For assistance in accomplishing your planned giving goals, contact Dave Hartmann, (chartmann@cox.net) or Vnearly@novaco.org. Depending on your needs we could put you in contact with experts.

I always think that the best way to know God is to love many things.
~Vincent van Gogh



**Get your
Victory over
Violence
Ten Year Pin
by Lucinda
\$20.00**



Thanks to Madison Homes,
Richmond American and
Winchester Homes for
renovating NOVACO hous-
ing through HomeAid of
Northern Virginia

Phil Gockenbach Reaches Out to Teach Financial Responsibility

It's good business to help people who are willing to help themselves. This is Acacia Federal senior mortgage loan officer Phil Gockenbach's guiding principle for teaching financial responsibility to those in transitional housing and to first-time homebuyers.

Phil learned this concept from his grandfather who ran the family business—a bank in Ohio that Phil likens to the savings and loan in It's a Wonderful Life. After observing what it did for his grandfather's bank, Phil incorporated this principle into his strategy as a mortgage loan officer.



Eight years ago, Phil began teaching classes with the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Over the years he expanded to five other organizations, including NOVACO, one that assists victims of domestic abuse. Currently, Phil devotes about ten hours a month to volunteer teaching Financial Management.



Phil gets his students to take responsibility for their position in life and to realize they have the ability to make change. He stresses getting an education to improve their income so they can reach the long-term goal of buying a home.

Phil's enthusiasm for the programs and teaching is apparent. "I work with these folks one-on-one and talk to them in terms they can understand. Then they become enthused about the program and how they can reach their goals of financial independence and owning their own home."

- Phil serves on the 2009—2010 NOVACO Board of Directors

Admiring from Within by Laura Cannon, Spring Intern

I am an upcoming senior at West Virginia University, completing a major in Communications with a minor in Religion. Part of my major included a Business Internship. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to work with NOVACO.

I had no prior experience working for a nonprofit organization. During my internship with NOVACO, I assisted with a variety of projects. Along with the staff here, I was constantly busy and enjoyed my assignments. I helped set up support services for clients including childcare which provides the client mother security that her children are safe while she attends classes. Creating fliers for the June Picnic allowed me to help provide joy to families and become involved within the community. I also played

a role in organizing the Tenth Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction. Because I have worked here, I can see that the money collected for this event will be used to provide counseling, childcare and other needed services for those families in need.



This has been inspiring and I am glad to be a part of an organization where every task I completed was for a greater purpose—a client's success. This organization is special. I now see that caring people focused on a significant cause, can change someone's future. There is a shared passion here. I am so grateful for the time I have spent at NOVACO. This has been a defining experience in my life. Helping others who truly need it helped me see that this is the type of work, serving people in need, may be what I want to focus on throughout my life.

According to a Fairfax County survey released in April 2009:

- Since 2006 there has been an 65% increase in requests for help with food and rent payments, when there has only been less than a 1% increase in population.

- Since 2007 there has been a 39% increase in the number of households assisted with direct food programs.

- Since 2007 there has been an 28% increase in financial assistance provided to households.

Thank You & Congratulations Eagle Scout

Matthew Honey



Matthew Honey of Fairfax, has now earned his Eagle Scout with a project for NOVACO families. Matthew organized a group of scouts to help get a house ready for two new clients in Fairfax. Matthew and his team worked to get paint donations from local businesses, plus did a fundraiser project and purchased the rest of the paint and supplies. They painted three rooms and the main floor of one of our housing units so that we could move in our two new clients.



Thanks to Matthew, Ted Bajer, James Tyree, Jimmy Jones, Ed Bajer and Cynthia Yellen for their great work!

1999–2009 We have Much to Celebrate!

Who would have thought? Fifteen years ago, a group of community advocates from ten area churches met to discuss what they could do together to help out families in need. This vision of a coalition working together would grow to offer housing, services and caring to homeless families' coming from shelters—each given housing.

About ten years ago the program was funded through HUD and had our first graduate, Danika (not her real name). She completed her hygienist degree through NOVACO. She graduated, rented a town house for her and her son, but did not stop there. She continued with school to become a dentist, while working full time. NOVACO gave her the opportunity to follow her dream. When last we caught up with Danika, she had her own Pediatric dental practice. In the last ten years, she has re-married, had twins and purchased her own home. Danika, NOVACO's first client, went from being homeless in a shelter, to homeownership. For this we thank you, her community who supported her through education, childcare and, in her words, lots of caring mentors who stopped by with meals and gave me encouragement.

In June of 2009, we celebrated our *Tenth NOVACO Graduate to purchase a home of her own*. She saved for 2 years, participated in the Virginia Individual Development Account (VIDA) Savings plan and in just 13 months after graduation from NOVACO, was ready to make her down payment! Through education, hard work and caring sponsors and volunteers, together we helped her achieve her goals and make her dream come true!

Thank you for Ten Years of successfully giving your time, your thoughtfulness, meals, vehicles, furniture, tutoring, your caring and friendship, most importantly your prayers. Blessings back to all of you, from all of our graduates to date and the many more families who will successfully start their new life ahead.

Looking forward to the next ten years as we grow to serve our neighbors in need, together.

- Victoria Neeley, Executive Director

Victoria will also be celebrating ten years with NOVACO in September of 2009.



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HOUSING * EDUCATION * CHILDCARE *
COUNSELING * MENTORING

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Thanks to our interns for stories and editing:
Laura Cannon and Katherine High.

VIDA Financial Management Classes

The Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA) program helps eligible families learn to manage their money and also helps them to increase their savings. The program can be used towards: purchasing a home, paying for school or starting a business through a special savings account. VIDA matches \$2 to \$1 and provides financial literacy training and budget counseling. Eligibility includes:

- Must meet low income requirements (see website)
- Must have a dependent child under the age of 18, if saving for school or for starting a business.
- Must be 18 years or older and residing in Virginia;
- Must be a US citizen or legal alien;
- Must be employed (full or part-time)

NOVACO Financial Management classes in Fairfax or Loudoun County, together with VIDA savings program offers clients an opportunity to achieve financial freedom.



For more information contact NOVACO at (703)-218-3984 or check our class schedule at www.novaco.org/VIDA.html

Upcoming Walk-a-Thon Events



The annual "Help-the-Homeless" walkathon is coming up! This year the main walk that takes place in Washington D.C. will be held on Saturday, November 21st. Walkers and teams are encouraged to pre-register at www.helpthehomelessdc.org. If you pre-register make sure you print out the registration confirmation and bring it with you in order to get the free t-shirt. You can also register the day of the walk for a slightly increased fee. Walkers can direct their registration fees and any additional funds they raise to NOVACO.

Can't make it downtown? Your youth group, pre-school, or scout troop can form their own mini-walk. Call us to set up an exciting mini-walk event! Email Volunteer@novaco.org for more walk information.