



News Release

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REBUILDING TOGETHER IN NOVA WINS FIRST PLACE 2018 BEST PRACTICES AWARD

(RICHMOND, Va.) — [Rebuilding Together](#), a nonprofit in Northern Virginia, won the \$5,000 first place “Best Practices” award from the Commonwealth Council on Aging for a program that helps low-income homeowners age in their homes safely.

The Rebuilding Together Express program offers services for home modifications and repairs at no cost to older homeowners in Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Volunteers work to correct common health and safety hazards in the home, focusing on fall prevention and accessibility. Express teams worked on 35 homes in 2017 and 17 in this year’s first quarter.

“We are honored to receive this award from the Commonwealth Council on Aging and for being recognized for the work we are doing to help older adults safely age in place,” said Patti Klein, executive director of Rebuilding Together in Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. “Most fall hazards, and other health and safety hazards, common in seniors’ homes can be corrected through relatively simple and low-cost home modifications and repairs. This award will not only help us to serve more homeowners in need in our community, but will also highlight the increasing need for these types of services throughout the Commonwealth.”

[Caregivers Community Network](#) in Waynesboro received the second-place award of \$3,000 for its effort to pair college students with family caregivers to provide intergenerational care and respite services. James Madison University students train to interact with older adults, including those with dementia, and spend three hours each week providing respite to area caregivers. The network is a partnership between Valley Program for Aging Services and James Madison University’s Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services.

A \$2,000 third-place award honored the [Dementia Care Coordination Program](#), a partnership between the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, the University of Virginia’s Memory

and Aging Care Clinic and the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. This program is a model for integrated and coordinated care for individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Each year, the council, which advises the Governor on issues affecting the 1.6 million Virginians age 60 and older, acknowledges organizations whose innovative programs can be replicated across the Commonwealth. Nominees are judged on seven criteria, including community impact potential for replication, innovation, outcomes and promotion of aging in the community.

“A major theme that emerges from this year’s awardees was the importance of family caregiver supports, respite and education that help older adults to age in place,” said Council Best Practices Committee Chair Dr. Richard Lindsay. “The number of family caregivers in Virginia is growing and we want to recognize these best practices that offer such critical help to the many families struggling with caregiving.”

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

The council gave honorable mentions to the following organizations:

- RVA Reassurance Roundtable of metro Richmond, including: Commonwealth Catholic Charities; Jewish Family Services; Senior Connections, Capital Area Agency on Aging; FeedMore; Office of the Senior Advocate – Chesterfield and Henrico counties and the City of Richmond; VCU Health’s Geriatric and Continuum Services; Shepherd’s Center of Richmond; Better Housing Coalition; Hanover County Resources; and Greater Richmond Age Wave
- Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health, Williamsburg, for Microlearning: Little Message with a Big Impact
- Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, for its Caregiver Program

“Virginia must foster policies and programs to support the capacity of family caregivers to perform critical caregiving tasks and we commend the Best Practices honorees for doing just that,” said Council Chair Veronica Williams.

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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.