



COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE & RESCUE

Kevin J. McGee
Chief

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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DFR Partners with Project Mend-A-House to Assist At-Risk Population

Neighbors working with neighbors that's what best describes Project Mend-A-House, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization who has been serving the low-income residents of Prince William County, City of Manassas, and Manassas Park since 1984. Through the skills of volunteer carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters, gardeners, and others, they match skilled volunteers with people in need of minor home repairs and safety modifications.

In addition to mending houses, Project Mend-A-House, in August 2008, developed a partnership with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue (PWC DFR)(www.pwcgov.org/fire) by providing strobe smoke alarms for installation in high risk homes. Since then, Project Mend-A-House has provided twenty-two strobe smoke alarms for installation in homes with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; these homes may also include senior citizens and children. To date, PWC DFR personnel has installed strobe alarms in five homes.

The staff of Project Mend-A-House includes Executive Director Andrea M. Saccoccia and Administrative Assistant Penny Isenberg. They, along with the other members of their staff, have provided Ronda Davis, Public Education Specialist of PWC DFR, with outstanding customer service and a genuine display of support in promoting a county-wide smoke alarm program. Project Mend-A-House has shown a commitment to our partnership by providing deaf and hard of hearing citizens access to strobe smoke alarms. They believe that by partnering with other civic organizations, individual organizational strengths can be leveraged for the greater good. In essence, "*When we all work together, everyone in the community benefits.*"

In recognition of and appreciation for supporting and promoting the county-wide smoke alarm program, Community Relations, a division of the Community Safety Section with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue awarded Project Mend-A-House for "Outstanding Assistance to DFR Community Relations". The award, presented by Assistant Chief Hadden Culp, took place at the J. James McCoart Administration Building.

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Pictured left to right: Project Mend-A-House Executive Director Andrea M. Saccoccia, PWC DFR Assistant Chief Hadden Culp, Project Mend-A-House Administrative Assistant Penny Isenberg, and PWC DFR Public Education Specialist Ronda Davis

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