

Hello Everyone,

I am Susan Jane Stack and many of you very graciously voted to support my nomination as the Region III Representative on the national Community Action Partnership Board. Some of you have sent me individual congratulations. For that I thank you and will now respond to you individually. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve all of you at a national level.

I would like to tell you just a bit more about myself and why I am so excited about this opportunity. I have been in the "poverty business" most of my professional life beginning in the late 60's when I worked for one of the original poverty programs, The Concentrated Employment Program (CEP). I was young and very green then, but I must tell you that my passion for the work has not diminished in all those 40 years.

For the last 21 years I have worked for Loudoun Department of Family Services. My job for has been to develop resources in the community not covered by government funding; in other words to develop many of those services that CAPs all over the Commonwealth of Virginia provide.

While Loudoun has not been a CAP for very long and I have not be "in the CAP world" for very long, I have spent a great deal of time working in and with the non-profit world. I have been a part of developing organizations that started on someone's kitchen table and have grown into million dollar organizations that serve thousands of people a year. One of those organizations is Loudoun Interfaith Relief, our local Food Closet, that celebrated its 15th anniversary this year. We started with a few cans from the local churches and now Interfaith serves more than 35,000 individuals and 10,000 families a year.

Most recently, I have been excited and inspired by the Community Action Partnership and the Conference I attended in Bethesda in May; so inspired that my colleague and I returned to Loudoun with the firm intent of cutting poverty in half in our community. To that end, our Community Action Advisory Board sponsored a Poverty Simulation on September 12 and a Symposium on Poverty October 24. We had some dynamite speakers and did small group work in 8 key areas that affect the lives of people living in poverty. There will be follow up and a Report. It just doesn't make economic sense for this Country to finance keeping people in poverty to the tune of \$500 billion a year when we can make changes for \$90 billion that could reverse that dynamic. If each of us works to make that a goal in our communities we will make an even bigger difference then we already do!

This is getting a bit long, but I wanted all of you to know where I'm coming from and what my passion is. I truly want to serve you and the people you work so hard to help every day. I appreciate your support of my nomination and I would be grateful for your vote in the upcoming election process.

Susan Jane

Susan-Jane K. Stack  
Community Resource Director  
Loudoun County Dept. of Family Services  
102 Heritage Way, NE, Suite 103  
Leesburg, Virginia 20176  
Phone: 703-771-5855  
Fax: 703-771-5214