



MONTHLY MATTERS & NEWS

April 2019 Issue

We Made Prom Wishes Come True! Our D4D Events Were a Great Success!



Dress4Dreams (D4D) Grows in Scope and Outreach!

Family Matters devoted the month of March to two very successful Dress4Dreams events. Our March 14 Jazz Cocktail Reception and the March 29 Pop-up Boutique drew lots of attendees and put a lot of smiles on faces.



We're proud to report, that this year's Dresses4Dream program was the best ever! We collected a record-number of beautiful formal gowns and suits/tuxedos this year that provided such a collection of gorgeous options for local teens to choose from.

Nearly 60 teens signed up to participate (57 girls and 2 boys) and all the high schoolers that came to our Pop-up Prom Boutique went home with a fantastic prom outfit — including a dress, shoes, bags and jewelry — all for free. That means for the third consecutive year, Dresses4Dreams had 100% success rate as every student left with a dress!

We're patting ourselves on the back, because we indeed granted a lot of prom wishes, but we didn't do it alone! It was a real team effort, and we have so many **THANKS** to bestow:



SECRETARY OF THE
FMGW BOARD JOHN
OBERDORFER WITH
THE FLASH

DRESSES4DREAM THANK YOU'S

- Big thanks to the sponsorship assistance of **Eagle Bank, AmeriHealth Caritas, The Stephen Bench Trail Fund, ZIPS Dry Cleaning, and Geppettos Catering.**
- A special shout out to **DCW50** (the DC affiliate of The CW Network) who brought **The Flash** during our Jazz Cocktail reception, **Supergirl** for our prom shop, and journalist and host **Robin Hamilton.**
- Thanks **WHUR 96.3FM** for all your help with promotion, and bringing the music to our pop-up event!
- **WPGC-95.5FM** host “**Sunni and the City**” you rock! Thanks so much for promoting our program on social media, donating dresses and



SUPERGIRL FLEW IN FROM NATIONAL CITY TO ATTEND OUR EVENT



'SUNNI AND THE CITY' DONATED THE GOWN SHE WORE ON THE COVER OF HER NEW BOOK, "STILL I SHINE"



TANESHA ANDERSON OF FAMILY MATTERS

stopping by!

- Sending gratitude to **Miss District of Columbia 2018 Allison Farris** for coming to our prom shop, posing for photos, signing autographs, and helping the girls pick out the perfect dress for them.
- Thank you **Shelly Murphy** of **McKinsey & Company, Inc.** for hosting a Happy Hour Donation drive for the program on March 22.
- Blessings to the leadership of **For Love of Children** who assisted us during our March 14 event.
- A big thank you to **Tiffany Smith** and our other gal pals at the **DC Parking Enforcement Management Administration** who hosted their own D4D dress donation drive.
- **AND SPECIAL APPRECIATION....** goes out to our very own **Tanesha Anderson**, FMGW's Operations Coordinator, who spent countless hours, worked hard to manage the whole Dresses4Dreams program. We are looking forward to next year's event!

Check out this video of Family Matters Interim President & CEO Thomas L. Johnson being interviewed about the Dresses4Dreams program by DCW50's Robin Hamilton.

[PLAY VIDEO](#)



For One Last Time, Special Thanks to Our D4D Sponsors:



The Bench Trail Fund
Stephen J. Pollak



Mark Your Calendars! Family Matters to Host Wellness Fair on Saturday, May 4!

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Family Matters will be hosting an outdoor *Wellness Fair* on **Saturday, May 4 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm**, at our Oxon Hill Mental Health Center. Please join us in the front

parking lot at 6196 Oxon Hill Road (Oxon Hill, MD). In support of our holistic health theme, we will host a fun and festive afternoon of entertainment!



FMGW is actively partnering with community organizations and county agencies to raise awareness of the various [behavioral and mental health services](#) the Oxon Hill clinic provides.

Did you know that in Prince George's County approximately 140,000 residents experience mental illness? More staggering, is that nearly 60% of adults with a mental illness didn't receive mental health services in the previous year.

Our *Wellness Fair* is an opportunity to bring the community together and spread the word on the importance of supporting mental health counseling services in Prince George's County. We will have activities for every member of the family.

For the kids, we'll have a moon bounce, face-painting, craft tables, raffle prizes, food trucks, and grab bags. For the adults, we will have a relaxation tent with chair massages, yoga classes, and Zumba instruction. The FMGW team will also be on hand to conduct on-site counseling assessments.

Please be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a fun afternoon in support of mental health awareness! For more information on the event, please contact: sellis@familymattersdc.org

Maryland Telehealth Legislation Approved by General Assembly

SB 178, and its companion legislation, HR 570, have both passed through their respective Senate and House Chambers unanimously. The legislation would allow behavioral health providers to fulfill their onsite requirements for medical directors by using telehealth. (Telehealth is the use of telecommunications technology to support long-distance clinical health care for patients.)



SB 178 passed its third and final reading in the House Of Delegates late last night (140-0), and has now been enrolled and sent to Governor Larry Hogan for his signature. We want to thank Del. Kris Valderrama for her great support on this legislation, which will help all outpatient behavioral health providers in the state.

FMGW Board Adopts a 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

Family Matters' Board of Directors adopted its 2019-2023 strategic plan at its March 29 meeting. The plan looks to achieve strategic goals in 2019 such as to:

- Achieve CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) three-year reaccreditation by December 2019;
- Strengthen succession planning and organizational knowledge base to avert future issues related to changes in leadership and key agency positions;
- Demonstrate full implementation of a financial solvency plan and maintenance of financial health; and
- Initiate a 'supported employment' program at our Oxon Hill Behavioral Health Clinic.

The plan will also look to have, over the next few years, Family Matters reestablish its fund development effort, continue to develop its community programs, and develop core services in behavioral and home health care.

FMGW Board Member Launches "Kirkland Korner"



WALTER KIRKLAND

FMGW Board Member Walter Kirkland launches "Kirkland's Korner," a community-based television show with guests from the Washington, DC region. The weekly show has already hosted several notable political and business leaders.

"Kirkland's Korner" has featured segments on health, entertainment, and sports. Check it out — tune in each Monday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Verizon 42 and Comcast 76. It is taped at CTV studio's in Upper Marlboro, with a live audience.

U.S Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD) to Keynote at Our 2019 Gala This Fall

Family Matters has just confirmed that **U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-08)** will be the headliner keynote during our 2019 Annual Gala, to be held September 19 at the Mayflower Hotel.

Congressman Raskin is an American author, attorney and politician serving as the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 8th Congressional District since 2017. He serves on the House Committees on Judiciary; Rules; and Oversight & Reform.



As a law professor, he taught constitutional law and legislation at the American University and the Washington College of Law. He co-founded and served as the director of the college's LL.M. program on Law and Government until his election to Congress.

In November 2006, he was elected as a Maryland State Senator for District 20, representing parts of Silver Spring and Takoma Park in Montgomery County.

Stay tuned for more developments regarding the 2019 Gala.

A graphic with an orange border on a light blue background. At the top is a logo of a person in a wheelchair. Below it, the text reads: "FAMILY MATTERS OF GREATER WASHINGTON" in blue, "SAVE THE DATE" in large black letters, "Gala!" in large white cursive letters, "9.19.19" in large blue letters, and "THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL WASHINGTON, DC" in blue.

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