



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release  
April 28, 2015**

For more information contact:  
Ashley Jacobs  
Strengthening Families Coordinator  
(540) 672-5484 ext. 1

### **ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE ON YOUTH ANNOUNCES AWARD OF THREE YEAR GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH**

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Office on Youth is pleased to announce it has been awarded a three year grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) in the amount of \$178,374 to continue tobacco prevention programming in Orange County.

This grant funding, which is available as of July 1, 2015, will allow the Office on Youth to offer the Strengthening Families Program to Orange County youth ages 10-14 twice a year for the next three years. Additionally, the Positive Action Program will be offered for kindergartners through fifth graders at all three school age child care sites (Locust Grove Elementary School, Orange Elementary School, and Gordon Barbour Elementary School) during the school year and in the summer months.

The Strengthening Families Program has been implemented internationally, and is a skills-building curriculum that is proven to delay the onset of adolescent substance use, lower levels of aggression in youth, increase youth resistance to peer pressure, and reduce youth conduct problems in school. Further, the program is designed to improve parent skills including building a positive relationship with their youth, setting appropriate limits, and following through on consequences, while showing love and support for their children.

The Positive Action Program teaches and reinforces the intuitive philosophy that you feel good about yourself when you do positive actions. The effects of this program range from increased academic achievement to dramatic reductions in problem behaviors. By offering this specific program, the Office on Youth is able to work with a wider range of children and reinforce positive actions for our youngest students. Staff is excited about the opportunity to spread tobacco prevention programming across various age ranges of County residents.

Alisha Vines, Office on Youth Director, stated “the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth has provided Orange County with tobacco prevention grant funding for the past six years. The continuation of this funding will allow the Orange County Office on Youth to continue to work with our most critical resources, our children, in an effort to prevent tobacco use.”

R. Bryan David, Orange County Administrator, stated “Once again, Orange County’s Office on Youth has been awarded this vitally important grant to help our community’s children and families. This clearly demonstrates that the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth recognizes the high quality and positive outcomes of the programs delivered by Alisha and her team.”

For additional information about the Strengthening Families Program or the Positive Action Program, please contact Ashley Jacobs, Program Coordinator, at (540) 672-5484 or visit [www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth](http://www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth). For additional information about the important work of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, please visit [www.vfhy.org](http://www.vfhy.org).

#####