

## **Q&A About Fairlington Cares, Inc.**

*FCA has voted to create a new nonprofit organization, Fairlington Cares, Inc., to serve people in the general Fairlington area. Here are some general questions about the new entity.*

### **What's the relationship between FCA and Fairlington Cares?**

While FCA will oversee the creation of Fairlington Cares, the two organizations will be separate and distinct entities. Under the draft bylaws, one director of Fairlington Cares will always be a member of the FCA Board. More directors could potentially be FCA board members, but the draft bylaws specify at least one. That will facilitate communication and collaboration between the two groups while maintaining the independence of each.

### **Will FCA be financially responsible for Fairlington Cares?**

Under the proposal, FCA will pay the various filing fees, but once it is created, Fairlington Cares, Inc. will be a separate legal entity. It will have its own bank account and will be responsible for its own finances, record-keeping, and fundraising. Like the Fairlington Farmers Market, FCA may choose to make an annual contribution to the work of Fairlington Cares, but it will not be obligated to do so. FCA will have no on-going financial responsibility for Fairlington Cares. But like the Farmers Market, FCA will likely promote the work of Fairlington Cares through its communication channels.

### **What is the value of an affiliation between FCA and Fairlington Cares?**

Fairlington Cares benefits from the strong reputation of FCA and its messaging channels (Facebook, website, *All Fairlington Bulletin*) and FCA benefits by having a related vehicle to help residents support activities in ways that FCA itself might not be able to. By establishing this organization to serve Fairlington residents and their neighbors, FCA adds value to the community. Having at least one FCA Board member on the Fairlington Cares board helps keep the two separate organizations working toward common goals.

### **Will Fairlington Cares duplicate other non-profit efforts?**

The goal of Fairlington Cares is to fill gaps that are not currently being served by existing non-profits, not to duplicate existing efforts. It gives Fairlington residents a way to ensure that their contributions are targeted to the needs of residents of Fairlington or nearby communities. Fairlington Cares will augment the work of other organizations and will seek to be a strong partner with them.

### **Why do we need Fairlington Cares?**

The COVID-19 situation has revealed gaps in the ability to raise and distribute funds to meet the variety of needs of residents in the Fairlington area in a coordinated and effective way. Some organizations that focus on our area are limited in the types of assistance they can provide, while other organizations with broader missions lack the ability to target funding to our area. Much of the response so far has been ad hoc, led by committed Fairlington residents, but without an

organization that can both collect contributions, as in a gofundme page, and distribute them in ways that will maximize the impact.

**What will Fairlington Cares do?**

It will provide a broad range of assistance for humanitarian and educational purposes, including food, clothing, rental assistance, transportation assistance, school supplies and other educational resources, and financial assistance. While it is being created to respond to COVID challenges, it will also be able to respond to impacts created by major storms, government shutdowns, or other kinds of emergency situations. It will provide a ready vehicle to respond quickly to unanticipated crises.

**Can Fairlington Cares make payments to individuals?**

A cash grant can be made to address an individual's need arising out of a disaster or emergency. These are often called disaster relief grants, and they must be directly related to the organization's charitable purposes. The kinds of needs include but are not limited to things like medical costs, temporary housing, financial aid to enable remaining at home or to meet rent or mortgage payments on a primary home. Fairlington Cares will need to demonstrate that the recipient is part of a charitable class and keep good documentation.

**What will be the primary differences between FCA and Fairlington Cares?**

FCA is a 501(c)(4), which is a non-profit status for civic leagues and social welfare organizations. These organizations are set up to promote the common good and general welfare of people in the community. Contributions to FCA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal individual income tax purposes. (They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business.) Fairlington Cares will be a 501(c)(3), set up for charitable and educational purposes. Contributions to Fairlington Cares will be deductible on federal individual income tax returns.

**Who are the leaders of Fairlington Cares?**

The initial directors of Fairlington Cares are FCA President Guy Land, FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies, and Fairlington Mews resident Michael McGinn.

May 23, 2020