



Search

Dulles, VA | Now: 69° | High: 61° | Low: 35° | [5-Day Forecast](#)

At Arlington facility, two detox counselors have been there from the beginning

[Story](#) [Comments](#)

[Print](#) [Font Size:](#)

Posted: Monday, April 21, 2014 11:45 am | Updated: 12:42 pm, Mon Apr 21, 2014.

by **SCOTT McCAFFREY, Staff Writer** | [0 comments](#)



Simon Sampson and Lee Johnson are celebrating 20 years of service at the Residential Program Center in Arlington.

Simon Sampson and Lee Johnson have been fixtures at the Residential Program Center, an Arlington facility operated by Volunteers of America Chesapeake, for the entire 20 years the facility has been in operation. And their collaborative efforts in addiction treatment go back even further.

Located on Columbia Pike, the facility is the only comprehensive substance-abuse program based in Arlington. It includes a 12-bed detoxification unit and a 10-bed early-recovery unit, as well as a 44-bed facility to house the homeless, along with educational and employment services. All told, more than 400 local residents per year receive support at the facility.

But that is today. Twenty years ago, the program was just getting started.

Sampson and Johnson were working as counselors at the Second Genesis program in 1994 when they came to interview for positions in the soon-to-open Residential Program Center, or RPC.

"The building was probably almost finished, but we didn't have one client," Johnson recalled in a recent interview.

Perhaps the lack of clients was just as well, as there wasn't really even a treatment program in place yet. But Sampson and Johnson soon rectified that.

"We created the syllabus – we put the meat on the bone," Sampson said.

"On the one hand, it was a great experience; on the other, it was a frustrating experience at times," Johnson added. "It was like having a brand-new house but no

furniture in it."

Much has changed in the world of addiction treatment over the past two decades, Johnson noted.

"We're seeing a lot of mental-health clients as well as addiction," he said. "It's a real challenge."

Walker Jones—Providing the Legal Expertise You Need and the Client Service You Deserve

Legal matters have far-reaching effects in your life.

Contact the firm that delivers exceptional legal services—contact Walker Jones.

Walker Jones, PC
Experienced | Effective | Established

Carter Hall, 31 Winchester Street
Warrenton, Virginia
540.347.9223
www.walkerjoneslaw.com

Sheryl Bass
for Manassas City Council

Together we can make a difference in OUR City!!

(703) 314-4278 | sherylbass56@gmail.com
sherylbassformanassas.com

Vote on November 4th

Lori Shafran
Your Neighborhood Real Estate Specialist
Buying? Selling? Renting?

Lori has in-depth knowledge and over 30 years of experience in the Northern Virginia housing market. Formerly a licensed settlement agent in Virginia, Lori's experience is a powerful asset to her clients, guiding them successfully through all phases of buying or selling a home—from contract to closing.

When experience counts, call Lori!

Lori Shafran
Yeonas & Shafran Real Estate
1309 Vincent Pl ~ McLean, VA 22101
LoriShafran@gmail.com
703.967.0909
www.YeonasAndShafran.com

It's that challenge that continues to motivate them, Sampson said, to help clients get "reconnected to family and society as a whole."

Treatment has evolved, too – there is even the use of acupuncture to support the nervous system. Writing-therapy, garden-planting and yoga are all part of the RPC mix.

And having two staff members who have been on hand from the very beginning also has been a benefit.

"Part of recovery is stability, so the fact that we've been here so long helps provide that stability and consistency for the clients," Sampson said. "Sometimes we're the only ones they have."

As part of its 20th anniversary, the RPC was honored by a General Assembly resolution patroned by state Sen. Barbara Favola, noting the legislature's "respect and admiration for its unwavering commitment to helping less fortunate residents of Northern Virginia aspire to a better life."

Tours of the Residential Program Center are offered monthly, with the next one slated for Thursday, May 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For information and to register, e-mail Joe Onyebuchi at jonyebuchi@arlingtonva.us.

Read our current print issues [here](#).



northern virginia
MEDIA SERVICES

e-Mail List

Breaking News

Get the latest breaking news, traffic and weather updates as they happen. **Sign up today!**

InsideNoVa Top Stories

Get the day's top headlines from around Northern Virginia in your inbox. **Sign up today!**

InsideNoVa Deals & Contests

Get the latest deals and contests from around Northern Virginia in your inbox. **Sign up today!**

Prep Football

A Saturday roundup of high school football action from around Northern Virginia. **Sign up now!**

[Manage Your Lists](#)

Posted in [Health arlington](#), [Arlington](#), [Lifestyles](#) on *Monday, April 21, 2014 11:45 am. Updated: 12:42 pm.*

More From This Site

- [Mother arrested after leaving baby in vehicle](#)
- [New restaurants opening in Gainesville's Virginia Gateway](#)
- [Police called after student heaves pizza, locks self in bathroom](#)
- [Special delivery: Home of freed slave moves to Montclair](#)
- [Police investigating two robberies near Shopper's Food in Manassas](#)

From Around The Web

- [Michael Brown's autopsy report leaked](#) (FOX Business)
- [Louisiana Is Going To End Up Underwater Sooner Than You Might Think](#) (Fast Company)
- [Judge: Ex-soldier suing Burger King over needles should pay sanctions for conference no-show](#) (FOX Business)
- [What These Death Row Prisoners Said Before They Died Will Surprise You](#) (BoredLion)
- [Notre Dame Recruits React to FSU Loss](#) (Scout.com)

Recommended by

From The Web

Sponsored Links by Taboola



Can Music Save Troubled Kids?
Web Pro News | JRS3



How To Get Tousled Hair
VIOLET GREY



Helping Parents Choose Common Core Test Prep Materials for High School...
Staples



You Won't Believe These Celeb Birthday Cakes
Suggest

MONEYNEWS

- [Soros Reportedly Made Hundreds of Millions on Yen Drop](#)
- [Oaktree Chairman: US No Longer Needs Large Stimulus](#)
- [Newsmax Networks Presents Special Election Coverage, Watch Here](#)
- [CEO: S&P 500 Headed for 66% Plunge](#)
- [Do You Support a Travel Ban on Ebola Nations? Vote](#)
- [Brand New Sleep-Aid Takes CVS by Storm](#)
- [E-Cigarettes Can be a Healthy Alternative to Smoking](#)
- [How Homeowners Are Getting Cheap Refinance Rates](#)

[What's This?](#)

FEATURED GALLERY

YOUR PHOTOS:
Dressed up for