

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY
ACCA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ON THE COUNTY FY2015 BUDGET
APRIL 8, 2013**

Good evening. I am the Executive Director of ACCA Child Development Center, a program of Annandale Christian Community for Action. We provide affordable, high-quality early education to 183 children, ages 3 months to 5 years, and we are one of the largest nonprofit early learning centers in the County.

The children we serve come from low-income families, and the areas we cover are multicultural, with high concentrations of immigrants. The average income of our parents is \$25,000 per year.

Research has shown the benefits of providing high-quality early education to minority children. Recent studies have found returns between \$4 and \$17 for every dollar spent in early learning.

In this respect, the County is about to make a significant investment. The FY2015 budget proposal includes a \$714,000 increase for early learning. We strongly urge you to keep this funding in the final budget.

These funds would pay for opportunities to expand and support community-based programs and help children

living in poverty to prepare for kindergarten. That is what we do and who we serve at ACCA.

This new investment will offer parents more opportunities to access high-quality early education. Just at ACCA, we have more than 250 children waiting to access our services.

The proposed investment also includes an increase in local matching funds for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, a program that supports school readiness, and brings vital services and educational opportunities for low-income 4 year olds. At ACCA, we have 60 children enrolled in this initiative.

Since the budget proposal would expand early learning opportunities in a meaningful way, we want to thank the Board of Supervisors for your leadership in this key area.

Finally, I welcome all of the Supervisors to visit our Center to see how the taxpayer's dollars are making a real and positive difference in the lives of some very promising children.

Thank you!