

Collections aid non-profits

By Ann Efimetz

During summer, charitable giving may decrease as people travel. However, needs of local organizations never takes a vacation.

That's why NetworkWilliamsburg has coordinated a series of collection drives for items needed by local non-profit organizations. The drives will continue through the end of the month at various area locations.

"We have had a very positive response so far from the community," said Karen Dutro, NetworkWilliamsburg's executive director.

"This is a difficult time of year to get the word out about drives, but it is also the time that makes people remember how simple items like school supplies, toiletries and bottled water can add up really play heavy on an already tight budget of a non-profit or on those of the families they serve."

Laura Rosalie, who with her husband Frank, owns the personal training studio FitnessTogether Williamsburg, is collecting bottled water for ARC of Williamsburg. ARC serves local people with intellectual disabilities. The agency uses 400 bottles of water a month.

"It is for a good cause," Rosalie said recently. "If we can get more people to bring in water, that would be great."

Darla Krupski of ARC said the water is used in the agency's Adapted Wellness Program. The program gives ARC clients the chance to exercise regularly and to have healthy snacks.

"They do yoga once a month and also more strenuous activities," Krupski said. "But they drink one or two bottles and we have 50-60 clients. We use a lot of water, it is one of our biggest expenses."

Schmidt's Florist & Accessories in Lightfoot is collecting office supplies for local nonprofits.

"It is a great idea," Patti DeBlass, owner said. "It is a great need to be met."

More — Visit www.networkwilliamsburg.org or call 945-1285.

COLLECTION SITES

FitnessTogether Williamsburg — 4854 Longhill Rd. Bottled water for ARC of Williamsburg.

GuideStar — 4801 Courthouse St. School supplies for YMCA, Operation Homefront, Grove Christian Outreach.

SteinMart — Williamsburg Shopping Center. Pet supplies for Heritage Humane Society, Virginia Living Museum.

Merle Norman — 4680 Monticello Ave. Toiletries for Grove Outreach.

Schmidt's Florist — 6596 Richmond Rd. Office supplies for 30 nonprofits.

Bruton Parish Church — Duke of Gloucester Street. All items collected.