



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## *First Recipients Selected*

## Park Foundation Establishes Philanthropy Award

The Fairfax County Park Foundation Board is pleased to announce the establishment of the Eakin Philanthropy Award. This annual honor recognizes visionary financial and material contributions to Fairfax County parks.

The award is named for the Eakin family, who has been a benefactor of Fairfax County parks for four generations. In 1951, LeRoy Eakin, Sr. donated 14 acres of land in the Accotink Stream Valley that became Fairfax County's very first park. Since then the Eakins have donated 240 acres of park land and established a trust that provides matching funds for improvements to Accotink Stream Valley park land.

The first recipients of the Eakin Philanthropy Award are Robert and Paola Pizzano, residents of Vienna, VA. They are the founders of the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund (JPMF), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with special needs and their families. The Pizzanos established this charitable organization following the tragic drowning of their six-year-old son Joey, a developmentally-delayed child who touched many lives with his bright smile and love of life.

JPMF's Make a Splash program is a volunteer based water skills and safety program that teaches children with disabilities to be safe and have fun in and around the water. Make a Splash is currently offered at a dozen sites and has benefitted more than 3,000 people with disabilities throughout Fairfax County.

The Pizzanos have recently committed to the donation of Our Special Harbor Spray Park, Fairfax County's first aquatic playground, to be built in Lee District Park as part of a family-focused outdoor recreation complex. You can learn more about the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund online at [www.jpmpf.org](http://www.jpmpf.org).

For more information contact Park Foundation Executive Director Paul Baldino at 703-324-8581 or visit the Park Foundation web site at <http://www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org/>.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.