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## **Child Support Awareness Day at South of the James**

*Division of Child Support Enforcement invites the entire family to celebrate*

Richmond, Va. (August 1, 2016) - What do squash, squirrels, and state licenses have in common? On Saturday, August 6, the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE), DMV2Go and Nutzy (Richmond's favorite mascot) will team up to celebrate Child Support Awareness Day at the South of the James (SOJ) Farmers' Market.

With one in five children in Virginia involved in a child support case, DCSE is raising awareness about programs and services that help families. In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), DCSE will be on-site at the SOJ Farmers' Market to share information about child support and family engagement programs in Virginia.

"DCSE's commitment to children in Virginia extends beyond collecting child support dollars on their behalf," said Craig Burshem, Deputy Commissioner of DCSE. "Every child needs support. However, barriers such as substance abuse, incarceration, and unemployment may impact a parent's ability to provide critical support to their children. We want all Virginians to know that DCSE has resources to help parents overcome such barriers and facilitate successful outcomes for themselves and their children."

Child support services such as paternity establishment, locating absent parents, enforcing child support orders, and mediation referrals are just part of what DCSE offers. Last fiscal year, DCSE managed more than 314,000 cases and collected more than \$661 million in support on behalf of Virginia's children. Child support helps provide funds for food, shelter, education, clothing, and other costs involved in raising and nurturing children.

DCSE invites you to bring the entire family to the SOJ Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 6, to visit vendors with fresh produce, prepared foods and crafts. DCSE will be distributing "Farmers' Market Bucks" to the first 500 people who stop by the DCSE table. Each card will have a value of \$5 that can be used at the SOJ market toward food purchases from vendors. Shoppers will also receive a re-usable market bag and information about child support.

DMV2Go, a full service office on wheels, will be on hand at the SOJ Market from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon to create child ID cards, help shoppers obtain decals, titles, or license plates for their vehicles, and renew driver's licenses.

A fire truck will be onsite until 10:00 am so that children can see, touch and explore the heavy machinery and interact with firefighters. Nutzy, the mascot of Richmond's Flying Squirrels baseball team, will appear at the market so shoppers can snap a selfie or get an autograph.

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