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For Immediate Release

Volunteers of America Chesapeake Continues to Grow with Two New Members Joining Leadership Team

Non-Profit Also Promotes Victoria Karakcheyeva to Lead its Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program

Lanham, MD – (July 12, 2010) – As part of its continued growth throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, Volunteers of America Chesapeake announced the addition of two new members to its leadership team along with the promotion of one of its program directors. The non-profit, which runs 26 human services programs throughout Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., named **Connie Price** as operations director of Intellectual Disability Services, **Tom Nichols** as program director of Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter and promoted **Victoria Karakcheyeva** to program director for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program.

"We are delighted to attract these very talented executives," said Volunteers of America Chesapeake Chief Operating Officer **Franklyn Baker**. "Their relevant expertise and deep experience will greatly assist in our ongoing efforts to provide high-quality human services to individuals and families in our region."

As operations director of Intellectual Disability Services, Price will assist in overseeing the operational and business administration aspects of the agency's intellectual disabilities programs including Volunteers of America Chesapeake's D.C. Community Living Centers and the Northern Virginia Community Living Centers. She will also manage operating budgets for both programs.

Prior to joining Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Price served as a branch chief for the Washington, D.C. Government's Developmental Disabilities Administration. Price has specialized in spearheading the start up of various community living programs and partnerships serving people with developmental disabilities, mental health challenges, those with co-occurring disorders and senior citizens in three states. She also managed residential intensive care sites for individuals with mental health and other disabilities in Fairfax County, worked as director of Community Living for St. John's Community Services, and held other leadership positions that utilized her vast knowledge of human services, administration and working with the intellectually disabled.

“I am looking forward to a longstanding rewarding career with Volunteers of America Chesapeake,” Price said. “I look forward to making positive contributions that will help individuals with intellectual disabilities lead independent, productive and meaningful lives.”

Nichols will be responsible for all services and operations of Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter. These responsibilities include daily management and oversight of client activities, personnel, contracts and grants, fiscal operations, resource development, and community outreach. Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter is a 50-bed emergency shelter for homeless adults. Residents at the shelter work on individual program plans designed to help each individual address their needs and progress positively towards self-sufficiency. The Program is an integral first step in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership on Ending Homelessness.

Nichols has 11 years of experience working with homeless services. Most recently, he was the program director for the Emery Work Bed Program, a function of the Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C. Nichols holds a master’s degree in social work from Barry University and is affiliated with numerous professional organizations, including Healthcare for the Homeless Clinicians Network, National Association of Social Workers, and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

“I am incredibly excited to be part of an organization such as Volunteers of America Chesapeake, whose history and philosophy is so dedicated to serving those in need,” Nichols said.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake also named Karakcheyeva program director for Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program. The Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program is a state approved program to provide psychiatric rehabilitation services to mentally ill adults in Maryland. Since December of 2009, Karakcheyeva served as program director of Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Montgomery County Homeless Mental Health and Outreach Program. She has 10 years experience working in the mental health field, holds master’s degrees in clinical psychology and counseling and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Pastoral counseling.

"I am excited to continue working with Volunteers of America Chesapeake," Karakcheyeva said, "and feel privileged to contribute my time and talent to fulfill the great mission of this organization that brings transformation and hope to the vulnerable populations we serve".

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA CHESAPEAKE

Volunteers of America Chesapeake, founded in 1896 in Baltimore, is the locally chartered affiliate of Volunteers of America, Inc., one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive human services organizations. They accomplish their spiritually based mission by serving over 8,000 people annually through programs spread geographically from Baltimore, Maryland to Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake operates 26 programs that serve the homeless, mentally ill, intellectually disabled, ex-offenders, substance abusers, the elderly and children. The professional staff of more than 600 employees, partner with dedicated volunteers, local government officials, businesses, civic organizations and the faith community to provide high quality human services.

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