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For Immediate Release

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake Named Beneficiary for 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon**

*Proceeds Designated to Non-Profit Will Directly Support its 14 Homeless Services Programs*

**Lanham, MD** – (July 14, 2010) – Fannie Mae announced that Volunteers of America Chesapeake was chosen out of 134 applicants as a beneficiary for the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon. Volunteers of America Chesapeake has been participating in the walk for more than a decade and last year raised more than \$26,000 through the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Program to benefit its 14 area homeless facilities. This year Volunteers of America Chesapeake is aiming to double that amount to meet the increased demand for services due to the current economy.

The annual walkathon supports non-profit organizations throughout the D.C.-area that provide services for the homeless. Over the past two decades, the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program has raised more than \$80 million for non-profits.

This year's walkathon will take place Saturday, Nov. 20, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as thousands gather to support the more than 12,000 homeless individuals in the area.

In 2009, more than 117,000 people participated in the large fundraising effort. In addition to those who joined the walkathon, community organizations put together more than 650 community mini-walks and fundraised through corporate sponsorships and related activities.

“There are so many exciting ways to get involved in this effort from signing up for the national walkathon, to holding mini-walks in your communities,” said **Russell K. Snyder**, president and CEO of Volunteers of America Chesapeake. “We ask supporters of Volunteers of America Chesapeake to designate us as their beneficiary, which will allow Volunteers of America Chesapeake to continue to provide excellent, comprehensive service to those in need.”

One-hundred percent of the proceeds from participants who designate Volunteers of America Chesapeake as a beneficiary directly support the non-profit's 14 homeless and supportive housing service programs. Visit [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org) to sign up and support those in need through the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon and Volunteers of America Chesapeake. To learn more about Volunteers of America Chesapeake, visit [www.voaches.org](http://www.voaches.org)

## **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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