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For Immediate Release

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake Dinner and Auction Event Raises \$9,000
for Homeless Services Center**

*5th Annual Lighthouse Center Auction Brings in Much-Needed Funds for Day Program Offering
Essential Services for Homeless Adults in Virginia Beach*

Virginia Beach, VA – (May 12, 2011) – Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Lighthouse Center, a day program for homeless adults offering case management, life skills training and other essential services, raised approximately \$9,000 to support the essential services it provides to homeless adult men and women in Virginia Beach.

The auction, which took place Friday, May 6, at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center was hosted by **Joe Flanagan** from WVEC-TV ABC 13. The event drew 120 individuals who bid on more than 60 items, including vacation packages to Port St. Lucie and the Outer Banks. Also up for bid were paintings and artistic pieces created by the homeless women participating in a therapeutic art program at the Lighthouse Center.

“This event is a major opportunity to raise critical dollars in order to keep services operating at the Center,” said **Deborah Maloney**, program director for Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Lighthouse Center. “Our participants count on us for their daily living needs during their period of homelessness. We provide a place for those who are homeless to receive the most basic services of shower, mail, phone and a place to stay warm and dry. The funds raised help keep the doors open for more than 400 people we serve each year and also contributes to supporting their case management services, which are vital to reaching their goals of stabilization and housing.”

Women currently receiving services at the Lighthouse Center, which serves 60-100 individuals each day, spoke to the crowd about how the programs have made a difference in their lives, allowing them to accomplish their goals and find hope for the future. These services are also essential in helping the Virginia Beach community deal with its homeless population.

The City of Virginia Beach is currently proposing a new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center as part of its 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The City’s plan demonstrates a commitment to enhance services and the scope of its offerings to help people obtain housing services and escape homelessness.

“What the City of Virginia Beach is proposing would have an amazing effect on the men and women I see come in the doors of our current facility each day,” Maloney said. “These are not hopeless individuals. They are men and women just like each one of us, who have fallen

on hard times and need support to get back on their feet through the programs and other services we provide. I have to turn away calls every single day from individuals and families who desperately need help. Right now with our current center, we just don't have the resources to provide for these children and families – but with the city's wonderful plan for the new Lighthouse Multi-Service Center, we would be able to help men, women and children in need of support – that is why this new facility is so much needed.”

To read more about the new proposed Lighthouse Multi-Service Center in Virginia Beach, please visit:

<http://www.vbgov.com/vgn.aspx?vgnextoid=254ed14b461fd210VgnVCM100000190c640aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=e81ffd67f3ad9010VgnVCM100000870b640aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>

ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTER

Since 1995, the city-owned Lighthouse Center in Virginia Beach, VA provides day support services for homeless adult men and women seeking opportunities to advance their chances to obtain housing, education, employment or other services. During the winter months the Lighthouse Center also operates a Winter Shelter Program in conjunction with the Virginia Beach faith community serving more than 100 people each night. Volunteers of America Chesapeake's unique partnership with the City of Virginia Beach and more than 75 area faith communities, allows each partner to bring their resources, strengths and support together to help those in need.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA CHESAPEAKE

Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Inc. is a faith-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire self-reliance, dignity and hope through health and human services in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Founded in 1896 in Baltimore, MD, Volunteers of America Chesapeake is one of the first branches of Volunteers of America - one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive human services organizations. Through a dedicated and committed team of management, staff and volunteers and guided by our Core Values: Caring, Respect, Faith, Quality and Trust Volunteers of America Chesapeake helps more than 9,000 people each year at our 26 programs serving: the homeless, mentally ill, individuals with intellectual disabilities, the aging, those in need of affordable housing, those recovering from substance abuse and community corrections. For more information about Volunteers of America Chesapeake, visit: www.VOChesapeake.org