



Volunteers of America®

CHESAPEAKE

Called to Care™

Press Contacts for Volunteers of America Chesapeake:

Stephanie Frankel, 410.561.8886 or stephanie@barbclapp.com

Courtney Shirley, 240.764.2632 or cshirley@VOAches.org

For Immediate Release

Press Contact for InformationWeek:

Winnie Ng Schuchman, Vice President, Marketing, 631.406.6507 or wng@techweb.com

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake Earns a Spot on 2011 InformationWeek 500 List
of Top Technology Innovators Across America**

*Top Regional Human Services Non-Profit Honored Among Top Information
Technology Executives from Yahoo!, Xerox, USAA, Wells Fargo and More*

Lanham, MD September 19, 2011 – Volunteers of America Chesapeake announced that it made this year's InformationWeek 500, an annual listing of the nation's most innovative users of business technology. Volunteers of America Chesapeake has made a strong commitment to utilizing innovative technologies in the past year, which helped it make this prestigious list for the first time in the non-profit's history. The 2011 list was revealed last week at a gala awards ceremony at the exclusive InformationWeek 500 Conference taking place at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point, CA.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake and CFO Shyam Desigan were recognized for maximizing revenue for the non-profit, while streamlining operations. Desigan transitioned the non-profit's 650-employee organization to a cloud-computing solution – an on-demand system that hosts a set of messaging and collaboration solutions. This transition mirrors the model of a non-profit, which is providing faster time-to-value with rapid deployment and minimal training requirements. It also proved to be an affordable and moldable answer to the organization's needs, allowing the staff to share digital information more freely while eliminating the need for expensive outside help. The new system is estimated to save Volunteers of America Chesapeake \$54,000 annually, which it will be able to use to better serve its 9,000 clients in need throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized among these worldwide companies who are paving the way for innovations in information technology throughout the nation," said **Shyam Desigan**, chief financial officer, Volunteers of America Chesapeake. "Volunteers of America Chesapeake's focus on utilizing innovative technologies to cut cost, automate and integrate everything from the administrative side of the business to case management at our 26 programs has allowed us to serve our clients more efficiently and effectively."

"For 23 years, the InformationWeek 500 has chronicled and honored the most innovative users of business technology," said InformationWeek Editor In Chief Rob Preston. "In this day and age, however, being innovative isn't enough. Companies and their IT organizations need to innovate faster than ever before to stay a step or two ahead of their customers, partners, and competitors. This year's ranking placed special emphasis on those high-octane business technology innovators."

InformationWeek identifies and honors the nation's most innovative users of information technology with its annual 500 listing and also tracks the technology, strategies, investments and administrative practices of America's best-known companies. Top winners have included: The Vanguard Group, CME Group, Conway, National Semiconductor, Kimberly-Clark, Hilton Hotels and Unum. The InformationWeek 500 rankings are unique among corporate rankings as it spotlights the power of innovation in information technology, rather than simply identifying the biggest IT spenders.

Additional details on the InformationWeek 500 can be found online at www.informationweek.com/iw500/.

ABOUT 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.VOAchesapeake.org

About InformationWeek Business Technology Network

[\(http://www.informationweek.com/\)](http://www.informationweek.com/)

The InformationWeek Business Technology Network provides IT executives with unique analysis and tools that parallel their work flow—from defining and framing objectives through to the evaluation and recommendation of solutions. Anchored by InformationWeek, the multimedia powerhouse that looks across the enterprise, the network scales across the most critical technology categories with online properties like DarkReading.com (security), NetworkComputing.com (networking and communications) and BYTE (consumer technology). The network also provides focused content for key IT targets, such as CIOs, developers, and SMBs via InformationWeek Global CIO, Dr. Dobb's and InformationWeek SMB, as well as vital vertical industries with InformationWeek Financial Services, Government and Healthcare sites. Content is at the nucleus of our information distribution strategy—IT professionals turn to our experts and communities to stay informed, get advice and research technologies to make strategic business decisions.

####